

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

10th November, 2004

Members Present:- Councillor Clifford
Councillor Mrs. Johnson
Councillor Mutton
Councillor Patton
Councillor Ridge (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Sawdon (Chair)

Other Scrutiny Board
Members Present:- Councillor Mrs. Dixon
Councillor Mrs. Harper
Councillor Ms. Hunter
Councillor M. Noonan
Councillor Mrs. Stone

Cabinet Members
Present:- Councillor Arrowsmith (Cabinet Member (Urban regeneration
and Regional Planning))
Councillor Foster (Cabinet Member (City Services))

Employees Present:- C. Eastman (City Development Directorate)
C. Hinde (Director of Legal and Democratic Services)
J. Jardine (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)
U. Patel (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)
N. Richards (City Development Directorate)
J. Russell (City Development Directorate)

By Invitation:- Mr. T. Simpson (Petition Spokesperson)

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th October, 2004, were signed as a true record.

49. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Sawdon declared a prejudicial interest in the matter the subject of Minute 55/04 below relating to "Request for Funding for Paid Advertising in the University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust Hospital Patients' Magazine "Smile"". He withdrew from the meeting during the consideration of this item.

50. Objections to Bus Lanes on Ansty Road

Further to Minute 33/04, the Committee considered a report of the Director of City Development which had previously been considered by the Cabinet Member (Urban Regeneration and Regional Planning) (their Minute 21/04 refers), and which had been called in by Councillors Mrs. Dixon, Mrs. Maskell and M. Noonan. The report responded to

objections raised within a petition bearing 347 signatures objecting to a proposed bus lane on Ansty Road and recommended a way forward.

Councillor Mrs. Dixon who supported the petition and the petition spokesperson were invited to attend the meeting for the consideration of this item.

The main thrust of the objection was based on the perceived lack of consultation with residents on the Ansty Road, Wyken Croft Primary School and the accuracy of the details contained within the report.

The Members questioned the Cabinet Member and officers present on aspects of the report, in particular the level of consultation already undertaken and the proposed consultation prior to the implementation of the bus lane and the proposed timescales.

Councillor Mrs. Dixon and the petition spokesperson were assured that the Cabinet Member would consider the objections raised within the petition and that the statutory notice procedure would not be instigated until the extensive consultation exercise was satisfactorily completed.

RESOLVED that, the Committee concur with the decisions of the Cabinet Member.

51. **Consideration of Call-Ins**

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services reported on the following call-in that had been received:-

Compass Court – Safer Routes to Work

The report had been called in by Councillors Clifford, Duggins and Mutton.

The reason for the call-in was "to better understand who is paying for the legal and advertising costs of the boundary adjustment, to also understand how a decision could be made without that information being made available."

The Committee considered the call-in in the light of the approved criteria for determining whether call-ins were appropriate (Minute refers).

RESOLVED that, the call-in be determined as valid and would be considered in detail by the Scrutiny Co-Ordination Committee at their meeting on 1st December, 2004.

52. **Update on the Recommendations – Best Value Review Planning and Transportation Phases 1 and 2**

Further to Minute 43(1)/04, the Committee considered the Service Improvement Plan tabled at the meeting held on 27th October, 2004, relating to the Planning and transportation Services Phases 1 and 2.

The Members questioned the officers present on aspects of the report, particularly in relation to the restructuring of the City Development Directorate which was being

considered. The officers reported that the review was currently under way and that firm proposals were expected within the next six months.

RESOLVED that, in view of the restructuring that was being undertaken, the matter be left on the outstanding issues report for consideration in January 2005.

53. **The Future Pattern of Bus Services in Coventry**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of City Development which reported on the TAS report on revision to city bus services, the results of the recent consultation exercises and the views of the main operator.

The TAS report was commissioned in a joint partnership by Centro, Travel Coventry and the City Council as part of the package of measures to enhance bus services within the City. The final report has been subject to detailed and extensive public consultation involving presentations to Area Forums, circulation of the report to local interest groups, exhibitions, press and radio broadcasts and also independent market research of local bus users.

The partnership and co-operation between the City Council, Centro and the operators had been recently further confirmed by the signing of a "concordat" with each of the three main operators Travel Coventry, Stagecoach and de Courcey. This committed each party to work towards the enhancement of bus services within the City as a means of improving accessibility, reducing social exclusion and assisting urban regeneration.

It was reported that under current legal arrangements neither Centro nor the City Council could control what services should be operated or at what times of frequencies without recourse and the introduction of a statutory quality contract. Under current arrangements if Centro or the City Council wish to see services operated which operators are not minded to provide, the services must either be agreed by negotiation or through competitive tendering, usually with funding support. The Committee noted that Travel Coventry provided over 95% of passenger movements within the City with Stagecoach and de Courcey providing important complimentary services.

The Members questioned the officers present on aspects of the report, particularly in relation to what was being done to provide bus services in areas where there was a clear need for them.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the report be noted.
- (2) That a special meeting of the Committee be arranged to which Travel Coventry, Stagecoach and de Courcey be invited to which members of Scrutiny Board (3) also be invited.

54. Outstanding Issues

The Committee considered and noted a report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services which identified those issues on which further reports had been requested in order that Members could monitor the progress.

RESOLVED that, the update on Best Value Scrutiny Reviews, report on a timetable for the delivery of the recommendations of the review of the new Roads and Street Works Act, be rescheduled to December 2004.

55. Request for Funding for Paid Advertising in the University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust Hospitals Patients Magazine "Smile"

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services which requested for the Committee to release funds to pay for advertising space and an editorial piece in the UHCW hospital patients magazine "Smile".

The "Smile" magazine was prepared for Coventry Hospital Radio (a registered charity), and a copy made available to every patient admitted to UHCW over a 12 month period. Annual circulation was estimated at 50,000 readers. The magazine was funded by advertising revenue, and an approach was made by Coventry Hospital Radio with a view to selling advertising space. CHR had offered Scrutiny a 250 word editorial piece in the magazine if a half or full page advertisement was purchased.

Securing advertising space in the magazine represented an ideal opportunity for Scrutiny, particularly Health Scrutiny, to publicise information about its function and work plans and to seek suggestions for future topics. This would also provide the public means to become involved in Scrutiny reviews.

In view of this, a full page advertisement was provisionally booked, the design of which would be developed in conjunction with Communications.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the expenditure of £740 to pay for a full page advertisement be authorised.
- (2) That officers be instructed to prepare an editorial piece to also appear in the magazine.

(NOTE: This item was considered as an urgent item of public business, the reason being the need to develop and finalise the art work and editorial copy in order to meet the deadline for publishing.)