

**SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE**

**24th November, 2004**

Members Present:-  
Councillor Clifford  
Councillor Mrs. Johnson  
Councillor Mutton  
Councillor Patton  
Councillor Ridge  
Councillor Sawdon

Other Scrutiny Board  
Member Present:- Councillor Mrs. Harper

Cabinet Member  
Present:- Councillor Ahmed (Cabinet Member (Adult Education, Libraries,  
Sport and Leisure))

Employees Present:-  
P. Barnett (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)  
C. Edwards (City Development Directorate)  
A. Howitt (City Development Directorate)  
A. Townsend (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)

**Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 27th October, 2004, were signed as a true record.

**56. Boathouse Restoration, Coombe Country Park**

Further to Minute 26/04, the Committee considered a joint report, which had previously been considered by the Cabinet Member (Adult Education, Libraries, Sport and Leisure) (their Minute 4/04 refers) and which had been called in by Councillors Patton, Ms. Hunter and Townshend. The report had previously been considered by the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee at their meeting on 6th October, 2004 where the Committee had resolved to defer a decision on the call-in, pending a site visit to the Coombe Abbey Boathouse, with a representative of English Heritage in attendance. This visit had taken place on the morning of 24th November, 2004.

The Committee noted that the English Heritage representative had, at the site visit, given a six month 'stay of execution' while the City Council considered how it wished to move forward with the Boathouse, on the understanding that some temporary works be carried out to shore up the front right hand corner of the building. At the site visit, the English Heritage representative had agreed to examine the specification against which the works had been tendered as he thought that the costs were on the high side for the works required. Members were concerned that the report was seeking funding to restore a building which could not be used, however, the site visit had allowed Members and Officers to consider alternative options for the use of the building, including a bird hide or artists' studio, as well as other options for the building itself.

The Officers emphasised that a deferral of a decision on the Boathouse would have potential cost implications, it was noted that 12 months ago the restoration works had been costed at £75,000, when tendered in connection with this report, the tender prices had increased and had come in close to the estimate of £110,000. Should any further modifications be made to the specification to accommodate an alternative use for the building it was likely costs would increase further.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That officers be requested to instruct the installation of temporary works to shore up the front right hand corner of the Boathouse.
- (2) That the issue be referred back to the Cabinet Member for further consideration, and that he specifically be requested to include the identification of alternative uses for the building, the viability of selling the building and the potential to move the building to a more accessible location in his deliberations; and that this report be referred on to the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee.

**57. Consideration of Call-ins**

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

(1) **Canley Regeneration – Redevelopment Strategy**

The report had been called in by Councillors Batten, Duggins and Kelly.

The reason for the call-in was "At what point will the community be consulted on the agreed proposals? Also to clarify the uncertainty contained in paragraphs 3.3 and 6.1.2 surrounding financial elements."

(2) **Authority for Attendance at Conferences, etc – Delivering Sustainable Communities**

The report had been called in by Councillors Batten, McNicholas and Lakha.

The reason for the call-in was "To understand why it is necessary to send a delegation of five people that does not include any opposition members."

The Committee considered the above call-ins in the light of the approved criteria for determining whether a call-in was appropriate (Minute 1/02 refers).

**RESOLVED** that the call-ins detailed above be considered in detail by the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee at their meeting on 8th December, 2004.

**58. Outstanding Issues**

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

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That item 3 headed "Best Value and Scrutiny Reviews – Neighbourhood Working" be rescheduled to December 2004.
- (2) Item 7 headed "Coombe Abbey Boathouse" be amended to include details of the annual City Council spend at Coombe Abbey across all Directorates and be rescheduled to January 2005.

**59. Coombe Abbey – The Menagerie**

The Committee had attended a site visit to the Boathouse at Coombe Abbey that morning. During the course of this visit, they had taken the opportunity to view The Menagerie, a property on the Coombe Estate which was currently in the process of being disposed of. Members were concerned that the building was in a very poor state of repair and was not watertight, specifically there was no protection to the roof. The property had previously been the subject of a call-in, minute 122/03 refers.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That officers be requested to prepare a report detailing steps taken to protect The Menagerie since the issue had been considered by the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee in March 2004.
- (2) Officers be requested to establish when the 'Buildings at Risk Register' will be updated and what action has been taken since the decision of Scrutiny Board (3) in May 2004.