

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

11th May, 2005

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

Other Scrutiny Board
Member Present:- Councillor Mrs. Harper

Employees Present:- P. Beesley (City Development Directorate)
C. Steele (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)
A. Townsend (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)
R. Ward (City Development Directorate)

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ridge and Sawdon.

150. Appointment of Chair

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs. Johnson be appointed Chair of this meeting.

151. Call-Ins Stage 1

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

152. University Square – Traffic Regulation Order

Further to Minute 73/04, the Committee considered a report of the Director of City Development responding to the request by the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee that further consultation takes place with those parties directly affected by the introduction of the Traffic Regulation Order required to enable the new public University Square to be created.

The Committee questioned the Officers on aspects of the report, in particular the ability to accommodate coaches up to 15 metres in length which were now permitted to travel on U.K. roads, the potential to reverse the traffic flow in Priory Street and also emergency exits for traffic from the square. The officers confirmed that the traffic engineers would be running a computer simulation with 15 metre coaches which may be followed by a practical on site trial, it was noted that the tolerances within the computer model were such that vehicles should be able to make the turn more easily than the computer model suggested.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the Cabinet Member approves the Traffic Regulation Order attached to the report at Appendix A.**
- (2) That officers be requested to review the original highway study work in light of the Cathedral's continuing concerns over coach access into Priory Square and report back to the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee.**

153. Procurement Procedures

RESOLVED that this report be deferred to allow the Officers to attend for this item.

154. Inspection Fees within the New Roads and Street Works Act

Further to Minute 87/04, the Committee considered a letter received from the Local Government Association in a response to a request that they lobby Central Government on the issue of the reimbursement of costs to local authorities for core sampling and testing of trench reinstatements.

The letter indicated that a review of these issues was planned, which would include consultation with Local Authorities.

RESOLVED that the response from the LGA be noted.

155. 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.

With regard to item 2, headed "Coombe Abbey – The Boathouse", the Committee requested that the Officers attend a meeting early in the new Municipal Year to provide an interim update on progress.

156. Section 278 Agreement – Hinckley Road

The Committee considered and noted a report of the Director of City Development that sought approval for the City Council to enter into a Highway Agreement with Aldi Stores Limited for highway works on Hinckley Road. The Cabinet Member (Urban Regeneration and Regional Planning) was due to consider the report as an item of urgent business at his meeting later that day, the reason for urgency being that the works could not commence until the Section 278 Agreement with the City Council had been signed. Initially, the cost of the works had been estimated at less than £100,000, this fell within delegated powers to allow Officer to authorise entering into the agreement. However, costs had now risen to £145,000 which meant that the agreement was required to be authorised by the Cabinet Member.

The Committee discussed the reason for urgency and associated issues and confirmed that they were satisfied with the reasons for urgency and that call-in should not apply. Councillor Mrs. Johnson, on behalf of the Chair of the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee, was due to attend the meeting of the Cabinet Member that afternoon to formally agree the reasons for urgency.