

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE**24th January, 2007**

- Members Present:-
 Councillor Bains
 Councillor Clifford (Substitute for Councillor Mutton)
 Councillor Duggins
 Councillor Lee
 Councillor Ridge (Deputy Chair)
 Councillor Sawdon (Chair)
 Councillor Williams
- Cabinet
 Member Present:- Councillor O'Neill (Cabinet Member) (Finance, Procurement and Value for Money)
- Other Members
 Present:- Councillor Gazey
 Councillor Patton
- Employees Present:-
 G. Carey (Head of Democratic Services)
 A. Davey (Head of Culture, Leisure and Libraries)
 R. Hughes (Head of Corporate Policy)
 C. Steele (Chief Executive's Directorate)
 C. Swann (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)
- Apologies:- Councillor Mutton

158 Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 6th and 13th December, 2006, were signed as a true record.

159. Call-Ins Stage 1

The Committee noted that no 'call-ins' had been received yet this week. The deadline for 'call-ins' for Cabinet and Cabinet Member decisions made during the week commencing 15th January, 2007, was 9.00 a.m. on Friday 26th January, 2007. 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).

160. Serco Review Group – Revised Terms of Reference and Timescale

Further to Minute 68/06, the Committee considered a briefing note by the Head of Corporate Policy, indicating that, arising from meetings of the Review Group held on 7th November and 7th December 2006, relating to Serco's Contract and Service Level

Agreement with the City Council, revised terms of reference and a timescale for completing the Review were now being proposed.

The report set out the proposed revised terms of reference of the Review Group, together with the existing terms for comparison purposes.

RESOLVED that the revised terms of reference and timescale for the review of the Serco Contract and Service Level Agreement, in the light of recent developments as set out in the report, be approved.

161. Outstanding Issues

The Committee considered 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.

With reference to Minutes 156/06, it was also reported that the delay in submission of the report on the work of the Economic and Social Renaissance Sub-Board had been drawn to the attention of the Conservative Group's Whip.

RESOLVED that the Director of Legal and Democratic Services be requested to establish with the Conservative Group's Whip the position regarding the action proposed in respect of the delay in the submission of the report on the work of the Economic and Social Renaissance Sub-Board.

162. Work Programme 2006/2007

The Committee noted the Work Programme for the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee for the 2006/2007 Municipal Year and that a progress report on Oak Farm Plan Area would be submitted to the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee on 21st February 2007.

163. Development Opportunities for Coventry Arising out of the 2012 Olympic Games

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Community Services, which had previously been considered by the Cabinet Member (Finance, Procurement and Value for Money) at the meeting on 10th January, 2007, (their Minute 28/06 refers) and had been 'called-in' by Councillors Patton, Townshend and Maton. The validity of the 'call-in' had been confirmed 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).

The report set out the potential opportunities for Coventry arising from the announcement that London was to host the 2012 Olympic Games, recommended that £100,000 be allocated in 2006/07 from the Policy Contingency Fund to allow these opportunities to be explored, and that consideration be given to the allocation of a further £100,000 per year for a three-year period during the Policies, Priorities and Resources (PPR) process in 2007/08.

The Committee noted that the reason for the 'call-in' was to obtain a better understanding of how the finances had been worked out, as they did not appear to add up,

and also that it would be helpful to have an understanding of why there did not appear to be any political involvement and co-ordination of this project.

Councillor Patton, one of the Members who had 'called-in' the report, raised issues having regard to the reasons for the 'call-in', particularly having regard to the fact that other key partners across Coventry and Warwickshire involved in the scheme had committed themselves to considerably less funding than the City Council.

The Cabinet Member reported that, whilst he had agreed to allocate £100,000 to the scheme in 2006/07, he had made no commitment to the level of funding in future years. This would be based entirely on the level of benefits to the City derived from current funding, anticipated future benefits by continuing to participate in the scheme and the level of funding available at the time for this purpose.

In relation to the issue raised in the reasons for the 'call-in' regarding the political involvement in the scheme, the Cabinet Member confirmed that the City Council would be working with key partners through a local committee, which also included representatives of Coventry University, the University of Warwick, CV One Limited and other partners from Warwickshire. In addition, the report indicated that the City Sport and Physical Activity Officer would also be responsible for monitoring progress.

RESOLVED that:-

- (1) The Committee concur with the decision of the Cabinet Member.**
- (2) This matter be identified as a possible issue for inclusion in the Work Programme for Scrutiny Board (1).**

(NOTE: This item was considered at the meeting as an item of other urgent public business, the reason for urgency being the need to proceed with this matter without delay.)