

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

30th November 2005

Members Present: Councillor Clifford (Co-opted Member)
Councillor Duggins
Councillor Field
Councillor Mutton
Councillor M Noonan
Councillor Patton
Councillor Ridge
Councillor Sawdon (Chair)
Councillor Williams

Other Scrutiny Board
Members Present:

Councillor Gazey

Cabinet Members

Present:

Councillor Arrowsmith (Urban Regeneration and Regional Planning)

Employees Present:

P. Barnett (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)
D. Elliott (City Development Directorate)
R. Hughes (Head of Corporate Policy)
J. Jardine (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)
J. Mc Guigan (City Development Directorate)
C. Sinclair (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)
C. Steele (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)
P. Todd (City Development Directorate)

Apologies:

Councillor Mrs Dixon

130. 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 121/05 below relating to "Swanswell Initiative – Cygnet and Orwell Courts" 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.

131. 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 21st November 2005, was 9.00 a.m. on Friday 2nd December 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).

132. Swanswell Initiative – Cygnet and Orwell Courts

Further to Minute 115/05, the Committee received an update on plans to ensure that the tenants of Cygnet and Orwell Courts, which would be affected by the Swanswell Initiative, were adequately re-housed in the area and that properties had been secured for them prior to vacating their existing properties.

The Committee noted that discussions were currently ongoing with the affected tenants. Orbit Housing (the affected properties landlord) had written to all tenants offering to meet with them and City Council officers on a group and individual basis. Council officers were also meeting with senior managers of Orbit Housing on a weekly basis in order to identify suitable re-location sites. The Committee also noted that all affected tenants had received information informing them of their legal rights in relation to the CPO associated with the Initiative.

With regard to the provision of alternative accommodation, the Committee considered in public a map which outlined six possible re-location sites in the area. The Committee discussed the constraints, risks and opportunities of each of the proposed sites but agreed that the Committee should not rule out any of the proposals as they felt that the tenants should be made aware of all the possible sites. They also discussed in private the details of a further site.

Councillor Mutton requested that, as he had previously been approached by tenants to attend the group meeting, that officers make tenants aware that he will attend.

The Chair emphasised that Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee's role in the issue was to champion the cause of the tenants, in accordance with undertakings given at the Council meeting on 1st November 2005.

RESOLVED:

- (1) That officers submit the feasibility study at the meeting on 15th December 2005 on site 5 and the site discussed as an issue of private business.**
- (2) That officers provide a progress report on the consultation progress with tenants for the meeting on 15th December 2005.**

133. 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 minutes and attendance sheets from the previous five Local Strategic Partnership meetings be circulated to members of the Committee for information.

134. Work Programme

The Committee noted the Work Programme for the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee for 2005/2006.