



Report to

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

Report of

Councillor John Mutton

Title

Report Back on the Work Of Outside Bodies – Coventry Partnership 2011 - 12

1 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report sets out details of the work of Coventry Partnership over the preceding twelve months and details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Council continues its membership of the Coventry Partnership.

3 Information on Work of Outside Body

- 3.1 The Coventry Partnership is Coventry's Local Strategic Partnership (LSP). The Partnership commenced in January 2002 and is now in its tenth year. During that time the Partnership has achieved a great deal and still does, through bringing together Coventry's key public, private, community and voluntary organisations to work and collaborate on a range of work, where the main aims are to improve quality of life for local people in the city, raise their aspirations and narrow the gap between the most disadvantage communities and the rest of the city.
- 3.2 It is still a statutory requirement for every local authority to develop a Sustainable Community Strategy setting out the vision and priorities for its local area through an LSP. "Coventry – the next twenty years" is Coventry's third Sustainable Community Strategy for the City. The strategy was reviewed through a wide consultation process in 2011 to ensure that the priorities set in 2008 are still the right ones for the city.
- 3.3 The Coventry Partnership's structure encompasses a range of partnerships and groups which work to identify local priorities by co-ordinating and collaborating with partners to achieve agreed outcomes. The Chair of the Partnership rotates on an annual basis, during 2011/12 the Chair was Dave Walton, Assistant Director for Operations, West Midlands Fire Service and has recently changed to Charlie Gibbons, Chief Executive of Coventry Citizens Advice Bureau, for 2012/13.
- 3.4 The primary area of activity for the Partnership during 2012/13 is the impact of Welfare Reform in Coventry. The Partnership is bringing together a range of member organisations from public, voluntary, community and private sector to ensure that local people have the appropriate support and information they need to deal with the changes that are happening and so that partners understand the impacts of changes on each others organisations. A

cross-organisation working group has been set up and information workshops have already been organised for people with disabilities. During 2013 the partners will continue to work together to keep people informed about the changes and assess the impact on local communities.

- 3.5 The Coventry Local Public Service Board (CLPSB) set up within the Coventry Partnership's structure undertakes the performance management for the Partnership. After reviewing the Sustainable Community Strategy in 2011 the Council vision of: *Coventry a city that works to.....* was adopted by the Coventry Partnership, but with the following four key objectives for the three years 2011 – 2014:
- To create growth, jobs and enterprise particularly in high manufacturing and green technologies
 - To make the city more vibrant
 - To reduce health inequalities
 - To ensure all children and young people met their full potential both educational and opportunities
- 3.6 Reports on progress against these four objectives are reported to the CLPSB and published on the Coventry Partnership website.
- 3.7 As resources are becoming tighter and the policy context within which the Partnership is working is changing there is a greater need for better partnership working; flexibility and innovative approaches to service delivery. The Coventry Partnership is responding to these changes by bringing partners together to develop new approaches and delivery models - including streamlining the Partnership itself.
- 3.8 The Coventry Partnership's annual Conference 2011 focused on a multi-agency approach to raising aspirations, celebrating opportunities and exploring the way forward for 16+ year olds. This was closely followed by a 'Your Choice Your Future' event organised by the Coventry Partnership and Local Enterprise Partnership in response to concerns around increasing levels of youth unemployment for Coventry's 16-24 year olds, the event saw 1,100 young people attended.
- 3.9 Continuing on the success of 2011 the Coventry Partnership in collaboration with Business in the Community and Wates Construction held a 'Your Future Your Choice' careers event for year 9 Business Class schools at the Ricoh arena on 27th November, 2012. Over 35 businesses from across the sub-region joined forces to raise the career aspirations of 1200 young people. The event provided interactive workshops and taster sessions from sectors including engineering and manufacturing, construction, public sector, business and services and further education.
- 3.10 The Partnership has actively looked to address its four key objectives and has co-ordinated and worked jointly with partners on a number of activities and promotions. In the past 12 months this has included: the delivery of "*Money Matter Events*" direct to communities to develop financial literacy; the promotion and holding of the third Cohesion Awards; the co-ordination and promotion of the Big Lunch, worked with the Council to provide information to residents through Citivision; coordinated and managed the process for the 'SORTED' Big Lottery Fund success which has drawn in £1m over the next three years to give advice and support on debt management for young people. The Partnership was also responsible for the organisation and promotion of the Paralympic Flame Event in the City Centre as part of London 2012.

3.11 The Partnership along with the Council signed the Armed Forces Community Covenant in June this year and represents the City on its sub-regional steering and funding groups. The Partnership has and will continue to promote the fund widely across the City.

4 Benefits to the City Council of the Appointment

4.1 The Coventry Partnership brings together organisations from the public; private, voluntary and community sectors to work together to improve the social economic and environmental well being of people in Coventry and to strive to improve the delivery of public services. The Partnership is well placed to ensure that a cross-agency response to emerging issues in the City can be developed quickly – the most recent example being the development of a response to the impact of welfare reform. This is particularly important in areas such as Economy and Jobs, Equalities, Housing, and Welfare Reform where the Council is not the lead party in delivering the services.

5 Attendance Record and Remuneration for the Appointment

5.1 Council representation on the Coventry Partnership during 2011/2012 was:-

Councillor Mutton
Councillor Duggins
Councillor McNicholas
Councillor Foster
Councillor Blundell
Councillor Taylor

5.2 Attendance at Coventry Partnership Board meetings during April 2011 - Mar 2012 was:-

Councillor Mutton
Councillor Duggins
Councillor McNicholas 2
Councillor Foster
Councillor Blundell 3
Councillor Taylor 4

5.3 There is no remuneration associated with the appointment

List of background papers

Proper officer: Councillor John Mutton, Leader of the Council

Author: Councillor John Mutton

Telephone 024 7683 1000

(Any enquiries should be directed to the above)

Other contributors:

Dawn Ford - Coventry Partnership and Communities Manager - Telephone: 024 7683 4356

Jenni Venn, Assistant Director Corporate Policy - Telephone: 021 7683 3741

Papers open to Public Inspection

Description of paper

Location CH60

Schedule of City Council Appointments to outside Bodies