



Report to
Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

20th March 2013

Report of
Councillor John Mutton

Title
Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – West Midlands Joint Committee

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report sets out details of the work of the West Midlands Joint Committee over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 The Council is a member of the West Midlands Joint Committee through statute. It is recommended that the Council continue to make appointments to this body.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

- 3.1 The West Midlands Joint Committee was set up in 1985 following the dissolution of the West Midlands County Council by the seven metropolitan district councils of the West Midlands: Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton. Formally constituted under the powers given under the Local Government Act 1972, and updated by the Local Government Act 2000, the West Midlands Joint Committee is responsible for a range of specific strategic functions that were formerly undertaken by the West Midlands County Council.
- 3.2 The Joint Committee comprises seven voting members, one from each metropolitan district council. Key functions of the Joint Committee include: making nominations and appointments to a number of regional bodies; exercising the Districts' powers and rights as shareholders of Birmingham International Airport and the co-ordination of actions on important issues and to communicate these to central Government and other influential bodies. Specific areas of activity include consultation and co-operation on matters affecting the seven districts with the West Midlands Joint Authorities including the West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority, West Midlands Police Authority/West Midlands Police and Crime Panel and the West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority.
- 3.3 Coventry City Council's voting representative on the West Midlands Joint Committee is Councillor John Mutton, Leader of the Council. Councillor George Duggins and Councillor Kevin Foster are observer members. Councillor Duggins is the council's substitute voting member.
- 3.4 Over the past year a particular area of activity has been the setting up of the West Midlands local authority arrangements for the changes in legislation related to Policing. This has seen the replacement of the West Midlands Police Authority with a directly elected

Police Commissioner and a West Midlands Police and Crime Panel. The West Midlands Joint Committee is responsible for appointing five of the local authority members on the Police and Crime Panel. The West Midlands Joint Committee has also been focusing on the development and better co-ordination of regional transport strategy.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

4.1 The West Midlands Joint Committee is a formally constituted body that enables the West Midlands Metropolitan Districts to consider jointly key strategic issues and the allocation of funding that directly impacts on the people of Coventry. Under current Local Government arrangements it is a legislative requirement that Coventry City Council is a member of the West Midlands Joint Committee.

5 What Financial Contribution Does the Council Make to this Organisation

5.1 In 2012/13 Coventry City Council contributed £14K as its share of the costs of running the West Midlands Joint Committee.

6 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

6.1 During the year of 2012 four meetings of the Committee were held. Coventry City Council's representatives on the WM Joint Committee are Councillors J Mutton, Duggins and Foster. Councillors Mutton and Duggins each attended two of the meetings, Councillor Foster attended three with Councillor Blundell acting as his substitute at the fourth meeting.

6.2 There is no remuneration associated with the appointment.

List of background papers

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Description of paper	Location
Schedule of City Council Appointments to outside Bodies	CH59