

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

31st August, 2005

- Members Present:- Councillor Clifford (Substitute for Councillor Patton)
Councillor Mrs. Dixon
Councillor Duggins
Councillor Field
Councillor Mrs. Johnson (Substitute for Councillor Ridge)
Councillor Lee (Substitute for Councillor Sawdon)
Councillor Mutton
Councillor Williams
- Employees Present:- C. Hinde (Director of Legal and Democratic Services)
C. Steele (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)
A. Townsend (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)
- Apologies:- Councillor Patton
Councillor Ridge
Councillor Sawdon

54. Appointment of Chair

RESOLVED that Councillor Williams be appointed Chair of this meeting.

55. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 20th and 27th July, and 10th August, 2005, were signed as a true record.

56. Call-Ins Stage 1

The Committee noted that no call-ins had been received yet this week. The deadline for call-ins for Cabinet and Cabinet Member decisions made during the week commencing 29th August, 2005 was 9.00 a.m. on Friday 2nd September, 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).

57. Scrutiny Boards Annual Report to the City Council 2004/2005

The Committee considered a draft report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services which detailed the work of the Scrutiny Boards and the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee during the Municipal Year 2004/2005 in accordance with the City Council's Constitution.

The report set out information on the work of the four Boards generally and also of the Scrutiny and Best Value Reviews which had been carried out during the Municipal Year. Section two of the report analysed the performance of Scrutiny over the year and identified those aspects which had gone well, as well as those that had not gone so well, along with some proposals to improve Scrutiny.

The Committee briefly commented on the report, in particular, in relation to visits by Scrutiny Board (2) to Intake Teams and children's homes, and the need to balance the desire to focus the work of the Boards and to take fewer items 'for information', against the need to ensure that Members are up to speed and understand the areas being scrutinised particularly at the beginning of the Municipal Year when Boards are new.

The Committee noted that the Cabinet had requested the report be submitted to one of their meetings prior to its consideration by the Council. On this basis it would not be possible for the Council to consider the report in September but instead the report would go to the meeting on 1st November, 2005.

RESOLVED that the report be amended along the lines indicated above and submitted to Cabinet and then to Council on 1st November, 2005.

58. 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 officers be requested to identify when Item 1 headed "Coombe Abbey – Loan Funding" would be available for members.**
- (2) That with regard to Item 3 headed "University Square – Traffic Regulation Order" the date for further consideration be amended to September, 2005.**

59. Work Programme 2005/2006

The Committee considered the work programme for the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee for 2005/06. With regard to the issue headed "West Midlands Fire Authority – Reduction in Night Time Fire Appliances" it was noted that Senior Fire Authority Officers had been approached to attend a meeting of the Committee but were not willing to as they believed that they had previously given all the available information to meetings of the individual political groups. The Officers reminded the Committee that they had no powers to force the Fire Authority to attend.

RESOLVED that officers be requested to contact Senior Fire Authority Officers a second time to invite them to attend a future meeting.