

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

1st June, 2005

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

Other Scrutiny Board
Members Present:- Councillor Mrs. Harper

Employees Present:- C. Eastman (City Development Directorate)
C. Edwards (City Development Directorate)
C. Steele (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)
A. Townsend (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)

Apologies:- Councillor Mrs. Dixon
Councillor Ridley

1. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 20th and 27th April, 2005 were signed as true records.

2. PrimeLines Progress Report

The Committee considered a report of the Director of City Development which had previously been considered by the Cabinet (their Minute 209/04 refers) and which had been called in by Councillors Chater, Townshend and Mrs. Lucas. The validity of the 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 4.5.2.5.4 of the City Council's Constitution. Councillor Chater attended the meeting to present the call-in.

The report set out a six-monthly update on the design and implementation of the various sections of the PrimeLines bus showcase routes and other public transport related schemes which supplement and support the PrimeLines project.

Councillor Chater indicated that the Members who had called in the decision were supportive of the PrimeLines initiative but were concerned that it was not clear in the report what consultation would be carried out, when and how. The Members were also concerned that there was potential for significant disruption during the course of the works and wished to know whether the City Development Directorate would be liaising with the City Services Directorate in order that any planned maintenance works for the affected area could be dovetailed into the construction works.

The Officer explained that the development works for the Stoney Stanton Corridor were at an early stage, survey work was currently under way and once this was completed plans would be drawn up and consultation would commence. The Officer confirmed that it was intend to schedule maintenance works to coincide with construction works so as to minimise disruption.

Members questioned the officer on aspects of the report, in particular the availability of consultation leaflets in alternative languages, which was felt to be particularly important given the cultural diversity of the area in question, lessons that had been learned from the consultation process for the Ansty Road PrimeLines initiative and detailed arrangements for consultation.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the Committee concur with the decision of the Cabinet.**
- (2) That the Cabinet Member be recommended to consider carefully the consultation process, bearing in mind lessons learned from the Ansty Road initiative and the cultural diversity of the area.**

3. Call-Ins – Stage 1

The Committee noted that no Cabinet/Cabinet Member meetings had been held the previous week and that therefore there were no decisions open to call-in.

4. Coombe Abbey Boat House

Further to Minute 56/04, the Officer gave a brief update on progress with the Coombe Abbey Boat House. Alternative uses for the building had been considered and were currently being costed. It was noted that consultation had taken place to ensure that all proposed uses were compatible with the views of English Nature, English Heritage and Rugby Borough Council as the Local Planning Authority. Members were concerned that in November six months grace had been awarded by English Heritage to allow options for the use of the Boathouse to be explored, this period was now coming to an end. The Officer indicated that at all times the Borough Council and English Heritage had been kept informed of the situation and that he did not foresee any problems in this area.

The Committee noted that a full report would be available for the meeting of a Committee towards the end of June 2005, Members requested that this include the option to relocate the Boathouse and that they be provided with an update on progress with the sale of the Menagerie and other buildings on that site at their next meeting.

5. Scrutiny Budget 2004/05 and 2005/06

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services which set out the forecast outturn for the 2004/2005 budget, the budget available for 2005/2006 (£35,190), proposals for how the budget should be allocated and a suggested process for the approval of scrutiny reviews by the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the forecast outturn for 2004/2005 and the details of the budget for 2005/2006 as outlined in paragraph 3 of the report be noted.**
- (2) That the proposed notional budget allocations as set out in paragraph 4 of the report (£3,000 for each Scrutiny Board and £23,190 for Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee) and the process for agreeing and allocating funds to scrutiny review work for the municipal year 2005/2006 be approved.**
- (3) That consequent on (2) above the Scrutiny Boards be requested to provide the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee with outline information for each of their proposed reviews for 2005/2006 as detailed in paragraph 4.3 of the report.**

6. Procedure for Electronic Submission of Call-Ins

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services that set out a procedure to allow call-ins to be submitted electronically. Members were concerned that it might not be always possible to obtain three signatures in the same manner i.e. electronic or manual, and requested that officers amend the procedure to allow a combination of manual and electronic submission.

RESOLVED that the proposed procedure be approved for implementation subject to the requested change outlined above.

7. Co-option of Chair of Scrutiny Board (4) (Health)

The Chair briefly reported on a proposal to co-opt the chair of Scrutiny Board (4) (Health), Councillor Clifford, to the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee as a non-voting member. This would mean that the Chairs of all Scrutiny Boards would have a place, in some form, on the Committee.

RESOLVED that the Chair of Scrutiny Board (4) (Health) be co-opted to the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee as a non-voting member.

8. Scrutiny Related Conferences

The Committee considered details of two Scrutiny related conferences.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That Councillor Clifford and one Officer attend the Centre for Public Scrutiny Annual Conference 2005, Citizens, Scrutiny and Public Governance – The Role of Non-Executives in Enhancing Accountability and Improving Public Services, to be held in London on 23rd June, 2005, subject to the necessary Cabinet approvals being gained.**

- (2) That Councillor Clifford and one Officer attend the West Midlands Overview and Scrutiny Network Conference, Monitoring and Tracking Scrutiny Recommendations, to be held in Birmingham on 1st July, 2005.

9. **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 deadline for item 1 headed "Coventry Transport Museum" be amended to early July 2005.
- (2) That, with regard to item 3 headed "Coombe Abbey Loan Funding", officers be requested to attend the meeting scheduled for 15th June, 2005 to provide an update.
- (3) That, with regard to item 4 headed "Local Area Agreement", an all-member seminar had been arranged for 26th July, 2005 and therefore this could be removed from the list.
- (4) That, with regard to items 7 and 8 headed "Listed Buildings", the relevant officers be requested to attend the meeting scheduled for 15th June to provide an update.

10. **Referral From the Cabinet Member (Community Services) - Consultation on the Mental Health Strategy for Older People**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Social services and Housing, which had previously been considered by the Cabinet Member (Community Services) and referred on to this Committee for them to determine how best Scrutiny could be involved in the consultation process.

RESOLVED that Officers be requested to consider and recommend how best Scrutiny could be involved in the consultation process.