

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

22nd 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 Board
Members Present:- Councillor Charley
Councillor Gazey

Employees Present:- J. Daly (Finance and ICT Directorate)
J. McGuigan (Director of City Development)
S. Rudge (Community Services Directorate)
C. Steele (Chief Executive's Directorate)
A. Townsend (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)

Apologies:- Councillor Patton

233. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 1st and 15th February, 2006, were signed as a true record.

234. Call-Ins Stage 1

The Committee noted that no call-ins had been received yet this week. The deadline for Cabinet and Cabinet Member decisions made during the week commencing 13th March, 2006, was 9.00 a.m. on Friday 24th March, 2006. Any 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 5.4.5.25.4 of the City Council's Constitution refers).

235. Swanswell Initiative – Cygnet and Orwell Courts

RESOLVED that this item be deferred to the meeting on 29th March, 2006.

236. Whitefriars Housing Group – Draft Process for Consultation with Ward Councillors

Further to Minute 198/05, discussions had taken place with Whitefriars and a sample of the proposed briefing pack which would disseminate information to Elected Members on pertinent issues from the Whitefriars Housing Group. The Committee gave consideration to the document which comprised two parts; part A provided details of issues considered at Whitefriars Board and Committee Meetings and part B provided

additional information for example details of changes, news and projects across the organisation. It was anticipated that the information would be circulated to Councillors by email and it was hoped to commence this in April 2006. The Officer sought the Committee's advice as to whether Part A only or both Parts A and Part B should be distributed.

With regard to Ward Forums, Whitefriars did not propose to attend all meetings although had indicated they would attend if invited. The Committee discussed this proposal and commented that Ward Forums were only likely to take place on a 12 week cycle, it was unlikely that Whitefriars would need to attend all forums, only those with large amounts of Whitefriars Housing stock located within them. The Committee felt that attendance at Ward Forums by Whitefriars would be of mutual benefit.

The Committee were pleased with the way that Whitefriars were working with the City Council on this issue although were disappointed that they were generally unwilling to attend Scrutiny meetings.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that Parts A and B of the Councillors' briefing be circulated to all Members by e-mail on a quarterly basis.**
- (2) That Ward Forums, when established, be requested to consider whether they wish Whitefriars to attend.**

237. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Coventry Partnership

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Taylor which set out details of the work of the Coventry Partnership over the previous 12 months and included attendance records for the City Council's representatives at meetings of the Partnership.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommends that the City Council continue to appoint to the Coventry Partnership.

238. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Blue Coat School Foundation

The Committee considered a report of Mrs. Cribden which set out details of the work of the Blue Coat School Foundation over the previous 12 months and included attendance records for the City Council's representatives at meetings of the Foundation.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommends that the City Council continue to appoint to the Blue Coat School Foundation.

239. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Regional Flood Defence Committee

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Ahmed which set out details of the work of the Regional Flood Defence Committee over the previous 12 months and included attendance records for the City Council's representatives at meetings of the organisation.

This appointment rotated between Coventry City Council and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council on a four year basis with Coventry's turn expiring in May 2006.

RESOLVED that no appointment be made to this organisation be required until the Annual Meeting of the City Council in May 2010.

240. Ricoh Arena

The Committee considered a joint report which was due to be considered by the Cabinet at their meeting on 4th April, 2006 and the Council at its meeting on 11th April, 2006 which updated Members on the operation of the Ricoh Arena, sought approval to change the structure of the leases and company structures to maximise the tax efficiency of the development and sought approval for the acquisition of the land necessary to facilitate a hotel development on the Ricoh Arena site.

The Director gave a brief update on the current situation with the arena including its operation, funding, lease, company structures and the potential hotel development on the site.

The Committee questioned the officers on aspects of the report, in particular the bid for the regional casino, job creation targets, the lease for the casino area, the proposals for restructuring the leases and company structures and the hotel development including parking.

Members were concerned that the backing of the bid for a regional casino on the NEC site by Birmingham City Council could jeopardise the Coventry bid; the Committee felt that the West Midlands should be acting as a team as the benefits to be realised from a regional casino would be felt across the region.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee support the proposals contained in the report but had no specific comments to pass on to the Cabinet.

241. 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 the report on Coventry Venture Capital Limited would now be considered by this Committee at their meeting on 5th April, 2006.

242. Work Programme 2005/2006

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

Further to minute 231/05 Councillor Ridge advised that Scrutiny Board 3 would be taking the 'University Square - Priory Street Access Feasibility' issue forward as quick single meeting review to which all Elected Members would be invited.