

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

23rd March, 2005

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

Other Scrutiny Board
Member Present:- Councillor Mrs. Harper

Employees Present:- C. Hinde (Director of Legal and Democratic Services)
S. Morrison (City Services Directorate)
C. Steele (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)
A. Townsend (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)

Apologies

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Mutton.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 16th and 23rd February, 2005, were signed as a true record.

With reference to Minute 105/04 of the meeting held on 16th February, 2005, Councillor Patton commented that although at the meeting it had been reported that information relating to the consultation exercise would be submitted to the City Council meeting on 22nd February, 2005, the relevant council paperwork did not include any references to a petition and letters submitted on the matter and no reference was made at the meeting. Councillor Patton indicated that he was disappointed that the spirit of the minute had not been fulfilled.

With reference to Minute 119/04 of the meeting held on 23rd February, 2005, Councillor Patton requested that the Cabinet Member be credited for listening to the suggestions made by this Committee in setting the Highway Maintenance Programme.

134. Exclusion of Press and Public

RESOLVED that, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the item of business contained in Minute 137/04 below relating to "Review of the Recommendations of Best Value and Scrutiny Reviews – Best Value Review Highways and Highways Maintenance" on the grounds that the item involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of that Act in particular Paragraph 12 of Part I of that Schedule.

135. **Call-In Stage 1**

The Committee noted that the deadline for call-ins this week was 24th March, 2005. Any call-ins received by that deadline would be considered for the validity 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.

136. **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. With regard to Item 3 headed "University Square – Traffic Order" the Committee requested that they receive the report prior to its consideration by the Cabinet Member.

137. **Review of the Recommendations of Best Value and Scrutiny Reviews – Best Value Review Highways and Highways Maintenance**

The Committee considered a short briefing note of the Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance Manager which set out the background to the situation with regard to potentially chemical damaged trees.

The Committee questioned the employee on aspects of the report in particular contractual documentation, procurement procedures, training and guidelines for staff and the retention of records.

RESOLVED that the employees be requested to submit a short note setting out the rules that are in place regarding the letting of contracts, how adherence to these rules is monitored and how the City Council ensures that what is specified in a contract is actually delivered.