

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

12th October, 2005

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

Co-opted
Member Present:- Councillor Clifford

Other Scrutiny Board
Members Present:-
Councillor Gazey
Councillor Mrs. Johnson
Councillor Lee

Cabinet Member
Present:- Councillor Foster (Cabinet Member (City Services))

Employees Present:-
P. Barnett (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)
P. Beesley (City Development Directorate)
D. Elliott (City Development Directorate)
M. Herbert (City Development Directorate)
J. McGuigan (Director of City Development)
S. Manzie (Chief Executive)
C. Steele (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)
A. Townsend (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)

84. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 14th and 21st September, 2005, were signed as true records.

85. 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 part of the item of business contained in Minute 95/05 below relating to "Swanswell Initiative – Land Disposal to City College" on the grounds that the item involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A of that Act, in particular Paragraphs 7 and 9 of that Schedule.

86. Call-Ins Stage 1

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

87. **University Square – Priory Street Access Feasibility Study**

Further to Minute 152/04, the Committee considered a report of the Director of City Development which reported on the findings of the University Square/Priory Street access study which the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee, at their meeting on 11th May, 2005, had requested be undertaken.

The report set out a series of options to deal with problems experienced by coaches accessing the new University Square:-

Option 1 The creation of new parking restrictions on St Mary Street/Bayley Lane to take the form of a 'No Loading Area' around the junction of St Mary Street and Bayley Lane.

Option 2 Reversal of St Mary Street and Bayley Lane one-way traffic flow, so removing the need for coaches to make the current tight right turn at the end of St Mary Street. Two possible solutions were identified to achieve this:-

- Option 2(a) The reversal of the one-way traffic flow in St Mary Street and Bayley Lane banning all left turns into Bayley Lane from Earl Street. This option would also create 3 dedicated coach layover spaces along the left hand side of Priory Street.
- Option 2(b) The reversal of the one way traffic flow in St Mary Street and Bayley Lane and reconfiguration of the junction of Bayley Lane so increasing the width of the carriageway enabling vehicles to make a left turn into Bayley Lane from Earl Street.

Option 3 The reversal of the one-way traffic flow in Priory Street allowing vehicles to access Priory Street from Fairfax Street.

The Committee questioned the Officer on aspects of the report, in particular the costs associated with each option proposed, the three designated coach parking spaces on Priory Street, illegal parking on St. Mary's Street and street warden patrols in this area and facilities for coach parking in the City Centre. The Committee briefly discussed the route from the Ring Road to the Cathedral used by coaches, the Officer confirmed that coaches visiting the Cathedral were encouraged to use Junction 2 of the Ring Road. It was noted that the drivers of coaches which visited regularly knew this preferred route to the Cathedral.

RESOLVED that the Committee recommend that the Cabinet Member pursues Option 1 and 2a contained in the report submitted and that any Road Traffic Order/signage stipulates that only coaches and authorised vehicles are permitted access to Priory Street.

88. **Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Belgrade Theatre Trust (Coventry) Limited**

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member (Children Services) which set out the details of the work of the Belgrade Theatre Trust (Coventry) Limited over the previous twelve months and included attendance records for the City Council representatives at meetings of the Trust.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to appoint two Members to the Belgrade Theatre Trust (Coventry) Limited.

89. Coventry Partnership for Youth (COPY) Board

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member (Children Services) which set out details of the work of the Coventry Partnership for Youth (COPY) Board over the past twelve months and included attendance records for the City Council's representatives at meetings of the Board. The Committee noted that the COPY Board was now in its final year with the Single Regeneration Budget funding due to expire in March 2006.

RESOLVED that the City Council continues to send the two nominees to the Board meetings until it is wound up in March 2006.

90. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Annie Bettman Foundation

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member (City Services) which set out details of the work of the Foundation over the previous twelve months and included attended records for the City Council's representatives at meetings of the Foundation. The Cabinet Member explained that there was only one meeting of the Foundation each year and that he did not think it was necessary for the City Council's representatives to be Elected Members. The Committee noted that currently two of the Council's six nominees were Elected Members.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to appoint to the Annie Bettman Foundation but that it bear in mind the nominees do not have to be Elected Members.

91. Governing Body of Henley College

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services which set out the details of the work of the Governing Body of Henley College over the previous twelve months and included attendance records for the City Council's representative at the Governing Body. The Committee noted that the College's Search Committee had requested that the City Council's representative have a legal background in order that the Governing Body have a good cross-section of skills.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to appoint an officer with a legal background to the Governing Body of Henley College.

92. 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 have been requested in order that Members could monitor progress.

93. **Work Programme 2005/2006**

The Committee considered and noted the work programme for the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee for the year 2005/2006.

94. **Swanswell Initiative – Land Disposal to City College**

The Committee considered and noted two joint reports, one in public and one in private which detailed issues associated with the disposal of City Council land to City College Coventry to enable them to develop a new flagship college which would form part of the Swanswell initiative. The Cabinet were due to consider the report at their meeting on 18th October, 2005, the report recommended the making of a key decision on a matter which had not been included in the published Forward Plan. The Committee considered the reasons why the making of the decision may not be delayed and confirmed that they were satisfied that the decision could be taken.

95. **City of Coventry (Swanswell No. 1) Compulsory Purchase Order 2005**

The Committee considered and noted a report of the Director of City Development which sought approval for the compulsory acquisition of property and interests to facilitate the delivery of the Swanswell Initiative Learning Quarter. The Cabinet were due to consider the report at their meeting on 18th October, 2005, the report recommended the making of a key decision on a matter which had not been included in the published Forward Plan. The Committee considered the reasons why the making of the decision may not be delayed and confirmed that they were satisfied that the decision could be taken.

96. **Transport Innovation Fund**

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive that sought endorsement of the West Midlands Transport Innovation Fund submission to the Government which would be submitted in conjunction with the other West Midlands Metropolitan Authorities. The Cabinet were due to consider the report at their meeting on 18th October, 2005, the report recommended the making of a key decision on a matter which had not been included in the published Forward Plan. The Committee considered the reasons why the making of the decision may not be delayed and confirmed that they were satisfied that the decision could be taken.