

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

22nd June, 2005

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

Other Scrutiny Board
Member Present:-

Councillor Gazey

Employees Present:-
P. Barnett (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)
C. Hinde (Director of Legal and Democratic Services)
J. Jardine (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)
J. McGuigan (Director of City Development)
C. Steele (Legal and democratic Services Directorate)
A. Townsend (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)
C. West (Education and Libraries Directorate)

19. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Patton declared an interest in Minute 26 below relating to "Submission of Expressions of Interest for Two Academies in Coventry". As this interest arose from him being a City Council appointed Governor of Woodway Park School, in accordance with Paragraph 5.1.3.3.2(c) of the City Council's Constitution, the interest was not regarded as being prejudicial and Councillor Patton remained in the meeting.

20. 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 22/05 below relating to "Coombe Abbey Funding" on the grounds that the item involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of that Act in particular Paragraph 7 of that Schedule.

21. Call-Ins Stage 1

The Committee noted that no call-ins had yet been received this week. The deadline for call-ins for Cabinet and Cabinet Member decisions made during the week commencing 13th June, 2005 was 9.00 a.m. on Friday 24th June, 2005. Any call-ins received after this meeting and before the deadline would be considered for validity by the Chair of the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee in consultation with the Director of Legal and Democratic Services (Paragraph 5.4.5.25.4 of the City Council's Constitution refers).

22. **Coombe Abbey Funding**

Further to Minute 124/04, the Committee considered a short briefing note of the Director of City Development that provided an overview of the City Council's financial involvement in the Country Park.

Members questioned the Officer on aspects of the report, in particular educational trips to Coombe, the rates paid for the Country park and the city boundary.

Members were concerned that it appeared to have been difficult to pull these figures together as different aspects of the Country Park were managed by different directorates.

RESOLVED that the Committee note the report and that further information on capital loan repayments would be circulated to Members separately.

23. **Scrutiny Board Work Programme**

The Committee briefly considered the work programmes for the four Scrutiny Boards for the municipal year 2005/06. Members suggested some additions and amendments to the work programmes and requested that they be converted into "calendar format" for further consideration at the meeting scheduled for 6th July, 2005 and formal approval by each Scrutiny Board.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the work programmes be amended in line with the comments made at the meeting.**
- (2) That approval be given to the expenditure against the Scrutiny Budget identified in the Scrutiny Board (4) Work Programme as submitted.**

24. **Reports to Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee on the Work of Outside Bodies**

The Committee noted Cabinet had recently approved a procedure for the submission of reports to the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee on the work of outside bodies. A schedule had been drawn up identifying which reports were due to be submitted in which month.

The Committee went on to discuss the approach to be taken when considering the reports and agreed that all reports for a particular month would initially be submitted to a single meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee, at this point the Lead Member would not be requested to attend. If the Committee wish to receive further reports information on a particular outside body the relevant Lead Member would be requested to attend a future meeting. Officers explained that the West Midlands Local Government Association had recommended that reports on the work of the West Midlands Local Government Association Provincial Council be made quarterly, the Committee agreed that they wished to receive this report on a six monthly basis.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the approach outlined above be taken to the submission and consideration of reports on the work of outside bodies.**

25. 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.

26. Submission of Expressions of Interest for Two Academies in Coventry

The Committee considered and noted a joint report which sought approval for the submission of expressions of interest for the development of two academies in Coventry. The Cabinet were due to consider the report as an item of urgent business on Tuesday 28th June, 2005. The reason for urgency being the requirement to have the final expression of interest with the DfES by 4th July, 2005 in order to receive a ministerial decision on the expressions of interest before the parliamentary recess on 21st July, 2005. 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.

Members were disappointed that although discussions had been under way with the DfES for some time this item had not been included on the forward plan and emphasised that if Scrutiny was to operate properly they should have the opportunity to consider issues in advance of their consideration by the Cabinet/Cabinet Member.

RESOLVED that the officers be requested to consider appropriate changes to the forward plan.