

sc251006

**SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE**

25th October, 2006

Members Present:-	Councillor Bains (Substitute for Councillor Patton) Councillor Crookes (Substitute for Councillor Williams) Councillor Duggins Councillor Lee Councillor Mutton Councillor Ridge (Chair)
Cabinet Member Present:-	Councillor Foster (Cabinet Member (City Services))
Employees Present:-	P. Barnett (Chief Executive's Directorate) G. Carey (Head of Democratic Services) R. Hughes (Head of Corporate Policy) A. Townsend (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate) M. Trewinnard (City Development Directorate)
Apologies:-	Councillor Clifford Councillor Patton Councillor Sawdon Councillor Williams

**84. Call-Ins Stage 1**

The Committee noted that no call-ins had been received yet this week. The deadline for call in of Cabinet and Cabinet Member decisions made during the week commencing 16th October, 2006, was 9.00 a.m. on Friday 27th October, 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).

With reference to minute 75/06, the Committee noted that the following call-in had been received the previous week, after the meeting of this Committee and before the deadline for receipt of call-ins:-

**Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG)**

The report had been called in by Councillors Mutton, Clifford and Patton. The reason for the call-in was, "to better understand the implications of only providing the minimum adaptations necessary to meet peoples needs".

The Chair of the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee in consultation with the Director of Legal and Democratic Services had considered the validity of the call in against the criteria previously agreed (Minute 1/02 refers) and had determined that the call-in should be considered by this Committee at its meeting on 8th November 2006.

**85. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies - Bonds Hospital Estate Charity Trustees**

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Mrs. Johnson which detailed the work of the Bonds Hospital Estate Charity Trustees over the previous 12 months and included attendance records for the City Council's nominees at the meetings of the Trustees.

**RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the Bonds Hospital Estate Charity Trustees.**

**86. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies - Coventry and Solihull Waste Disposal Company Shareholders' Panel**

The Committee Considered a report of Councillor Foster which detailed the work of the Coventry and Solihull Waste Disposal Company Shareholders' Panel over the previous 12 months and included attendance records for the City Council's nominees at meetings of the panel.

Councillor Foster, who was in attendance at the meeting, gave a brief background to the work of the Panel which was formed of representatives from both Coventry City Council and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and was chaired by Councillor Foster.

**RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the Coventry and Solihull Waste Disposal Company Shareholders' Panel.**

**87. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies - Coventry Law Centre**

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Foster which detailed the work of the Coventry Law Centre over the previous 12 months and included details of attendance for the City Council's nominees at meetings of the Centre's Management Committee.

Councillor Foster, who was in attendance at the meeting, gave a brief background to the work of the Law Centre which was funded jointly by Coventry City Council and the Legal Services Commission.

**RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the Coventry Law Centre.**

**88. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies - Coventry Sports Trust Limited**

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Ridley which detailed the work of the Coventry Sports Trust over the previous 12 months and included attendance records for the City Council's nominees at meetings of the Trust.

The Committee were concerned that the Trust was not achieving what had been anticipated when it had been set up, and Committee requested that the Cabinet Member and appropriate officers be requested to attend a future meeting to discuss issues.

**RESOLVED that consideration of this report be deferred to a future meeting at which the Cabinet Member and officer be requested to attend to discuss current issues with the Coventry Sports Trust.**

**89. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies - Coventry Venture Capital Fund Limited**

The Committee considered a report of Councillor O'Neill which detailed the work of the Coventry Venture Capital Fund over the previous 12 months and included details of attendance records for the City Council's nominees at meetings of the Fund.

Paragraph 3.3 of the report indicated that the West Midlands Metropolitan District Councils were currently completing negotiations to relinquish their interest in West Midlands Enterprise. These changes would have no effect on the City Council's interest in the Coventry Venture Capital Fund Limited and it was anticipated that a further report on the outcome of these negotiations would be considered at the next West Midlands Joint Committee meeting in January.

**RESOLVED that further consideration of this report be deferred until early 2007 after the meeting of the West Midlands Joint Committee and would be heard in conjunction with the report back on the University of Warwick Science Park and Associated Companies (Item 5 on the outstanding issues report included on this agenda).**

**90. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies - Groundwork Coventry and Warwickshire**

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Skinner which detailed the work of Groundwork Coventry and Warwickshire over the previous 12 months and included details of attendance records for the City Council's nominees at meetings of Groundwork Coventry and Warwickshire.

**RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to Groundwork Coventry and Warwickshire.**

**91. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Local Government Association – Urban Commission**

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Gazey, which detailed the work of the Local Government Association Urban Commission over the previous 12 months and included details of attendance records for the City Council's nominee at meetings of the Commission.

**RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the Local Government Association Urban Commission.**

**92. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Museum of British Road Transport Trust (Coventry) Limited**

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Ridley which detailed the work of the Museum of British Road Transport Trust (Coventry) Limited over the previous

12 months and included details of attendance records for the City Council's nominees at meetings of the Trust.

The Committee noted that Barry Littlewood, the Chief Executive of the Coventry Transport Museum was scheduled to retire in the spring of 2007. The Committee requested that their thanks for Mr. Littlewood's hard work and enthusiasm for his work with the Museum be placed on record.

**RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the Museum of British Road Transport Trust (Coventry) Limited.**

**93. Soothern & Craner Educational Foundation**

Further to Minute 54/06, the Committee considered a report of the Leader of the Council, Councillor Taylor and a supplementary briefing note which detailed the work of the Soothern & Craner Educational Foundation over the previous 12 months and included attendance records for the City Council's nominees at meetings of the Foundation as well as additional information on the value of the trust fund, grants made and the trust deed which had been requested at a previous meeting of this Committee. The Committee noted that the current nominations were not due to expire until May 2009, it was therefore agreed that further consideration be given to the proposal to reduce the number of Council nominees to two nearer to this time.

**RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council give further consideration to a reduction in the number of nominees to the Soothern & Craner Educational Foundation when the current nominations expire in 2009.**

**94. Report on the Work of Outside Bodies – West Midlands Joint Committee – Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee**

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Arrowsmith, which detailed the work of the West Midlands Joint Committee – Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee over the previous 12 months and included attendance records for the City Council's representatives at meetings of the Sub-Committee.

**RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the West Midlands Joint Committee – Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee.**

**95. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – West Midlands Regional Assembly – Regional Planning Partnership**

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Arrowsmith which detailed the work of the West Midlands Regional Assembly Regional Planning Partnership over the previous 12 months and included attendance records for the City Council's nominees at meetings of the Partnership. The Committee were concerned with the low attendance records for both of the City Council's nominees at meetings of the Partnership.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the west Midlands Regional Assembly – Regional Planning Partnership.**
- (2) That the officer be requested to pass on the Committee's concerns regarding low attendance levels to the City Council's nominees on the Regional Planning Partnership.**

**96. Report on the Work of Outside Bodies – William Proffitts Charity**

With reference to Minute 54/06, the Committee considered a report of Councillor Asif which detailed the work of the William Proffitts Charity over the proceeding 12 months and included details of attendance records of the City Council's nominees at meetings of the Trustees along with a supplementary briefing note outlining the value of the trust fund and grants made from it as well as the City Council's obligation to appoint trustees as outlined in the charity's trust deed.

The Committee noted that if the City Council were to cease making nominations to the organisation as recommended within the report this would cause the charity to be in breach of its trust deed. The Committee further noted that it had been recommended that a more appropriate way to cease nominating to the organisation was to seek agreement at a meeting of the trustees to amend the trust deed or as an alternative the appointment of interested non-elected members as trustees rather than Councillors.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That the above information be relayed to Councillor Asif for further consideration in relation to the Trust Deed.**
- (2) That in the meantime the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continues to nominate to William Proffitts Charity Trust.**

**97. Public Safety Zones at Coventry Airport**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of City Development which set out proposals by the Department of Transport to establish public safety zones at Coventry Airport and recommended the Committee's support for their establishment. This report was also scheduled to be considered by the Cabinet and Council at their meetings on 31st October, 2006.

The Consultation document, published by the Department of Transport, identified areas of risk at the end of runways within which development was restricted in order to control the number of people on the ground at risk of death or injury in the event of an aircraft accident on take off or landing; this area corresponded with the extended centre line of the runway. The proposal was for the establishment of Public Safety Zones at each end of the runway and had been triggered by the commencement of passenger services at the airport and the anticipated increase in these. The deadline for responses was 17th November, 2006 and a number of key stakeholders had been consulted by the

Department for Transport; the Committee were concerned that Local Ward Councillors had not been consulted as part of this process.

The Committee questioned the officer on aspects of the report, in particular the effect of the proposed Public Safety Zone on houses to the south of Toll Bar Island, in particular three houses that had been empty for some years, the impact on The Orchards Retail Site in particular an area adjacent to the site which was not currently developed but would benefit from development due to problems with fly-tipping, the impact on the Binley Industrial Estate and land owned by the City Council and Warwickshire County Council boundary in particular Rowley Road.

The officer confirmed that the empty houses which were closest to the Brandon Lane junction did not fall within the public safety zone and the garage also fell out of the zone. Although the southern edge of the Orchards Retail Park fell within the zone although this only comprised car parking which was permitted within a Public Safety Zone. Although the public safety zone would prevent construction on a small strip of land to the south side of the site it was unlikely that any planning permission would permit construction on the area and would require the area to be landscaped. The officer confirmed that Siskin Drive and Rowley Road did not fall within the proposed Public Safety Zone and that it would have no impact on proposals to extend the airport's buildings as they did not fall within the zone.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That the Committee had no comments to make to Cabinet and Council on the response to the Consultation.**
- (2) That Officers be requested to ensure that Ward Councillors be consulted as part of the process to respond to the Government's consultation documents.**

**98. 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.

**99. Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee Work Programme 2006/2007**

The Committee considered the latest version of their work programme for the period 2006/2007.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That Coventry Partnership minutes be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.**
- (2) That officers be requested to give an informal briefing on the imminent Local Government White Paper.**