

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

1st February, 2006

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

Other Scrutiny
Members Present:- Councillor Gazey
Councillor Mrs. Harper

Employees Present:- P. Barnett (Chief Executive's Directorate)
D. Elliott (City Development Directorate)
C. Hinde (Director of Legal and Democratic Services)
R. Hughes (Head of Corporate Policy)
J. Jardine (Chief Executive's Directorate)
C. Steele (Chief Executive's Directorate)
A. Townsend (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)

Apologies:- Councillor Patton

171. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 21st December, 2005 and 4th and 11th January, 2006, were signed as a true record.

172. Call-Ins Stage 1

The Director of Legal and Democratic Services reported on the following call-in that had been received:-

Consultation on the Draft Children and Young Peoples' Plan 2006-2010

The report had been called in by Councillors Gazey, Mrs. Harper and Williams.

The reason for the call-in was "to understand better what improvements and new benefits will accrue to this Council from this appointment".

The Committee noted that the deadline for call-ins for Cabinet and Cabinet Member decisions made during the week commencing 23rd January, 2006, was 9.00 a.m. on Friday 3rd February, 2006. Any further call-ins received after this meeting and before that 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 4.5.25.4 of the City Council's Constitution refers).

RESOLVED that Scrutiny Board (2) be requested to consider the call-in detailed above in detail at their meeting on 2nd February, 2006 in conjunction with their consultation on the plan and that the Cabinet Member (Children Services) be requested to attend.

173. Swanswell Initiative – Cygnet Court and Orwell Court

Further to Minute 166/05, the Committee received an update on the plans to ensure that the tenants of Cygnet and Orwell Courts, who 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 the City Council had now appointed external legal advisors to prepare the Statement of Case; a decision on the CPO was expected in late September/early October 2006. The officers emphasised the need to ensure that notes are taken and retained of meetings with affected parties in case they are required at the inquiry.

Councillor Mutton reported that good progress is being made in arranging a meeting with the tenants; once a preferred date has been identified the relevant Cabinet Members would be advised.

With regard to the potential locations for dedicated new build accommodation the Committee noted that a site had now been formally offered to Orbit Housing and a response was awaited. Discussions were also ongoing with regard to the potential to reconfigure an alternative housing scheme to provide dedicated new build disabled flats.

RESOLVED that the officers be requested to attend the meeting on 15th February, 2006 to provide a further update.

174. Report on the Work of Scrutiny Board – Scrutiny Board (2) (Children's Services, Supported Community Services and Health and Housing)

Councillor Field, the Chair of Scrutiny Board (2), gave a brief update on the work of the Board. This year the Board had focused on children and anti-social behaviour and had established a dedicated review of academies. The Committee considered the potential benefits gained by holding seminars for all members as opposed to presentations to Scrutiny Boards, so allowing Boards the time to do Scrutiny rather than receive information.

175. Report on the Work of Scrutiny Boards – Scrutiny Board (3) (Urban Regeneration and Regional Planning, Adult Education, Libraries and Leisure and City Services)

Councillor Ridge, the Chair of Scrutiny Board (3), gave a brief update on the work of the Board over the previous months. The Committee noted that a review would shortly be established to look at grass verge parking/dropped kerbs.

176. Report on the Work of Scrutiny Boards – Scrutiny Board (4) (Health)

Councillor Clifford, the Chair of Scrutiny Board (4) gave a brief update on the work of Scrutiny Board (4) (Health), which had, unfortunately, been affected by a large number of statutory NHS consultations. The Committee emphasised that variations to the agreed work programme should be reported to this Committee in order that it could co-ordinate the work of the Board.

177. 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 had been requested in order that the Members could monitor progress. The report on the Local Strategic Partnership consultation was now scheduled to come to this Committee on 15th February, 2006.

178. Work Programme 2005/2006

The Committee considered and noted the work programme for the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee for the year 2005/2006. With regard to the issue headed "Local Vision" identified with no date, it was noted that a seminar would now be arranged for all Members on the Lyons review.

179. Scrutiny Budget 2005/2006 – Current Position

With reference to Minute 5/05, the Committee considered and noted a report of the Director of Legal and Democratic Services which set out the current budget position for the 2005/2006 Scrutiny budget. The Committee were concerned that much of the budget was still unallocated and emphasised that this budget had been set aside to allow Boards to take advice from external experts. With regard to the £6,750, allocated to Scrutiny Board (4) for the review of the care pathway for older people through acute settings, it was noted that this work had been put back due to the influx of statutory consultations (Minute 176/05 above refers) but it was expected that some of the money would be spent before the end of the financial year.

180. High Street

The Committee noted that Scrutiny Board (3) had identified the High Street improvement works as a small Scrutiny review to include the following areas:-

- The examination of the procedures followed prior to the award of the contract.
- How and why problems had occurred, to include the examination of the products used on pedestrian areas and its performance if laid during inclement weather.

181. **University Square**

With reference to Minute 168/05, the Committee were concerned that the Cabinet Member had not formally considered the recommendations of this Committee regarding the University Square Priory Street Access Feasibility.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member (Urban Regeneration and Regional Planning) be requested to attend a meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee to discuss the progress of this report.