

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

14th March, 2007

Members Present:- Councillor Bains
Councillor Crookes (Substitute for Councillor Williams)
Councillor Mrs. Dixon (Substitute for Councillor Asif)
Councillor Duggins
Councillor Lee
Councillor Mutton
Councillor Ridge (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Sawdon (Chair)

Co-Opted
Member Present:- Councillor Clifford

Employees Present:- P. Barnett (Chief Executive's Directorate)
S. Brake (Community Services Directorate)
M. Coult (Finance and ICT Directorate)
R. Hughes (Head of Corporate Policy)
J. Jardine (Chief Executive's Directorate)
S. Roach (Chief Executive's Directorate)
C. Steele (Chief Executive's Directorate)
C. Swann (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)

Apologies:- Councillor Asif
Councillor Williams

201. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

202. Minutes

The minutes of the meetings held on 24th January and 7th February, 2007, were signed as a true record.

203. Call-Ins Stage 1

It was reported at the meeting that the following call-in had been received on 13th March, 2007:-

Statutory Notices for Deedmore and Hawkesbury Fields Special Schools

The report had been called in by Councillors Kelly, Mrs. Lucas and Clifford.

The reason for the call-in was "To better understand the effect on the two schools' current and future pupils who had a wide spectrum of needs; to understand how one school can manage the wide range of needs; and to understand whether the provision of places will be sufficient, bearing in mind the proposed increase in size of the City and

demographic changes."

The Committee noted that the deadline for call-ins from Cabinet and Cabinet Member decisions made during the week commencing 5th March, 2007, was 9.00 a.m. on Friday 16th March, 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 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 detailed above be considered in detail by the Scrutiny Co-Ordination Committee at their meeting on 21st March, 2007, and that the relevant Cabinet Member be requested to attend.

204. **Coventry Partnership and the Local Area Agreement 2007/08**

The Committee considered a report of the Chief Executive, also to be considered by the Cabinet at their meeting on 20th March, 2007, that requested approval for the refreshed Local Area Agreement 2007/08. This was attached as an appendix to the report, together with a briefing note on the progress of the Coventry Partnership.

The report confirmed that the aim of the Coventry Partnership is to bring together the local public, private, voluntary and community sectors to facilitate joint working and, in particular, to deliver the Coventry Community Plan and the Local Area Agreement. These plans aimed to improve the quality of life and services across the City and narrow the gap between the priority neighbourhoods and the rest of the City. It was noted that the Council is a key partner in this work and recognised that, to be successful in delivering its vision and the corporate objectives, it was necessary to work in partnership. It was also noted that the Coventry Partnership Board comprised of members drawn from all sectors in the City, including the community and voluntary sectors and the City Council. The Chief Executive of the City Council is the Secretary to the Partnership Board.

The report also confirmed that the Local Area Agreement, introduced in 2005, and designed to last for three years was a contract between central and local government to deliver both central and local priorities and was a vehicle for allocating significant amounts of area based funding. The Agreement was not expected to change significantly during the refresh process, other than to include any new mandatory indicators and funding streams. However, the Local Government White Paper indicated that Local Area Agreements would be fundamentally different from 2009, in particular seeing them as a delivery plan for community strategies. Therefore, a local "super refresh" process would begin in April 2007 and affect the City Council's Local Area Agreement in 2008/09.

The report also referred to the fact that, in September 2006 the Coventry Partnership commissioned a Neighbourhood Renewal Advisor to undertake a review in order to consider the fitness for purpose of the Coventry Partnership's structures and processes with particular focus on the extent to which partnership working was perceived to be inclusive and adding value and providing recommendations as to how the partnership should develop to position itself to respond effectively to existing local and emerging national changes. On 9th January, 2007, the Coventry Partnership held a self-assessment workshop to look at some of the messages coming out of the Local Government White Paper and to understand the recommendations that were coming out of the partnership review. Details of the outcomes from the workshop were also attached as an appendix to the report.

RESOLVED that the recommendations in the report be noted and referred to the Cabinet without comment.

205. Outstanding Issues

The Committee considered 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.

RESOLVED that, having noted the progress of the outstanding issues referred to in the report:-

- (1) Appropriate action be taken to obtain the further information on developments in respect of the University of Warwick Science Park and Associated Companies, as requested by the Committee at their meeting on 20th September, 2006.**
- (2) The date for the Committee's further consideration of the issue in relation to the Local Strategic Partnership be changed from February 2007 to "as soon as the White Paper on the Scrutinisation of Local Strategic Partnerships has been received".**
- (3) A report on the results of the Customer Satisfaction Survey be submitted to this Committee at their meeting on 21st March, 2007.**
- (4) The date for further consideration of matters on which action was requested by the Cabinet Member (Policy, Leadership and Governance) be changed from March 2007 to April 2007.**

206. Work Programme 2006/2007

The Committee considered and noted the Work Programme for the Scrutiny Co-Ordination Committee for the remainder of the 2006/2007 Municipal Year.

207. Any Other Business (Public and Private)

There were no items of any other business.