

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

16th February, 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))

Scrutiny Chairs Present:-
Councillor Field (Scrutiny Board (2))
Councillor Mrs. Harper (Scrutiny Board (3))

Employees Present:-
C. Hinde (Director of Legal and Democratic Services)
R. Hughes (Chief Executive's Directorate)
J. Jardine (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)
J. McLellan (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)
S. Manzie (Chief Executive)

Apologies

An apology for absence was received from J. McGuigan.

Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on the 19th and 26th January, 2005, were signed as a true record.

105. Neighbourhood Management in Coventry – Proposals for Further Development

Further to Minute 86/04, the Chief Executive reported that information relating to the consultation exercise would be submitted to the City Council meeting on the 22nd February, 2005.

106. Millennium Place

Further to Minute 83/04, Councillor Arrowsmith informed the Committee that there had been some confusion between Duncan Elliott and himself over whether contact had been made with the Millennium Commission regarding the potential to open up a vehicular route across Millennium Place. He confirmed that contact had not yet been made with the Commission.

107. **Review of the City Development Directorate**

The Committee considered a joint report which sought approval for recommendations on the organisational structure of the City Development Directorate following a review by the Chief Executive and the Director of City Development.

The Members questioned the Chief Executive on aspects of the report, particularly in relation to:-

- Creation of the Property Management Service
- Setting up of the free standing Highway Service
- Proposals in relation to adding two new senior staff to Culture and Leisure
- Integration of the development control and strategic planning elements of Planning with further re-structuring to follow (to be agreed by Members when proposals are brought forward)
- The location of the Road Safety Team in the City Development Directorate
- The recruitment policy for School Crossing Patrols

The Committee noted that the proposals were to be considered as part of the general fund and capital budget requirement 2005/06 at the meeting of the City Council on the 22nd February, 2005.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That in the context of the review, further consideration be given to the recruitment policy for School Crossing Patrols and the location of the Road Safety Team within the City Development Directorate.
- (2) That copies of communications to staff keeping them informed at each stage of the review be forwarded to the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee for information.

108. **Consideration of Call-ins**

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

(1) **Highway Maintenance Strategy**

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

The reason for the call-in was "to question the accuracy of the statements made in the report and by the Cabinet Member in relation to the understated kilometres referred to in the document and to understand why these statements were made".

(2) **Plas Dol-y-moch Letting of Building Contract**

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

The reason for the call-in was "to better understand how the tender for this work was let and how the outcome was arrived at".

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).

The Committee noted that consideration was to be given to the possibility of submitting call-in forms in an electronic format.

RESOLVED that the call-ins detailed above be considered in detail by the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee at their meeting on the 9th March, 2005, and that the Cabinet Members (Children's Services and City Services) be requested to attend.

109. **Local Area Agreement**

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive, which had previously been considered by the Cabinet at their meeting on the 8th February, 2005, which incorporated as an appendix the latest version of the draft Local Area Agreement (LAA).

The report detailed a proposal to delegate authority to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Main Opposition Group, to finalise the agreement through negotiation with the Government Office West Midlands.

The Committee questioned the Chief Executive on aspects of the report including performance indicators, elected member involvement and working towards a single contact point for City Council Services.

RESOLVED that the Committee concur with the decision of the Cabinet and that performance monitoring of the Local Area Agreement be undertaken by the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee.

110. **Best Value and Scrutiny Reviews – City Centre Strategy**

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Corporate Policy that updated Members on progress on the Vibrant City Centre and Flourishing Neighbourhoods Plan and the City Centre Strategy Best Value Review.

The Members questioned the Head of Corporate Policy on aspects of the review and in particular how the Action Plan would be implemented.

RESOLVED that the report be referred to Scrutiny Board (3) to enable the monitoring of the Action Plan to be incorporated in their Work Programme.

111. **Best Value and Scrutiny Reviews – Supporting Democracy**

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Corporate Policy that updated Members on the progress on the Best Value Review Supporting Democracy.

The Members questioned the Head of Corporate Policy on aspects of the report, in particular the quality and intelligibility of written reports to Cabinet and other meetings and Members accommodation.

RESOLVED that the report be referred to Scrutiny Board (1) for inclusion in their Work Programme with the request that the Board give consideration to the improvement of accommodation and facilities for Members.

112. West Midlands Overview and Scrutiny Network

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services which detailed a West Midlands Overview and Scrutiny Network Budget Scrutiny Event to be held on 1st March, 2005.

RESOLVED that the Director of Legal and Democratic Services be requested to write to Members of Scrutiny Board (1) to invite them to attend the West Midlands Overview and Scrutiny Network Budget Scrutiny Event to be held on 1st March, 2005.

113. Consultation with Members of Scrutiny/Joint Meetings of Scrutiny

Further to Minute 31/04, the Committee considered the role of joint meetings of Scrutiny Boards in the PPR process.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That joint meetings of Scrutiny Boards continue but that further consideration be given as to how the views of Scrutiny are fed into the PPR process.
- (2) That the Constitution Working Group be requested to consider appointing a member of the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee to the Group to enable the views of Scrutiny to be included in any discussions on the Constitution.

114. 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.

Consideration was also given to the role of Scrutiny in monitoring the Forward Plan.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and that the Forward Plan be submitted to the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee as and when it is updated to enable the Committee to monitor issues.