

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

21st September, 2005

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

Cabinet Members Present:-
Councillor Arrowsmith (Cabinet Member (Urban Regeneration and Regional Planning))
Councillor Foster (Cabinet Member (City Services))

Employees Present:-
D. Cadman (City Development Directorate)
C. Hinde (Director of Legal and Democratic Services)
J. McGuigan (Director of City Development)
C. Steele (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)
A. Townsend (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)

Apologies:-
Councillor Clifford
Councillor Williams

66. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 31st August, 2005, were signed as a true record.

67. 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 12th September, 2005, was 9.00 a.m. on Friday 23rd 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).

68. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Sub-Regional Forum

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member (Policy, Leadership and Governance) which set out the details of the work of the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Sub-Regional Forum over the previous 12 months and included attendance records for the City Council's representatives at meetings of the Forum.

Members questioned the Cabinet Member on aspects of the report, in particular the role of the Forum within the sub-region, the decision making powers of the Forum and the role played by Solihull at the Forum.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to appoint to the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Sub-Regional Forum.

69. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – University of Warwick Science Park and Associated Companies

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member (Urban Regeneration and Regional Planning) which set out details of the work of the University of Warwick Science Park and associated companies over the previous 12 months and included attendance records for the City Council's representatives at the meetings of the Science Park. The Cabinet Member explained that the City Council has an automatic right to appoint two board members to the body by virtue of a long standing agreement, he went on to outline the work of the Science Park and associated companies.

The Committee questioned the Cabinet Member on aspects of the report, in particular the proposals for the former Foleshill Depot site and the anticipated Medical Technology Development at Ansty.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to appoint to the University of Warwick Science Park and Associated Companies.

70. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Urban Commission of Local Government Association

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member (City Services) which set out details of the work of the Urban Commission of the Local Government Association over the previous 12 months and included attendance records for the City Council's representatives at meetings of the Urban Commission.

The Cabinet Member gave a brief background to the Urban Commission including its composition, the format of meetings and voting.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to make appointments to the Urban Commission of Local Government Association.

71. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Urban Steering Committee of Local Government Association

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member (City Services) which set out details of the work of the Urban Steering Committee of the Local Government Association over the previous 12 months and included attendance records for the City Council's representative at meetings of the Steering Committee.

The Cabinet Member explained that although the City Council had nominated him to the Steering Committee in practice it was not possible for Local Authorities to directly

appoint to the body as it was formed by allocating the number of places proportionately between each political group, based on the political balance of the Urban Commission, places were allocated to individual members by the respective Urban Commission Group Leaders. The Commission suggested that although direct appointments were not possible it would be appropriate to indicate that the City Council wished their representative to take a place on the Steering Committee in order that the relevant group be made aware.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend to the City Council that the direct appointment to the Urban Steering Committee of the Local Government Association be discontinued but that the Local Government Association be made aware that the City Council's representative on the Urban Commission has an interest in sitting on the Steering Committee.

72. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – West Midlands Local Government Association Council

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member (Policy, Leadership and Governance) that set out details of the work of the West Midlands Local Government Association over the previous 12 months.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend to the City Council that appointments continue to be made to the West Midlands Local Government Association Council.

73. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – West Midlands Local Government Association Regional Assembly

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member (Policy, Leadership and Governance) that set out details of the work of the West Midlands Regional Assembly over the previous 12 months. The Committee noted that the West Midlands Local Government Association had recently changed its rules in appointing to the Regional Assembly, representatives appointed to the West Midlands Local Government Association Council are automatically allocated a place on the Regional Assembly.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend to the City Council that appointments to the West Midlands Local Government Association be made in line with the West Midlands Local Government Association's rules outlined above.

74. Report on Item of Urgent Business – Director of Children, Learning and Young People and Director of Community Services

The Committee considered the above report, which had been considered as an item of urgent business by the Cabinet at their meeting on 6th September, 2005. The reason for urgency was "the timescale for interviews".

RESOLVED that the Committee note the above report and the reason for urgency.

75. 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 the members could monitor progress.

With regard to Item 1, headed "Coombe Abbey – Loan Funding" the Committee considered and noted a briefing note, tabled at the meeting by the Director of City Development, on the capital loan repayment costs associated with the loan taken out by the City Council when they went into partnership with No Ordinary Hotel.

The Committee questioned the Director on aspects of the report, in particular the financial restructure which would change the relationship to a leasehold contract in 2006 including the associated valuation process and recouped tax loss. Members expressed their disappointment that although this issue had first been considered in February 2005 it had taken some eight months for this information to be presented to the Committee.

76. Work Programme 2005/2006

The Committee considered and noted the Work Programme for the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee for 2005/2006. With regard to the issue headed "West Midlands Fire Authority – Reduction in Night Time Fire Appliances" it was noted that the Senior Fire Authority Officers had indicated that they were willing to attend a future meeting and arrangements for this were currently being finalised.