

**SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE****4th April, 2007**

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

Other Scrutiny  
 Member Present:- Councillor Gazey

Cabinet Member  
 Present:- Councillor Mrs. Johnson

Employees Present:- G. Carey (Head of Democratic Services)  
 M. Coult (Finance and ICT Directorate)  
 R. Hughes (Head of Corporate Policy)  
 G. Lewis (Chief Executive's Directorate)  
 D. Pearce (Chief Executive's Directorate)  
 C. Steele (Chief Executive's Directorate)  
 C. Swann (Legal and Democratic Services Directorate)

Apologies:- Councillor Asif  
 Councillor Mutton  
 Councillor Williams

**218. Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings held on 14th and 21st February, 2007, were signed as a true record.

**219. Call-Ins Stage 1**

The Committee noted that no call-ins had been received yet this week. The deadline for call-ins on Cabinet and Cabinet Member decisions made during the week commencing 26th March, 2007, was 9.00 a.m. on Friday, 6th April, 2007. Any call-ins received after this meeting and before the deadline would be considered for validity by the Chair of 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).

**220. Value for Money – Scrutiny's Role**

The Committee were informed that Scrutiny Board (1) at their meeting on 21st March, 2007 (their Minute 71/06 refers) had received a presentation outlining current progress on the Council's Value for Money Strategy and the role that Scrutiny might play in

the Value for Money process. The Scrutiny Board recommended that this Committee ask all Boards to take into account this Value for Money role when setting their Work Programmes in the future.

In this connection, the Finance Manager (Value for Money), Mike Coult, made a presentation outlining Scrutiny's proposed role.

it was recommended in the presentation that the role of Scrutiny in the Value for Money process should comprise the following three elements:-

- (1) Scrutiny of New Proposals – Testing the Business Case
  - Why do we want to do it?
  - Is it worth doing?
  - What's the best way of doing it?
  - How will we pay for it?
  
- (2) Scrutiny of Value for Money Reviews – Give Views on the Service Change Options Being Recommended to the Cabinet
  - How do we change options "fit" with corporate objectives?
  - What will the impact be on customers?
  - Are the changes deliverable?
  - What other options could have been considered?
  
- (3) Evaluation
  - Have we achieved the outcomes we expected?
  - Were they delivered on time and to budget?
  - How do they demonstrate they are delivering Value for Money?

In considering these recommendations, the Committee agreed that appropriate arrangements should be made so that Value for Money Reviews should link with the timetable for Scrutiny Co-ordination and Cabinet Member Reviews. The Committee also expressed the view that a mechanism should be introduced to ensure that "evaluation" included an examination as to whether the outcomes of actions had achieved their long term objectives.

**RESOLVED that:-**

- (1) **The recommendations referred to in the presentation be accepted.**
  
- (2) **All Scrutiny Boards be requested to take into account the three aspects of the Value for Money role, as referred to above, when setting their Work Programmes, and to ensure that they follow up the outcomes of their work, including those which might be long term.**

**221. Attendance by the Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee at Cabinet/Cabinet Member Meetings for Urgent/Key Decisions and Call-Ins**

The Committee noted a report by the Head of Democratic Services confirming that the Constitution Working Group, at their meeting on 21st March, 2007, had agreed that, in cases where this Committee had determined the reasons for urgency in respect of a

matter so that "call-ins" would not apply, or in cases where this Committee had determined that a decision could not reasonably be deferred to enable the procedure regarding the publication of a "Key Decision" to be followed, it was not necessary for the Chair of this Committee to attend the appropriate Cabinet/Cabinet Member meeting. The Constitution Working Group had also confirmed, however, that the Chair of this Committee would still be required to attend the appropriate Cabinet/Cabinet Member meeting, if the Committee had not been given the chance to consider a matter to determine whether or not it should be considered as urgent or had agreed that it should not be determined as urgent.

The Committee also noted that an appropriate amendment would be made to the City Council's Constitution regarding this change.

**222. Report Back on Conference – Visit to Rawalpindi and Muzzafarabad, Pakistan – 19th to 25th November, 2006**

The Committee considered a report of the Lord Mayor, Councillor Ahmed, on the Civic Visit to Rawalpindi and Muzzafarabad, Pakistan, from 19th to 25th November 2006.

The report indicated that a delegation from the City had visited Rawalpindi City District to look at community safety issues, and Muzzafarabad, to view reconstruction works taking place in the area following the recent devastating earthquake and to confirm to the local community that the Citizens of Coventry were continuing their fundraising efforts to support them in their building works.

The Committee's attention was drawn to the funding arrangements for the visit and, in this connection, the Head of Corporate Policy, in clarification, confirmed that, contrary to the statement in the report, no private sponsorship money was used to fund the expenses of any of the delegates involved in the visit, the Lord Mayor personally met the cost relating to the Lady Mayoress, and that sponsorship money offered to support the visit had been donated to the charity Action Aid.

The Committee expressed their concerns regarding the misleading information contained within the report about funding sources and their regret regarding any embarrassment caused to the Lady Mayoress.

**RESOLVED that the report, together with the additional information provided by the Head of Corporate Policy clarifying the funding arrangements, be noted and that the appropriate officers be requested to ensure that in future those involved in visits/conferences are made fully aware of the contents of reports relating to those visits/conferences before being published.**

**223. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Elizabeth Swillington's Charity**

The Committee considered a report by Councillor Mrs. Harper that detailed the work of the Elizabeth Swillington's Charity over the previous 12 months and included attendance records of the City Council's representatives at meetings of the Trustees.

**RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the Elizabeth Swillington's Charity and that the Director of Legal and Democratic Services be requested to continue to try and obtain details of Trustees' attendances.**

**224. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies - John Friend's Memorial Fund**

The Committee considered a report by Councillor Crookes that detailed the work of John Friend's Memorial Fund over the previous 12 months, and included attendance records for the City Council's representatives at meetings of the Board of Trustees.

**RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the Board of Trustees of the John Friend's Memorial Fund.**

**225. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Local Government Association – Rural Commission**

The Committee considered a report by Councillor Mrs. Rutter that detailed the work of the Local Government Association – Rural Commission over the previous 12 months and included attendance records of the City Council's representative at meetings of this organisation.

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

**226. 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.

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

- (1) The date for reporting the submission of further information in respect of the University of Warwick Science Park and associated companies be deferred from March 2007 to May/June 2007.**
- (2) The date for the Committee's further consideration of the issue in relation to the Local Strategic Partnership be changed from "TBC" to "as soon as the White Paper on the Scrutinisation of Local Strategic Partnerships' has been received.**
- (3) The Committee note that a seminar is to be arranged for all Members of the City Council on a suitable date in relation to the Customer Satisfaction Survey.**
- (4) The date for the Committee's further consideration of matters on which action was requested by the Cabinet Member (Policy, Leadership and Governance) in respect of that Cabinet Member's Strategic Plan, be changed from March 2007 to a later date in April 2007.**
- (5) The report in respect of the examination into the role of Trust Directors and how Trusts having Grant Aid Agreements with the**

**City Council might be more closely monitored, be submitted to the meeting of the Committee to be held on 18th April, 2007.**

**227. Work Programme 2006/07**

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

**228. Any Other Business (Public and Private)**

There were no items of any other business.