

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

5th January, 2005

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

Cabinet Member Present:-
Councillor Arrowsmith (Cabinet Member (Urban Regeneration and Regional Planning))

Other Scrutiny Board Members Present:-
Councillor Charley
Councillor Lee

Employees Present:-
A. Auty (City Development Directorate)
J. McGuigan (Director of City Development)
C. Hinde (Director of Legal and Democratic Services)
A. Jack (City Development Directorate)
C. Steele (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)
A. Townsend (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 10th and 24th November and 1st and 8th December, 2004, were signed as a true record.

73. University Square – Proposed Traffic Regulation Order

The Committee considered a joint report, which had previously been considered by the Cabinet Member (Urban Regeneration and Regional Planning) (their Minute 59/04 refers) and which had been called-in by Councillors Mrs. Johnson, Lee and Charley. The validity of this call-in had been confirmed by the Chair of the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee in consultation with the Director of Legal and Democratic Services as permitted under paragraph 4.5.25.4 of the City Council's Constitution.

The report sought approval for a permanent Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) to restrict vehicular movements through the area known as University Square. The Members calling in a decision indicated that they were concerned that there were several outstanding concerns regarding the proposed scheme which they believed should be addressed before the legal process to implement the TRO was commenced.

The Director of City Development briefly outlined the background to the scheme which had been developed to increase the length of time tourists spent in the city. It had been envisaged that coach operators would drop off visitors at the Cathedral and pick

them up later at Pool Meadow so encouraging the visitors to pass through the Phoenix Initiative to the Museum of British Road Transport.

The Committee went on to consider the scheme in detail, the Members calling in the decision were concerned that the roads around the Cathedral, including St. Mary's Street, were not capable of accommodating larger coaches. The employees advised that coaches were able to make the required manoeuvre although there were often problems when cars were parked on double yellow lines in the area, it was noted that coach operators had been consulted during the consultation process for the experimental scheme and that a consultation period was included in the advertisement process for the permanent TRO. Members suggested that in order to save costs, those parties that had previously been consulted be contacted again to confirm their agreement to the scheme prior to the TRO being advertised. This would hopefully address any potential objections before the order was advertised and so save the need to re-advertise should any objections be received, along with associated costs.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member be requested to postpone the legal process to implement the Traffic Regulation Order at University Square while all parties previously consulted are contacted for their comment on the proposed scheme, and that a report be prepared for the Cabinet Member and referred onto this Committee outlining the results of this consultation process and any proposed future action.

74. Commercial Property Repairs Programme 2004/05

The Committee considered a joint report which had previously been considered by the Cabinet (their Minute 122/04 refers) and had been called-in by Councillors Mrs. Johnson, Lee and Charley. The validity of this call-in had been confirmed by the Chair of the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee in consultation with the Director of Legal and Democratic Services as permitted under paragraph 4.5.25.4 of the City Council's Constitution.

The report set out proposals for major repairs and improvement work to the City Council's commercial property portfolio for the remainder of 2004/05 and identified provisional projects for information in 2005/06 and 2006/07. The programme of repair works would fulfil the City Council's legal obligation as a commercial landlord and maintain the portfolio's ability to generate rental income.

The Committee questioned the Cabinet Member and employees on aspects of the report in particular the relationship between the Corporation Street Service Area works and the Belgrade Theatre development, there were concerns that expenditure had been approved for works that would be taken out/damaged during the Belgrade Theatre development works. The Employees confirmed that the area was adjacent to the revised Belgrade Theatre service yard and that the works had been deferred until the service yard works were complete in order that they were not adversely affected by them.

The Committee went onto question the Employees on the item in the report relating to the demolition of the Chace Avenue former hostel block, Members believed there was concern that the property was in the ownership of Whitefriars and that, if this was the case, the City Council should not be funding its demolition.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the Committee concur with the decisions of the Cabinet.
- (2) That Employees be requested to establish liability for the Chace Avenue former hostel block.

75. Report Back from Conference – West Midlands Local Government Association Overview and Scrutiny Network – 30th November, 2004, Telford

The Committee considered a joint report on the attendance at the above Conference by the Chair and Deputy Chair of this Committee and an employee of the Scrutiny Co-ordination Group. The delegates had not felt that the Conference had been particularly useful although it was acknowledged that other Conferences were often more beneficial. It was noted that the only expenditure associated with the attendance at the Conference was travel costs as the Conference itself was covered by the City Council's subscription to the West Midlands Local Government Association.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the Committee note the report.
- (2) That Employees be requested to forward a copy of the report to the West Midlands Local Government Association for their information.

76. Review Topic – Coventry Transport Museum

RESOLVED that consideration of this item be deferred to the meeting on 12th January, 2005.

77. 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 can monitor progress.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That item 1, Best Value Review Highways/Highways Maintenance and Planning and Transportation, consideration of the item 'Restructuring of the City Development Directorate' be scheduled for March, 2005, and consideration of the item on issues raised at the meeting of 1st December, 2004, be scheduled to 26th January, 2005.
- (2) That item 5, 'Coombe Abbey Boathouse' and items 10, 11, 'Coombe Abbey – The Menagerie' be scheduled to 2nd February, 2005.
- (3) That item 6, 'New Footway between 215 and 315 Lentons Lane' be scheduled to 2nd February, 2005.

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- (4) That item 7, 'Lord Mayor's Report Back from Conference' be scheduled for consideration by the Committee at a meeting in February, 2005.
- (5) That item 12, 'Canley Regeneration' be scheduled for consideration by the Committee at a meeting in February, 2005.

78. IDeA Scrutiny Workshops

Councillor Sawdon advised Members that two half day Scrutiny Workshops would be held on 24th January, 2005, as part of the Member Development Programme which IDeA is helping to deliver.

Councillor Sawdon went onto stress that it was important Members attended one of the two sessions and requested that Members of this Committee emphasise this to their colleagues.