

**SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE**

**1st March, 2006**

- Members Present:- Councillor Clifford (Substitute for Councillor Patton)  
Councillor Mrs. Dixon  
Councillor Duggins  
Councillor Lee (Substitute for Councillor Williams)  
Councillor Mutton  
Councillor Ridge  
Councillor Sawdon (Chair)
- Other Scrutiny Board  
Members Present:- Councillor Gazey  
Councillor Mrs. Johnson
- Cabinet Members  
Present:- Councillor Arrowsmith (Cabinet Member (Urban Regeneration  
and Regional Planning))  
Councillor Matchet (Cabinet Member (Health and Housing))
- Employees Present:- D. Elliott (City Development Directorate)  
C. Hinde (Director of Legal and Democratic Services)  
R. Hughes (Head of Corporate Policy)  
C. Steele (Chief Executive's Directorate)  
A. Townsend (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)
- Apologies:- Councillor Field  
Councillor Patton  
Councillor Williams

**203. 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 20th February, 2006, was 9.00 a.m. on Friday 3rd March, 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).

**204. Swanswell Initiative – Cygnet and Orwell Courts**

Further to Minute 185/05, 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 suitable properties had been secured for them prior to them vacating their existing properties.

The officer indicated that it was likely that the public inquiry would take place in early July, 2006. Orbit Housing were continuing to meet with tenants of Cygnet and Orwell Courts. Heads of Terms had been agreed with Orbit Housing to replicate the existing buildings on a new site, a planning application was scheduled to be submitted in May,

2006, construction work was expected to commence on site in October, 2006 (subject to the planning permission being granted) with completion likely to be in July/August 2007. The Committee noted that this was past the deadline for site possession by City College but that discussions were under way to look at possible programme adjustments to the City College works to accommodate this. Members were concerned that the timetable from submission of planning permission to completion seemed overly long, the officer explained that this period included Christmas when the construction industry traditionally shut down for an extended period and confirmed that the programme was as would be expected for brick buildings of this type.

Councillor Mutton reported that meetings had been set with three of the tenants on 15th March, 2006. He would be meeting separately with each tenant and would report back to a future meeting on the outcomes.

**RESOLVED that the officer be requested to attend the meeting on 15th March, 2006, to provide a further update.**

**205. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – West Midlands Enterprise Limited**

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Sawdon which set out details of the work of West Midlands Enterprise Limited over the previous twelve months and included attendance records for the City Council's representatives at meetings of the organisation.

**RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommends that the City Council continues to appoint to West Midlands Enterprise Limited.**

**206. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Coventry Venture Capital Limited**

Further to Minute 157/05, the Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member (Finance and Equalities) which set out details of Coventry Venture Capital Limited and addressed those issues which had been identified at the meeting of this Committee on 11th January, 2006. The Committee requested that further investigatory work take place, in particular to address how the company is structured, what it does, who the directors are, who appoints them and what role they have.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to appoint to Coventry Venture Capital Limited.**
- (2) That the officers be requested to carry out that work identified above and report back to this Committee at the meeting on 22nd March, 2006.**

**207. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Connexions Strategic Partnership Board**

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member (Children Services) which set out details of the work of the Connexions Strategic Partnership Board over the

previous twelve months and included attendance records for the City Council's representatives at meetings of the Board. The Committee debated the recommendation in the report that the appointment should be the relevant Cabinet Member and one other Elected Member. The Committee noted that the appointment was currently the Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Board and one other Member, the second place historically being given to the relevant Cabinet Member. The Committee felt that the appointment of the Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Board to the Board was important and that this should continue.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to appoint to the Connexions Strategic Partnership Board.**
- (2) That the two representatives should be the relevant Cabinet Member and the Chair of the relevant Scrutiny Board.**

**208. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Coventry Association for International Friendship**

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Chater which set out details of the work of Coventry Association for International Friendship over the previous twelve months and included attendance records for the City Council's representative at meetings of the organisation.

**RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continues to appoint to the Coventry Association for International Friendship.**

**209. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Coventry Community Safety Partnership**

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member (Health and Housing) which set out details of the work of the Coventry Community Safety Partnership over the previous twelve months and included attendance records for the City Council's representatives at meetings of the Partnership.

**RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to appoint to the Coventry Community Safety Partnership.**

**210. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Coventry (City Council and Housing Associations) Liaison Committee**

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member (Health and Housing) which indicated that it was no longer necessary to appoint a representative to the above-mentioned organisation as the committee had dissolved itself with the liaison work being transferred to the Housing Theme Group of the Coventry Partnership.

**RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that no further appointments be required to the Coventry (City Council and Housing Associations) Liaison Committee.**

211. **Outstanding Issues**

The Committee considered and 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.

212. **Work Programme 2005/2006**

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

The Committee noted that Scrutiny Board (1) had requested that the annual report on complements, comments and complaints be considered by the Board, this item had been identified during their consideration of the Cabinet Member (Policy, Leadership and Governance) Plan.

213. **University Square – Priory Street Access Feasibility**

Further to Minute 200/05, the Committee noted that the above mentioned report, considered by this Committee on 12th October, 2005, (Minute 87/05 refers), had not been considered by the Cabinet Member (Urban Regeneration and Regional Planning). The Cabinet Member had been concerned that the report only dealt with a single aspect of a much wider issue and had instead requested that the subject be looked at in its entirety with input from third parties, for example, CV One.

The officer explained that there were two main issues, coach access to the Cathedral and the use of Pool Meadow Bus Station by coach operators after the new bus lane under the Whittle Arch was opened. In looking at options, it had been assumed that the White Street Coach Station would not be reopened but that, in the long term, the Swanswell Initiative could include a coach facility. In the short term an interim solution was required; Fairfax Street had been identified as an appropriate place to pick up and drop off passengers safely. A report would go the Cabinet Member (Urban Regeneration and Regional Planning) shortly to request approval to create coach spaces for passenger drop off on Fairfax Street, it was proposed to utilise the former White Street Coach Park for driver lay-over only, passenger drop-off would not be permitted in this area.

The Committee went on to discuss access to the Cathedral by coaches. The Cabinet Member felt that the solution previously considered by this Committee (minute 87/05 refers) was likely to be as problematic as the existing situation and indicated that he had rejected the report as unworkable. He felt that the pick-up and drop-off of passengers at Fairfax Street was an appropriate temporary solution and it was hoped that this solution would also encourage visitors to the Cathedral to spend a longer period of time in the city and to visit other attractions.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee support the proposals identified above for a short term coach parking solution.**
- (2) That Scrutiny Board (3) be requested to look at this issue further.**