

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

20th July, 2005

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

Other Scrutiny
Members Present:- Councillor Batten
Councillor Gazey
Councillor Mrs. Lacy
Councillor Lakha

Cabinet Member
Present:- Councillor Matchet

Employees Present:- J Barlow (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)
C Hinde (Director of Legal and Democratic Services)
S Roach (Chief Executive's Directorate)
C Steele (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)
A Townsend (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)

Apologies:- Councillor Patton
Councillor Williams

39. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd June, 2005, were signed as a true record.

40. Deployment of Neighbourhood Wardens 2005/06

Further to Minute 28/05, the Committee considered a report of the Head of Corporate Policy which had previously been considered by the Cabinet (their Minute 40/05 refers), and which had been called in by Councillors Batten, Clifford and Mrs. Lacy. The report outlined proposals for the distribution and deployment of Coventry's Neighbourhood Warden Service in 2005/06.

The Committee noted that warden schemes had been in place in Coventry since 2000, the schemes had developed in an ad hoc way in response to the requirements of a range of different external funding regimes. Originally the schemes were entirely funded from external finance some of which had fallen out in March 2004, as part of the 2003 PPR process it had been decided that the number of wardens should be maintained in their existing areas in 2004/05 pending a decision about the longer term development of a city

wide scheme; additional funds had been made available for this from NRF and the City Council. Interim management arrangements have been put in place for those schemes that are now supported by Council funding, each scheme has a Team Leader who reports directly to the Warden Operational Manager who in turn reports to the Head of Area Co-ordination. Those schemes that are still externally funded are managed through other arrangements in line with their funding requirements. In 2005/06 the City Council will have direct control over the deployment of 47 wardens, the remaining 28 wardens, due to their funding restrictions, will be deployed within specific areas. In 2006/07 all 75 wardens will be funded and managed by Coventry City Council which will provide more flexibility in terms of distribution and deployment.

When the decision to expand the Neighbourhood Warden Scheme had been taken a Cabinet Advisory Panel had been established to set the criteria for deployment and the job descriptions for wardens. The Officer emphasised that warden deployment was not set in stone, it would be reviewed and there was provision for ad hoc deployment if necessary. The officer indicated that when the deployment arrangements had been presented to the Advisory Panel the issue of Tile Hill South had been raised and as a result this boundary had now been revised to include Tile Hill South in the Jardine beat boundary.

The Committee went on to consider how the warden scheme had been linked in line with the proposed management areas which in turn were aligned with Police OCUs. It was noted that work was ongoing with the Police to achieve co-terminosity of OCU and neighbourhood management boundaries. It was anticipated that this could be achieved with some minor variations.

The Committee were concerned that managing warden schemes in line with neighbourhood management areas resulted in different areas being linked together for example Canley and Willenhall/Willenhall Wood were both managed by the south area. Jardine Crescent was included in the north west area along with the city centre and Hillfields. Members suggested that it would make more sense for areas such as Canley and Tile Hill which were in the same geographical area of the city to be managed together. The officers agreed to look at how this could work.

The Cabinet member highlighted that the City Council did not yet have total flexibility in deployment as some warden schemes were still externally funded. Full flexibility would be achieved in 2006/07.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the Committee concur with the decision of the Cabinet.**
- (2) That the Committee noted that some changes had already been made to the boundaries and that these would be refined once the neighbourhood management boundaries had been finalised and that Officers be requested to give consideration as to how areas that are not within the same neighbourhood management area but geographically similar might be co-managed.**

41. **Report Back from Conference – International City Forum "Cities of the Future and Gender Equality"**

The Committee noted a report of the Lord Mayor, Councillor Lakha on the above visit which had taken place on 17th and 18th June, 2005.

42. **Report Back from Conference – Santiago De Compostela – Spain**

The Committee noted a report of the Lord Mayor, Councillor Lakha, on the above visit which had taken place between 30th June and 2nd July, 2005.

43. **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 that the deadline for item 5 headed "Scrutiny Review – Investigation into the Development and Funding of Coventry Transport Museum" relating to the issue of retention of documents, be rescheduled to October 2005.