

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

16th April, 2008

Scrutiny Co-ordination
Committee and
Substitute Members

Present:-

Councillor Arrowsmith (Chair)
Councillor Duggins
Councillor Mrs. Harper (Substitute for Councillor Ms. Hunter)
Councillor Lee
Councillor Maton
Councillor Mutton
Councillor Ridge
Councillor Williams

Co-opted

Member Present:-

Councillor Clifford

Employees Present:-

H. Abraham (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate)
P. Barnett (Chief Executive's Directorate)
C. Steele (Chief Executive's Directorate)
A. Townsend (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate)
A. West (Chief Executive's Directorate)

Apologies:-

Councillor Ms. Hunter

193. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Williams declared an interest in the matter the subject of minute 208 below insofar as it related to Hereward College where he had recently been appointed as a part time lecturer and Daimler Green Community Association for whom he was creating a website.

194. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th March, 2008, were signed as a true record.

195. Call-Ins Stage 1

The Committee noted that no call-ins had been received yet this week. The deadline for the call-ins for Cabinet and Cabinet Member decisions made during the week commencing 7th April, 2008, was 9.00 a.m. on Friday 18th 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).

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

Further to Minute 119/07, 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 January to March, 2008 together with the recommendations and other outcomes resulting from their work.

Issues considered by the Scrutiny Board over that period included Cabinet Member Plan half year reviews, sickness absence, the Housing Benefit Improvement Plan and ICT issues. A Task and Finish Group had developed a revised set of guidelines for bailiffs aimed at their work with vulnerable people; the Audit Sub-Group continued with its work programme.

The Committee questioned the Chair on aspects of the report, in particular the effectiveness of the work of the Audit Sub Group and whether it was intended to include an audit of the Coventry Direct Project and sickness absence issues in the Sub Group's work programme. The Committee noted that an audit of Coventry Direct was included within the Board's work programme.

197. **Third 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 Scrutiny Board (2) during the period January to April, 2008 and set out the recommendations and outcomes of the Board's work.

Over the period under consideration the Scrutiny Board had considered a large number of issues including:-

- The Cabinet Member Strategic Plan
- Teenage pregnancy
- School places and planning
- Sexual health in Coventry

Recommendations made by the Board included:-

- a request to review the Physical Education curriculum as well as associated issues surrounding young people accessing sport in school
- a request that future Cabinet Member Strategic Plans included targets to reduce the misuse of alcohol by young people
- the size of the site for the Swanswell Academy
- the Board made observations on the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy

The Committee questioned the Chair on aspects of the report, in particular lessons that had been learned from the teenage pregnancy work and why Coventry's statistics were particularly poor compared to comparable authorities. Consultations surrounding the Swanswell Academy and the Youth Service.

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

The Committee considered and noted a report of Councillor Ridge, Chair of Scrutiny Board (3), that provided the Committee with an update on the work undertaken by Scrutiny Board (3) during the period January to April 2008 and included details on recommendations made by the Board.

The work of the Board included the following issues:-

- Consideration of the Cabinet Member Strategic Plans
- Work on the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Waste Partnership PFI expression of interest
- Consideration of the Climate Change Strategy
- A question and answer session with the City Centre Director and Assistant Director of City Development
- City Centre Master Planning

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

With reference to Minute 122/07, 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 January to April, 2008. Over the period work for the Scrutiny Board has included amongst other things:-

- Cabinet Member Strategic Plans half year update
- The local health economy and financial position of the University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust (UHCW)
- Provision of phlebotomy Services in Coventry
- Provision of Health Care Services in Coventry City Council
- Procurement of a "host" organisation for the Coventry Local Involvement Network

With regard to the outcomes achieved, a £50.5m support package for UHCW had been agreed in principle and was pending subject to Department of Health confirmation. Over the period under consideration the Board had made a series of recommendations relating to the local health economy which included the future financial stability of UHCW, there had also been correspondence between the Chair and various stakeholders on this topic. A new community based Phlebotomy Service had recently commenced in the city and was offered from over 20 locations in the city.

Members questioned the Chair on aspects of the report, in particular the amount of time spent scrutinising non NHS aspects of the Board's work area.

Councillor Maton raised the issue of statistics on visitor levels and information on those visitors at the MBRT, he had for some time been trying to obtain this information and was concerned that it was not available which could negatively impact the Museum's ability to market itself and attract back previous visitors. There was also concern that in the past some of the Museum's profits had been donated to charity. There were concerns that the first priority for any profit should be the return of the City Council's funding.

RESOLVED that officers be requested to draft a letter on behalf of the Chair of this Committee to the City Council's representatives on the MBRT asking them to raise the Committee's concerns at the Museum's board meeting at the earliest opportunity.

200. Scrutiny Development 2008/09 – Draft Action Plan

The Committee considered a report of the Performance and Scrutiny Manager that set out suggested actions to help develop the scrutiny process during the 2008/09 Municipal Year. The document took account of the issues raised at regular meetings of the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee and Scrutiny Boards as well as specific sessions with the Leader, Scrutiny Chairs and the Council's Corporate Management Team. The draft action plan set out practical actions that could be taken forward in the new Municipal Year that would make a difference to the scrutiny process. The actions ranged from some which were straight forward and could be introduced early in the Municipal Year to others that would need more time for development/implementation, the report suggested how the actions could be prioritised.

The Committee noted that the document was a first draft and that the detail would need to be considered as part of the process for establishing scrutiny arrangements in the new Municipal Year. The Committee went on to consider the possible actions outlined within the action plan highlighting the following points:-

- Improving Participation in Scrutiny –the need to ensure that all Members are aware of how they could participate in the scrutiny process
- Performance Management of Scrutiny – The Committee emphasised the need to be able to monitor the recommendations made by Scrutiny in order to understand its effectiveness
- Members supported the use of case work examples ward forums etc to shape scrutiny work

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee approve the draft Scrutiny Development Action Plan and noting that this will be considered further as part of the process to establish scrutiny arrangements in the new Municipal Year.

201. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Local Government Information Unit Management Committee

The Committee considered and noted a report of the Cabinet Member (Customer, Workforce and Legal Services) that detailed the work of the Local Government Information Unit Management Committee over the previous 12 months and included attendance records for the City Council's nominee at the meetings of the Management Committee. The Committee noted that the City Council's membership of the organisation was due to expire in December, 2008, therefore nominations to the Management Committee after this time would not be necessary.

202. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – West Midlands Regional Housing Partnership

The Committee considered a report of the Cabinet Member (Climate Change, Housing and Sustainability) that detailed the work of the West Midlands Local Government Association Regional Housing 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 West Midlands Local Government Association Regional Housing Partnership.

203. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Older People's Partnership Board

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

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the Older People's Partnership Board.

204. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Coventry Mental Health Partnership Board

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

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the Coventry Mental Health Partnership Board.

205. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – SureStart North

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

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to SureStart North.

206. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Coventry Learning Disability Partnership Board

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

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the Coventry Learning Disability Partnership Board.

207. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – West Midlands Local Government Association Provincial Council – Additional Information

Further to Minute 95/07, the Committee considered a briefing note of the Cabinet Member (Customer, Workforce and Legal Services) that provided information on the role of the West Midlands Local Government Association Provincial Council and the recent work to reconstitute the organisation and bring about some impetus to relaunch the group which had recently lost its direction. Councillor Mutton briefly explained that membership of the Provincial Council had recently been determined by the West Midlands Local Government Association Political Group Leaders and endorsed by the Executive Committee therefore the appointment to this organisation by Full Council was no longer appropriate.

208. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Miscellaneous Organisations

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Customer and Workforce Services that set out the details of several outside bodies on which no formal reports had yet been received. The City Council considered each organisation in detail and the benefits to the City Council of reappointment.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) That the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate one Radford Ward Councillor to the Daimler Green Community Trust.**
- (2) That the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the West Midlands Joint Committee Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee.**
- (3) That the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the Special Interest Groups of Municipal Authorities (SIGOMA).**
- (4) That the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the Governing Body of Hereward College.**
- (5) That the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Partnership Economic and Social Renaissance Sub-Board.**
- (6) That the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to SureStart West.**

- (7) That the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the CV One/Coventry City Council Joint Working Group.
- (8) That the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the Coventry Partnership.
- (9) That the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continues to nominate to the Destination Management Partnership Board.
- (10) That the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to West Midlands Enterprise Limited.
- (11) That the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council ceases to nominate to the Local Government Association Rural Commission.
- (12) That the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council ceases to nominate to the Warwickshire Rural Community Council.
- (13) That the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continues to nominate to the West Midlands Reserve Forces and Cadet Association.

209. **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.

210. **Work Programme 2007/08**

the Committee considered and noted the work programme for the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee for the 2007/08 Municipal Year.

211. **Other Business**

There were no other items of public or private business.