

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

2nd April, 2008

Scrutiny Co-ordination
Committee and Substitute

Members Present:- Councillor Arrowsmith (Chair)
Councillor Crookes (Substitute for Councillor Ms. Hunter)
Councillor Mrs. Dixon (Substitute for Councillor Lee)
Councillor Duggins
Councillor Maton
Councillor McNicholas (Substitute for Councillor Mutton)
Councillor Williams (Deputy Chair)

Employees Present:- M. Coult (Chief Executive's Directorate)
D. Parfitt (Chief Executive's Directorate)
C. Steele (Chief Executive's Directorate)
A. Townsend (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate)
A. West (Chief Executive's Directorate)

By Invitation:- M. Kitts (PriceWaterhouseCoopers)

Apologies:- Councillor Ms. Hunter
Councillor Lee
Councillor Mutton
Councillor Ridge

177. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

178. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th February, 2008, were signed as a true record.

179. Call-In 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 24th March, 2008, was 9.00 a.m. on Friday 4th April, 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).

180. **Value for Money Partnership Programme: Progress Report**

The Committee considered and noted a report of the Chief Executive that set out progress made since the City Council entered into the Value for Money Partnership with PriceWaterhouseCoopers in Autumn 2007.

The officers briefly introduced the report, this was the first of a series of regular updates on the partnership's progress. The report set out the critical success factors for the partnership, outlined the governance arrangements and outlined the approach and process each project would go through.

The Committee questioned the officers and representatives from PriceWaterhouseCoopers on aspects of the report, in particular the apparent focus of the Partnership on saving money rather than the consideration of services as a whole in terms of service improvement including spend to save initiatives.

The Committee questioned the approval process for value for money reviews, the Officers confirmed that all reviews that recommended a change of policy would be required to go through the political process and highlighted that Scrutiny was an important part of that. The Committee commented that no reference was made within the report to a third sector and the benefits procurement from this sector could have to the City Council and the City as a whole. Members were concerned that reviews should consider the total impact of any changes and that this progress report did not suggest that this was the case. Mike Kitt of PriceWaterhouseCoopers acknowledged that it was important to balance quality against cost when reviews were undertaken and explained that it was the role of the partnership to bring Members' attention to the options available once the reviews were completed. He made reference to a review of the Youth Service which had identified opportunities to improve services by spending less money in an alternative manner the result of which had been improved access to youth services; he acknowledged the potential to improve areas such as this with the help of the third sector.

There were concerns that if reviews were looking to purely cut costs then experienced, more senior staff who were enabling front line staff to do their jobs could be expended to the detriment of those less experienced front line staff. Mike Kitt endorsed the need to have experienced staff and indicated that reviews would look more at what people did as opposed to the job title they had. It was emphasised that the key was to consider how best services could be provided to Coventry's citizens within the funds available.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee:-

- (1) Note the progress made by the Value for Money Partnership.**
- (2) Request Officers give consideration to acknowledging service improvement as an aspect of value for money and including a spreadsheet outlining the progress of each review in the next progress update.**

181. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Institute of Community Cohesion Advisory Board

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member (Finance, Procurement and Value for Money) that detailed the work of the Institute of Community Cohesion Advisory 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 Institute of Community Cohesion Advisory Board.

182. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Partnership

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member (City Development) that details the work of the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Partnership over the previous 12 months and included attendance records for the City Council's nominees at meetings of the Partnership's Board.

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

183. Report Back on the work of Outside Bodies – Coventry Refugee Centre

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

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the Coventry Refugee Centre.

184. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Coventry Sports Trust Limited

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member (Culture, Leisure and Libraries) that detailed the work of the Coventry Sports Trust Limited over the previous 12 months and included attendance records for the City Council's nominees at meetings of the Trust's Board.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the Coventry Sports Trust.

185. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Coventry Best for Business Company Limited (City-Wide BID)

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member (City Development) that detailed the work of the Coventry Best for Business Company 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 the Coventry Best for Business Company Limited.

186. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – CV1 Limited Board of Directors

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member (Policy, Leadership and Governance) that detailed the work of the CV1 Limited Board of Directors over the previous 12 months and included attendance records for the City Council's nominees at meetings of the Board.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continues to nominate to the CV1 Limited Board of Directors.

187. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) Partnership Board

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member (City Development) that detailed the work of the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative Partnership Board over the previous 12 months and included attendance records for the City Council's nominees at meetings of the Board.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative Partnership Board.

188. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – University of Warwick: Advisory Board of the Institute of Education

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member (Children, Learning and Young People) that detailed the work of the University of Warwick Advisory Board of the Institute of Education over the previous 12 months and including attendance records for the City Council's nominees at meetings of the Board.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the University of Warwick Advisory Board of the Institute of Education.

189. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – University of Warwick Science Park and Associated Companies

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member (City Development) that detailed the work of the University of Warwick Science Park and associated companies 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 the University of Warwick Science Park and Associated Companies.

190. **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.

191. **Work Programme 2007/08**

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

192. **Other Business**

There were no other items of public or private business.