

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

20th February, 2008

Scrutiny Co-ordination
Committee and
Substitute Members
Present:-

Councillor Arrowsmith
Councillor Clifford
Councillor Duggins
Councillor Ms Hunter
Councillor Lee
Councillor Maton
Councillor Mutton
Councillor Ridge
Councillor Williams (Deputy Chair)

Other Scrutiny
Members Present:-

Councillor Bigham
Councillor Dixon
Councillor Harvard
Councillor Nellist

Cabinet Member
Present:-

Councillor Foster (Cabinet Member (City Development))

Employees Present:-

N. Clews (City Development Directorate)
T. Howard (City Development Directorate)
J. McGuigan (Director of City Development)
J. McLellan (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate)
C. Steele (Chief Executive's Directorate)

Others Present:-

L. Downes (Petition spokesperson)
H. Farrand (Chief Executive, Whitefriars Housing Group)
R. Hacket (Petition spokesperson)

144. Declarations of Interest

In relation to Minute 146/07 below headed "Paragon Park Redevelopment and Proposed Relocation of EMR", Councillors Arrowsmith and Maton reported that they were Members of the Planning Committee and that this proposal could potentially be the subject of a planning application which if they considered the matter at this meeting could preclude them from considering the application at Planning Committee.

Councillor Maton declared a prejudicial interest in the matter the subject of Minute 151/07 below headed "Deprived Area Funding" as he had been involved in the preparation of the financial information for the bid. He left the meeting and did not take part in the consideration of the matter.

145. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th January, 2008, were signed as a true record.

146. **Paragon Park Redevelopment and Proposed Relocation of EMR**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of City Development that had previously been considered by the Cabinet (their Minute 191/07 refers) and had been called in by Councillors Lakha, Mutton and Clifford, and also by Councillors Nellist, Benefield and Windsor. The report detailed the proposed redevelopment of Paragon Park and the proposed relocation of EMR from within the development site.

In addition, the Committee noted that two petitions had been submitted by Councillors Duggins and Nellist, bearing 255 and 261 signatures respectively, which opposed the proposals contained within the report, in particular the proposed relocation of EMR to the Oban Road site. Councillors Duggins and Nellist spoke in support of the petitions, as did Mr. Downes and Mrs. Hacket, petition spokespersons for each of the petitions. Councillors Mrs. Bigham and Harvard also spoke in support of the petitions.

The City Council had been asked by the Developers of Paragon Park to assist this project by confirming that it would use compulsory purchase powers to complete site assembly for development and by agreeing to release a site in its ownership for the relocation of EMR, subject to the grant of planning permission on the relocation site. The report had direct implications for Foleshill and Longford Wards.

The Cabinet Member and the Director of City Development gave a presentation to the Committee which provided further information on the redevelopment of Paragon Park and the proposed relocation of EMR.

The Committee questioned the Cabinet Member and officers on aspects of the report and presentation, in particular:-

- Work being undertaken to find alternative sites
- Consultation with residents and they were being kept informed of developments
- Development of Paragon Park
- Financial incentives
- Traffic issues
- Implications for employment

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee concur with the decisions of the Cabinet.**
- (2) That the Cabinet Member and officers be requested to continue to give serious consideration to the sites identified at Blackhorse Road and Ibstock Road and to report back on the outcome in not later than one month.**

- (3) That a report back on the strategy for scrap yards be submitted to the Committee.**

147. Call-Ins Stage 1

The Committee noted that no call-ins had been received yet that week. The deadline for call-ins for Cabinet and Cabinet Member decisions made during the week commencing 11th February, 2008, was 9.00 a.m. on Friday 22nd February, 2008. 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 Customer and Workforce Services (Paragraph 5.4.5.25.4 of the City Council's Constitution refers).

148. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Whitefriars Housing Group

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Mrs. Dixon that detailed the work of the Whitefriars Housing Group over the previous 12 months and included attendance records for the City Council's nominees at meetings of the organisation.

Councillor Mrs. Dixon was supported by Howard Farrand, Chief Executive of Whitefriars Housing Group, and Members questioned them on aspects of the work undertaken by that Group.

RESOLVED :-

- (1) that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to Whitefriars Housing Group.**
- (2) that copies of the survey of garages referred to at the meeting be circulated to Members of the Committee.**

149. Outstanding Issues

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

150. 2007/08 Work Programme

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

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the Work Programme be noted and that a report on the scrap yard strategy be added to the Work Programme.**
- (2) That a report be submitted to a future meeting detailing different approaches to making Scrutiny more effective.**

151. **Deprived Area Funding**

The Committee considered a joint report on the above matter which was scheduled to be considered by the Cabinet at their meeting on the 26th February, 2008. The Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee were requested to consider the report, in particular, the need to complete a contract with the LSC by the end of February 2008, and to agree that call-in should not apply.

The report related to services which support people into employment and specifically an opportunity to use Deprived Area Funding to achieve this in parts of the city. It was targeted at the areas with higher levels of unemployment and offered an ability to improve services within those areas.

The Committee questioned the officer on aspects of the report and particularly how Ward Councillors had been consulted on the proposals.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the Committee note the report and agree the reasons for urgency and that call-in should not apply and that this decision be forwarded to the Cabinet.**
- (2) That officers be reminded to consult with Ward Councillors at any early stage when any proposals affecting particular wards are being considered.**