

**SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE**

**12th January, 2005**

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

Employees Present:-  
P. Barnett (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)  
C. Hinde (Director of Legal and Democratic Services)  
J. McGuigan (Director of City Development)  
J. McLellan (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)  
S. Roach (Chief Executive's Directorate)

**Apology**

An apology was received from Councillor Mrs. Dixon who had been invited to attend the meeting.

**79. Call-Ins – Stage 1**

The Committee noted that no call-ins had been received this week.

**80. Building Communities, Beating Crime: A Better Police Service for the 21st Century – Home Office White Paper on Police Reform**

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Corporate Policy, which had previously been considered by Cabinet (their Minute 136/04 refers) and which would also be considered by the City Council at their meeting on 18th January, 2005. The report sought agreement to a response to the above Home Office White Paper on police reform, which was published on 9th November, 2004.

The response to the proposals had been developed in consultation with the Community Safety Partnership, a copy of which was appended to the report.

The Committee noted that the Cabinet had been informed that the proposed response indicated a broad support of the proposals within the paper, with the exception of not providing enforcement powers to Police Community Support Officers (PCSO's)). It was considered that if enforcement powers were not given to PCSO's, the public would see them as powerless and they would not be afforded respect, which would be detrimental to them performing their duties. It was accepted that the majority of their time would be spent on the street providing a visible and reassuring presence, but it was felt that enforcement powers should be available should the situation arise where they were needed.

The Cabinet had decided to support the response as set out in the report.

The Committee questioned the employee on aspects of the response and discussions that had been held with the Police Federation.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That the Committee concur with the decisions of the Cabinet and that this be reported at the meeting of the City Council on 18th January, 2005.
- (2) That Scrutiny Board (2) be requested to include the monitoring of the White Paper on police reform in their work programme to ensure that the City Council would be prepared to make any response to the bill that was considered necessary.
- (3) That Scrutiny Board (2) also be requested to look at the Local Authority's role in the legislation and if necessary a seminar be arranged for all Members of the City Council.

**81. Outstanding Issues**

The Committee considered 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 the report be noted and that item 4 (New Roads and Street Works Act) and item 6 (Lentons Lane Footpath) be rescheduled to 27th January, 2005.
- (2) That item 1 (Best Value and Scrutiny Reviews) – second bullet point be rescheduled to 26th January, 2005, and that if this deadline could not be met the matter be considered on 2nd February, 2005.

**82. Coventry Transport Museum**

Further to Minute 76/04, the Committee gave detailed consideration to documents provided by the Director of City Development which related to:-

- (a) Clarification that the City Council bought the whole of the Matterson, Huxley and Watson Building in 1962, and that the acquisition file (for a purchase 42 years ago) no longer exists.
- (b) An extract from the (old) Corporate Asbestos Register relating to the Museum of British Road Transport, which records information and action over the years 1984 to 1999.
- (c) Financial data on the costs and funding of the MBRT/Coventry Transport Museum.

The Committee questioned the Director of City Development on aspects of the information provided which included the decision making process and funding for the work undertaken at the Coventry Transport Museum.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That a further report by the Director of City Development be submitted to the meeting of the Committee on 2nd February, 2005, and that it include:-
  - (i) Background information available at the time the key decisions were made regarding the Coventry Transport Museum.
  - (ii) Who made the decision, what costings were considered and how the decision regarding asbestos was reached.
  - (iii) Who gave advice on the matter at the time.
- (2) That as soon as is practicable a report be submitted to the Committee on funding for future projects.