

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

29th March, 2006

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

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

Cabinet Member
Present:- Councillor O'Neill (Cabinet Member (Finance and Equalities))

Employees Present:- D. Elliott (City Development Directorate)
A. Maqsood (Community Services Directorate)
J. Nicholls (Chief Executive's Directorate)
C. Steele (Chief Executive's Directorate)
A. Townsend (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)

Apologies:- Councillor Duggins
Councillor Patton
Councillor Sawdon

243. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 22nd February 2006, were signed as a true record.

244. Call-Ins Stage 1

Further to Minute 234/05, the Committee noted that a call-in had been received the previous week after the meeting of the Committee but before the deadline for receipt of call-ins:-

Brandon Wood Farm

The report had been called in by Councillors Mrs. Lucas, Kelly and Duggins.

The reason for the call-in was, "To understand if the concerns expressed by the Brandon Wood Carers Support Group over the future of the farm, and in particular the issue of the future of day care has been addressed".

The Committee noted that in line with Paragraph 4.5.25.4 of the City Council's Constitution the call-in had been confirmed as valid by the Chair of the Scrutiny Co-

ordination Committee in consultation with the Director of Legal and Democratic Services and that the call-in would be considered in detail at the meeting of the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee on 5th April, 2006.

245. Progress Report on Neighbourhood Management and Proposals for the Creation of 18 Ward Forums

The Committee considered a joint report which updated Members on progress with the development of the Neighbourhood Management Service and put forward proposals for the establishment of 18 Ward Forums to replace the current arrangement of 6 Area Forums. A Cabinet Member Advisory Panel had been established to look at issues associated with the move to Neighbourhood Management and the introduction of Ward Forums; this report was the outcome of their work.

The Committee questioned the Cabinet Member and officer on aspects of the report in particular the mechanism to feed back issues raised at ward forums (eg into Management Board or the PPR process), the likely cycle of meetings and the potential for Ward Forums to link together, the accountability of Ward Forums to the Local Strategic Partnership, the potential to devolve power and funding to ward forums, the potential for political polarisation to creep into ward forums and the need to ensure that agenda items were relevant to the area.

The Committee broadly supported the proposals for the creation of area forums but felt that those Officers following up actions raised at ward forums needed to have the authority necessary to ensure that issues raised would be addressed.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee support the proposals contained in the report.**
- (2) That a further report detailing the process for feeding back comments and issues raised at ward forums be brought back to this meeting.**
- (3) That this Committee receive a progress report on the operation of the new arrangements for Ward Forums in December 2006.**

246. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Tansley Charity Trustees

The Committee considered a report of Councillor M. Noonan which set out the details of the work of the Tansley Charity Trustees over the previous 12 months and included attendance records for the City Council's representatives at meetings of the charity.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommends that the City Council continue to appoint to the Tansley Charity Trustees.

247. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – John Friends Memorial Fund

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Crookes which set out details of the work of the John Friends Memorial Fund and included attendance records for the City

Council's representatives at meetings of the Trustees. The Committee noted that the reference to the John Friends Memorial Fund in paragraph 4.1 of the report should in fact be a reference to the Sir Charles Barrett Memorial Foundation.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommends that the City Council continue to appoint to the John Friends Memorial Fund.

248. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Elizabeth Swillington's Charity

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Mrs. Harper which set out details of the work of Elizabeth Swillington's Charity over the previous twelve months and included attendance records for the City Council's representatives at meetings of the charity.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommends that the City Council continue to appoint to the Elizabeth Swillington's Charity.

249. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Martha Flint and Emma Osmand Educational Foundation

Councillor Clifford gave a brief oral report on the work of the Martha Flint and Emma Osmand Educational Foundation and outlined the attendance record for the City Council's representative at meetings of the Foundation.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommends that the City Council continue to appoint to the Martha Flint and Emma Osmand Educational Foundation.

250. 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.

The Committee noted that Item 4, Central Depot, would be considered by this Committee at its meeting on 12th April, 2006.

251. Work Programme 2005/2006

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

252. Swanswell Initiative – Cygnet Court and Orwell Court

Further to Minute 235/05, 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 re-housed in the area and that suitable properties had been secured for them prior to vacating their existing properties. The Officer indicated that Orbit Housing continued to meet with tenants and were confident that the able bodied tenants who were allocated on the upper floors of the flats could be accommodated in the vicinity of Cygnet and Orwell Court in properties over which the City Council held nomination rights. A meeting between Councillors Mutton, H Noonan and Community Services would take place shortly to co-ordinate support for residents.

With regard to the site for the new build on Raglan Street, it was proposed to submit a planning application in April, 2006, start on site was anticipated to commence in September, 2006 with completion scheduled for September, 2007. Work was ongoing with the aim of reducing the build time and so bringing forward the completion date, however, the Committee noted that it would not be possible for the new build to be available for February 2007 when the Cygnet and Orwell Court flats were required to be vacated in order for City College to take possession of the site. The Committee noted that some purpose built, fully accessible bungalows, over which the City Council has nomination rights, would become available shortly in the Daimler Green area of the City; the Committee explored the options for residents of Cygnet Court and Orwell Court with regard to these properties including the feasibility of single people to occupying properties with more than one bedroom. The Committee noted that the scheme in Raglan Street would go ahead regardless of whether or not the tenants of Cygnet Court and Orwell Court wished to relocate to the building in order to create more housing of this type in the City.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the Officer be requested to further explore the options for with regard to the bungalows in Daimler Green.**
- (2) That the Officer be requested to attend the meeting on 12th April, 2006, to provide a further update.**