

sc120706

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

12th July, 2006

- Members Present:-
 Councillor Asif
 Councillor Charley (Substitute for Councillor Williams)
 Councillor Crookes (Substitute for Councillor Lee)
 Councillor Duggins
 Councillor Mutton
 Councillor Patton
 Councillor Ridge
 Councillor Sawdon
- Other Scrutiny
 Members Present:-
 Councillor Batten
 Councillor Gazey
 Councillor Townshend
- Cabinet Member
 Present:-
 Councillor Blundell (Cabinet Member (Children, Learning and Young People))
 Councillor O'Neill (Cabinet Member (Finance, Procurement and Value for Money))
- Employees Present:-
 C. Hinde (Director of Legal and Democratic Services)
 T. Jones (City Development Directorate)
 P. Robinson (City Development Directorate)
 C. Steele (Chief Executive's Directorate)
 A. Townsend (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)
 C. West (Finance and ICT Directorate)
- Apologies:-
 Councillor Clifford
 Councillor Lee
 Councillor Williams

17. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 21st June, 2006, were signed as a true record.

18. Call-Ins Stage 1

With reference to Minute 11(2)/06, the Director of Legal and Democratic Services reported on the following call-in that had been received the previous week, the decision on the validity of which had been deferred to this meeting of the Committee:-

Arena Construction Completion Report

The report had been called in by Councillors Townshend, Patton and Maton.

The reason for the call-in was, "to understand why, since the Conservatives gained control of the Council in 2004, they have allowed the Ricoh Arena project to slip into a £2.9m overspend".

The Committee considered the call-in in light of the approved criteria for determining whether call-ins were appropriate (Minute 1/02 refers).

The Committee noted that the deadline for call-ins from Cabinet and Cabinet Member decisions made during the week commencing 3rd July, 2006, was 9.00 a.m. on Friday 14th July, 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 4.5.25.4 of the City Council's Constitution refers).

RESOLVED that the call-in be determined as not appropriate as it did not meet the agreed criteria because the answer to the question may be found in the report relating to the decision which was being called in and that the three Members calling in the decision, indicated above, be informed accordingly.

(NOTE: (1) Councillor Patton opposed the proposal to reject the call-in and requested that his opposition be noted, he commented that the decision demonstrated that the Executive and Scrutiny Board Chairs should not be of the same political party.)

(2) The Committee formally voted on the proposal to reject the call-in as invalid, the following votes were cast:-

For	Against	Abstain
4	0	2

19. **Proposed Capital Projects in the Non-Schools Programme**

Further to Minute 9/06, the Committee considered a joint report which had been previously considered by the Cabinet Member (Children, Learning and Young People) (his Minute 4/06 refers) and had been called in by Councillors Batten, Clifford and Mutton, together with supplementary briefing notes prepared in response to discussions held at the meeting of this Committee on 5th July, 2006.

The report sought approval to the remodelling of the former infant building at Limbrick Wood Primary School to allow the relocation of Minority Group Support Services (MGSS) and the Parent Partnership SEN Support Service from the site of the former Sir Henry Parkes School that was scheduled for demolition as part of the Canley Regeneration Programme.

The officers gave a brief overview of the position with the budget, in particular the funds that were being used to implement the move and the resource switching that had taken place. The Committee noted that money had been transferred in order that no budget lost out and that capital spend could be maximised. The refurbishment of Limbrick Wood School needed to take place in order that the Sir Henry Parkes site could be released for the Regeneration Programme.

The Members calling in the report and the Committee questioned the Cabinet Member and officers on aspects of the report and briefing notes submitted in particular the inclusion of a contingency figure and provisional sums included within the tender price, an earlier assumption that MGSS would relocate to the vacated Alderman Harris site which had now been discounted and the successful tender. There was some concern that the Cabinet member, in approving the recommendations of the report, had approved up to £150,000 for the works at Limbrick Wood although the tendered costs had come in at just over £133,000.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee request that the Cabinet Member reconsider this issue recommending that he authorises expenditure for the works at Limbrick Wood School to accommodate Minority Group Support Services and Parent Partnership SEN Support Service at the value of the lowest tender returned.

20. Scrutiny Board Work Programmes 2006/2007

RESOLVED that the work programme for Scrutiny Board (4) be submitted to the meeting on 19th July, 2006 to allow the Chair of the Scrutiny Board the opportunity to attend for this item.

21. 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 Members could monitor progress.

22. Work Programme 2006/2007

The Committee considered and noted the Work Programme for the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee for 2006/2007.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member plan be considered informally on 19th July in order to plan questions with formal consideration taking place at the meeting on 9th August, 2006.