

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

18th October, 2006

Members Present:- Councillor Bains (Substitute for Councillor Patton)
Councillor Duggins
Councillor Mutton
Councillor Ridge
Councillor Sawdon (Chair)
Councillor Williams

Co-opted
Member Present:- Councillor Clifford

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

Apologies:- Councillor Asif
Councillor Lee
Councillor Patton

74. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 20th and 27th September, 2006, were signed as true records.

75. Call-Ins Stage 1

The Committee noted that no call ins had been received yet this week. The deadline for call-in for Cabinet and Cabinet Member decisions made during the week commencing 9th October, 2006, was 9.00 a.m. on Friday 20th 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).

76. Report on the Work of Scrutiny Board (1) – Culture, Leisure and Libraries, Finance, Procurement and Value for Money, Human Resources, Corporate and Customer Services, Audit Issues

Councillor Williams, the Chair of the Scrutiny Board (1) (Culture, Leisure and Libraries, Finance, Procurement and Value for Money, Human Resources, Corporate and Customer Services, Audit Issues) gave a brief update on the work of the Scrutiny Board which had included work on sickness absence, the consideration of the relevant Cabinet Member plans, and the establishment of a task and finish group to examine the process for installing the benefits IT system. Ongoing monitoring work included the Coventry Direct Programme, the Benefits Improvement Programme, Capital and Revenue Programmes and ICT infrastructure. The Board had also established an Audit Sub-Group

to undertake the audit role, so leaving the Board freer to consider other issues whilst ensuring that audit issues are fully scrutinised.

The Committee questioned the Scrutiny Board Chair and Officer present on aspects of the Board's work in particular value for money, including the team that had been recently established for this purpose; it was noted that, to date, value for money work had mainly concentrated on the development of processes which were likely to save money in the future.

77. Report on the Work of Scrutiny Boards – Scrutiny Board (4) (Community Services and Housing, Neighbourhoods Equalities and Health)

Councillor Clifford, the Chair of Scrutiny Board (4) (Health) gave a brief update on the work of the Scrutiny Board, which had included consideration of the relevant Cabinet Member Plans, work on the submission to the Coventry and Warwickshire Acute Services Review, a seminar on NHS finance, a question and answer session with NHS Chief Executives, the Health Care Commission annual health check event and a visit for Members to the Keresley LIFT Project. A review of the care of older people in acute settings had been established. Councillor Clifford explained that the Board had taken on additional responsibilities associated with the extended remit of the Board this year and as a result it was necessary to prioritise work carefully.

78. Report Back on the Work of Scrutiny Boards – Scrutiny Board (3) (Urban Regeneration and Regional Planning and City Services)

Councillor Ridge, the Chair of Scrutiny Board (3) (Urban Regeneration and Regional Planning and City Services) gave a brief update on the work of the Scrutiny Board which had included further work on a city centre retail study, the examination of High Street with emphasis on the cleansing and the New Roads and Street Works Act, recent changes to the bus network in the city as well as consideration of the relevant Cabinet Member Strategic Plans. Major work items for the current quarter included a review of the customer care aspects of the Planning Service, the Ricoh Arena in particular the green travel plan and the Municipal Waste Management Strategy.

79. Meetings with Cabinet Members – Cabinet Member Plans

The Committee considered and noted a briefing note of the Head of Corporate Policy which set out the results of each Scrutiny Boards' discussions with their relevant Cabinet Members regarding their strategic plans as well as this Committee's discussions with the Leader of the Council (Cabinet Member (Policy, Leadership and Governance)) about his Cabinet Member Strategic Plan. The Committee considered a suggestion from the Leader that he attend a future meeting of this Committee to identify items that the Committee felt should have more or less priority in the forthcoming PPR proposals. The Committee felt that this was not appropriate and that this was an issue for each of the political groups. With regard to issues raised by the Board during their consideration of the plans it was felt that it was up to each Board to ensure that the issues they raised were reported back on by the relevant Cabinet Member and that the Leader should be asked to attend a future meeting of this Committee to discuss the matters raised from his plan, in particular the International Strategy.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member (Policy, Leadership and Governance) be requested to attend a meeting in early November to provide an update on those issues raised by the Committee during consideration of his Cabinet Member plan.

80. Report Back on Conference – Local Government Association Conference – 4th – 7th July, 2006

The Committee considered and noted a report of the Director of Finance and ICT which summarised the above mentioned conference and the benefits to the City Council.

81. 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.

82. Work Programme 2006/07

The Committee considered and noted the work programme for the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee for the 2006/07 municipal year.

83. Swanswell Initiative – Cygnet and Orwell Courts

With reference to Minute 71/06, the Committee considered a joint report which was scheduled to be considered by both the Cabinet and Council at their meetings on 31st October, 2006 and provided an update on the situation with the Compulsory Purchase Order for Cygnet and Orwell Courts and requested Council's support and approval to the residents relocation package detailed in the report.

The officer reported that since the last meeting of this Committee the planning application for the replacement building on Raglan Street had now been submitted. The Committee noted that this building would be larger than the one being replaced.

The Committee fully supported the recommendations contained in the report, they were especially pleased with the approach taken with this work, the involvement of Elected Members at all stages demonstrated good working both across directorates and between Officers and Elected Members.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet and Council be informed of this Committee's support of the recommendations contained in the report.