

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

15th March, 2006

- Members Present:- Councillor Clifford (Substitute for Councillor Patton)
Councillor Mrs. Dixon
Councillor Duggins
Councillor Field
Councillor Mutton
Councillor Ridge
Councillor Sawdon
Councillor Williams
- Other Scrutiny
Members Present:- Councillor Asif
Councillor Crookes
- Cabinet Member
Present:- Councillor H. Noonan (Cabinet Member (Community Services))
- Employees Present:- P. Barnett (Chief Executive's Directorate)
C. Hinde (Director of Legal and Democratic Services)
A. Townsend (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)
- Apologies:- Councillor Patton

224. 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 6th March, 2006, was 9.00 a.m. on Friday 17th March, 2006. Any call-ins received after this meeting but 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 5.4.5.25.4 of the City Council's Constitution refers).

225. Swanswell Initiative – Cygnet and Orwell Courts

Councillor Mutton reported that he had recently met with three of the affected residents and outlined the outcome of the meetings, he was unsure whether or not Community Services had been in touch with the residents yet regarding the changes. Councillor Mutton agreed to pass his notes of the meetings to Community Services for them to follow up; Councillor H. Noonan agreed to take up this issue to ensure a seamless transfer for the residents.

RESOLVED that Councillors Mutton and H. Noonan be requested to follow up those actions outlined above.

226. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Coventry Fair Trade Steering Group

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Cliffe which set out the details of the work of the Coventry Fair Trade Steering Group over the previous twelve months and included attendance records for the City Council's representatives at meetings of the Group.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to appoint to the Coventry Fair Trade Steering Group.

227. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Coventry Learning Disabilities Partnership Board

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

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to appoint to the Coventry Learning Disabilities Partnership Board.

228. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Partnership

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member (Policy, Leadership and Governance) which set out details of the work of the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire 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 Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Partnership.

229. 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.

230. Work Programme 2005/2006

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

The Committee noted that with regard to the Scrutiny Board (2) Work Programme an additional meeting would be arranged to consider the item "The Future of the Council's Housing List" prior to its consideration by Cabinet. It was agreed that all Members should be invited to attend this meeting.

The Committee gave consideration to the most appropriate forum to scrutinise the report "Progress Report on Neighbourhood Management and Proposals for the Creation of 18 Ward Forums" which was due to be considered by the Cabinet at their meeting on 4th April, 2006 and Full Council on 11th April, 2006. The Committee agreed that the report should be scrutinised by the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee at their meeting on 29th March, 2006.

RESOLVED that the work programmes be revised, in line with the changes outlined above.

231. Council Response to Whitefriars Group Restructuring Proposals

Further to Minute 215/05, the Committee considered a joint report that requested Councillors to consider whether the City Council should formally consent to the proposed restructuring of the Whitefriars Housing Group and execute the Deed of Variation and Novation. In particular, Councillors were requested to consider whether the changes to the voting arrangements proposed by Whitefriars were in the best interest of the City Council.

The Committee debated the issue of the City Council's veto which may be exercised on issues such as changes to the Whitefriars' Constitution.

RESOLVED that the Committee supports Whitefriars' changes to charitable status but recommends that the Cabinet insists that the Council's right to veto is reinstated in the proposed Deed of Variation.

232. Transportation Capital Programme 2006/2007

The Committee considered a joint report which set out the capital expenditure settlement for the seven West Midlands Metropolitan Districts and the 2006/2007 Spending Programme for Capital Transport Schemes in Coventry. The report sought approval for the overall spending programme and approval for specific smaller schemes. For the first time the report set out a three-year rolling capital programme.

The Committee were concerned that other West Midlands Metropolitan Districts had historically received a larger portion of the allocation due to schemes such as Midlands Metro.

RESOLVED that the Officers be requested to pass on the comments outlined above to the Cabinet.