

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

6th February, 2008

Scrutiny Co-ordination
Committee And
Substitute Members

Present:-

Councillor Charley (Substitute for Councillor Arrowsmith)
Councillor Duggins
Councillor Ms. Hunter
Councillor Lee
Councillor Maton
Councillor Mutton
Councillor Ridge
Councillor Williams

Co-opted

Member Present:-

Councillor Clifford

Employees Present:-

P. Barnett (Chief Executive's Directorate)
J. Jardine (Chief Executive's Directorate)
C. Pullin (Children, Learning and Young People Directorate)
C. Steele (Chief Executive's Directorate)
A. Townsend (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate)
A. West (Chief Executive's Directorate)

Apologies:-

Councillor Arrowsmith

117. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

118. **Call-Ins Stage 1**

The officers reported on the following call-in that had been received:-

Paragon Park Redevelopment and Proposed Relocation of EMR

The report had been called in by Councillors Duggins, Harvard and Mrs. Bigham.

The reason for the call-in was, "To understand the alternative sites explored instead of Oban Road. To be updated on the continuing efforts to find an alternative site not near homes. Furthermore, to explore in greater detail the environmental impacts of this proposal, as well as health and economic wellbeing".

The Committee noted that the deadline for call-ins for Cabinet and Cabinet Member decisions made during the week commencing 28th January, 2008, was 9.00 a.m. on Friday 8th February, 2008. Any further 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 Customer and Workforce 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 20th February, 2008 and that the relevant Cabinet Member be requested to attend.**

119. Second Quarter Report on the Work of Scrutiny Board (1) (Finance, Procurement and Value for Money, Community Cohesion and Equalities, Customer, Workforce and Legal Services, Audit Issues)

The Committee considered and noted a report of Councillor Williams, Chair of Scrutiny Board (1), that provided the Committee with an update on the work undertaken by Scrutiny Board (1) during the period October to December, 2007. The Board continued to concentrate their focus on sickness absence levels, in addition to this work was ongoing to monitor progress on the Housing Benefit Improvement Plan.

A joint meeting had been held with the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee to consider reports on Coventry Direct and ICT Services and the SERCO contract realignment prior to the Cabinet's consideration of the matters. At the request of this Committee a Task and Finish Group had been established to define guidelines for the Bailiff Service involved in the enforcement of Council Tax Liability Orders, particularly in relation to vulnerable people. The Audit Sub-Group was progressing with its work.

120. Second Quarter Report on the Work of Scrutiny Board (2) (Children, Learning and Young People)

The Committee considered and noted a report of Councillor Lee, Chair of Scrutiny Board (2), that provided the Committee with an update on the work undertaken by that Board during the period October to December, 2007. Major items of work had included a review of the provision of short breaks for young people with moderate to severe physical and learning disabilities, the recent recruitment exercise targeting new Social Workers from English speaking overseas countries, a report on the success of a joint working pilot between the City Council and West Midlands Police regarding domestic violence, the snow line initiative as well as a report on arrangements for providing education and other services to children and young people in the city with Autism. The Scrutiny Board's Building Schools for the Future Review Group continued to meet to scrutinise the planning for the project.

121. Second Quarter Report on the Work of Scrutiny Board (3) (City Development, City Services, Climate Change, Sustainability and Housing)

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Ridge, the Chair of Scrutiny Board (3), that provided the Committee with an update on the work undertaken by that Scrutiny Board during the period under consideration. Work over the period had included the Waste Recycling Strategy, proposals for a Urban Traffic Management Centre, Pest Control Services, Road Safety and Camera Safety Partnership, The Burges and Ironmonger Row, City Services and Contact Centre as well as homelessness. The Scrutiny Board (1) Audit Sub-Group had asked the City Development officers to report to the Scrutiny Board on perceived recruitment difficulties within the Directorate following a comment on an underspend in a budget monitoring report; the Board was satisfied that all that was possible was being done to address the situation.

122. **Second Quarter Report on the Work of Scrutiny Board (4) (Community Services, Health (Policy and Inequalities), Culture, Leisure and Libraries and Neighbourhoods)**

The Committee considered and noted a report of Councillor Clifford, the Chair of Scrutiny Board (4) that provided the Committee with an update on the work undertaken by that Board during the period under consideration. Work for the Scrutiny Board had included:-

- The ambulance service
- Eligibility criteria
- Local Involvement Networks
- Commission for Social Care Inspection annual performance letter
- Phlebotomy Services
- The draft Climate Change Strategy for Coventry
- The Local Health Economy
- Mental Health Services
- Neighbourhood Working and Community centres.

In addition a question and answer session had been held with Senior NHS Managers, topics for the session had included the local health economy, car parking at University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire, Phlebotomy and the Ambulance Service.

123. **Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Groundwork Coventry and Warwickshire**

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

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

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

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member (City Services) that 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.

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

125. **Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority**

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Williams that detailed the work of the West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority over the previous 12 months and included attendance records for the City Council's nominees at meetings of the Authority.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the West Midlands Passenger Transport Authority.

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

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Gazey that detailed the work of the Local Government Association Urban Commission over the previous 12 months and included 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.

127. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Coventry Association for International Friendship

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Chater that detailed the work of the Coventry Association for International Friendship over the previous 12 months and included attendance records for the City Council's nominee at meetings of the organisation.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the Coventry Association for International Friendship.

128. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – West Midlands Regional Assembly

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member (Policy, Leadership and Governance) which detailed the work of the West Midlands Regional Assembly over the previous 12 months and included attendance records for the City Council's nominees at meetings of the Assembly.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the West Midlands Regional Assembly.

129. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – West Midlands Local Government Association

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member (Policy, Leadership and Governance) that detailed the work of the West Midlands Local Government Association over the previous 12 months and included attendance records for the City Council's nominees at meetings of the Association.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the West Midlands Local Government Association.

130. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Coventry Citizen's Advice Bureau Management Board

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Mrs. Griffin that detailed the work of the Coventry Citizen's Advice Bureau Management Board over the previous 12 months and included attendance records for the City Council's nominee at meetings of the Board.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the Coventry Citizens' Advice Bureau Management Board.

131. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Coventry Fair Trade Steering Group

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Cliffe that detailed the work of the Coventry Fair Trade Steering Group over the previous 12 months and included attendance records for the City Council's nominees at meetings of the Group.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the Coventry Fair Trade Steering Group.

132. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Coventry Venture Capital Limited

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member (Finance, Procurement and Value for Money) that detailed the work of Coventry Venture Capital Limited over the previous 12 months and included attendance records for the City Council's nominees at meetings of the organisation.

Councillor Mutton gave a brief update on the position with Coventry Venture Capital Limited and West Midlands Enterprise Limited. Councillor Williams agreed to obtain some clarification on the position with this matter.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to Coventry Venture Capital Limited.**
- (2) That Councillor Williams be requested to follow up the action set out above.**

133. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Coventry Community Safety Partnership

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Matchet that detailed the work of the Coventry Community Safety Partnership over the previous 12 months and included attendance records for the City Council's nominees at meetings of the Partnership.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the Coventry Community Safety Partnership.

134. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Local Government Association General Assembly

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member (Policy, Leadership and Governance) that detailed the work of the Local Government Association General Assembly over the previous 12 months and included attendance records for the City Council's nominees at meetings of the General Assembly.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the Local Government Association General Assembly.

135. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Governing Body of City College

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member (Community Services) that detailed the work of the Governing Body of City College over the previous 12 months and included attendance records for the City Council's nominees at meetings of the Governing Body.

The Committee were concerned that the report did not demonstrate the breadth work of the Governing Body and requested the Lead Member to compile a further, more detailed report on the work of the outside body and that the other nominees to the Governing Body be consulted on that final report.

RESOLVED:-

(1) That the City Council continue to nominate to the Governing Body of City College.

(2) That the Lead Member be requested to submit a further, more detailed report.

136. Outstanding Issues

The Committee considered and noted a report of the Director of Customer and Workforce Services that identified those issues on which further reports had been requested in order that Members could monitor progress.

137. Work Programme 2007/08

The Committee considered and noted the Work Programme for the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee for the 2007/08 Municipal Year.

138. Report on Item of Urgent Business – Sowe Valley Primary School – Pilot Project to Refurbish a CLASP School

The Committee considered a joint report on the above matter which was scheduled to be considered by the Cabinet at their meeting on 12th February, 2008. The Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee were requested to consider the report, in particular, the need for the order for the works to be placed as soon as possible in order that they

commence in line with the agreed programme and to ensure that the project spend was compliant with DCSF conditions and to agree that call-in should not apply.

The Committee noted that this project was a pilot for the refurbishment of a CLASP school and involved the extension, remodelling and associated improvements at Sowe Valley Primary School. In February 2007, the DCSF had confirmed that the City Council were permitted to bring forward from future years' allocations £2,032,521 of capital investment which was required to be spent by August, 2008 with an emphasis on sustainability initiatives for schools. The project aimed to make the school fit for purpose for the next 25 years and the building works covered the enhancement of the external building envelope, improved insulation, natural day light and ventilation, as well as internal alterations to complete the separate classroom provision and the improved acoustics together with the installation of a fire sprinkler system throughout the whole school.

The Committee questioned the officer on aspects of the report, in particular the reasons for urgency, sustainability aspects of the proposals and the programme for the works. The officer indicated that when the works were completed the school would have a very good BREEAM rating which would include natural lighting, ventilation and insulation which would in turn reduce energy consumption and the overall carbon footprint of the building. It was further noted that the programme for the works was tight, whilst it had been known that the funding was available for some 12 months this was a pilot scheme which it had taken some time to design and address issues that arose; lessons had been learned that could be taken forward for further CLASP refurbishment projects. The Committee emphasised that officers should plan to involve Scrutiny in the process and not rely on the urgency provision within the Constitution and that consultation with Ward Members should take place where appropriate.

RESOLVED that the Committee note the above report and agree the reasons for urgency and that call-in should not apply and that this decision be forwarded to the Cabinet.