

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

4th January, 2006

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

Employees Present:- D. Elliott (City Development Directorate)
C. Hinde (Director of Legal and Democratic Services)
R. Hughes (Chief Executive's Directorate)
U. Patel (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)
C. Steele (Chief Executive's Directorate)

Apologies:- Councillor Duggins
Councillor Williams

148. 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 2nd January, 2006, was 9.00 a.m. on Friday 6th January, 2006. 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).

149. Swanswell Initiative – Cygnet and Orwell Court

Further to Minute 138/05, the Committee received an update on the plans to ensure that the tenants of Cygnet and Orwell Courts, which would be affected by the Swanswell initiative, were adequately rehoused in the area and that properties had been secured for them prior to vacating their existing properties.

The Committee noted that objections had been received from the residents of the disabled and adapted units and as a result it was inevitable that a public inquiry would be held at which the Inspector on behalf of the ODPM would hear the Council's case and the concerns of those who had objected. In addition it was noted that discussions were still ongoing with all effected parties in relation to the provision of alternative accommodation.

The Committee also considered a briefing note which was circulated at the meeting, detailing the Compulsory Purchase Order process of Orwell and Cygnet Courts, and the residents' legal and financial rights.

The Committee expressed their disappointment that the meeting involving Elected Members and tenants arranged to take place before Christmas had been cancelled but were assured that a date would be confirmed very soon.

The Committee questioned the employee present on aspects of the proposals, particularly in relation to the options available, the cost implications for the tenants who were objecting and the timescales involved. The Chair emphasised that all options needed to be clearly explained to the tenants to avoid any confusion. In addition, he reiterated the importance of staying focused on the undertakings given at the Council meeting on 1st November, 2005.

RESOLVED that officers provide a progress report on the development and outcomes of the consultation meeting to the meeting of the Committee scheduled for 18th January, 2006.

150. Coventry Partnership Minutes

Further to Minute 133/05, the Committee considered minutes and attendance sheets from the previous five meetings of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) with a view to gaining a better understanding of how funds were being managed by the Partnership.

The Committee noted that a consultation document on LSPs had been received and that a report would be drafted for Cabinet to consider early in the New Year.

RESOLVED that the report on Local Strategic Partnership once drafted, be submitted to the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee prior to its consideration by Cabinet.

151. Outstanding Issues

The Committee noted a report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services which identified those issues on which further reports had been requested in order that Members could monitor progress.

152. Work Programme

The Committee noted the work programme of the Scrutiny Co-Ordination Committee for 2005/2006.