

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

13th August, 2008

Scrutiny Co-ordination
Committee Members

Present: -

Councillor Arrowsmith
Councillor Clifford
Councillor Crookes (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Duggins
Councillor Maton
Councillor Mutton
Councillor Ridge (Chair)
Councillor Smith (Substitute for Councillor Charley)

Cabinet Member

Present:-

Councillor Mrs. Johnson (Cabinet Member (Community Services))

Other Scrutiny

Members Present:-

Councillor Nellist
Councillor Windsor

Employees Present: -

P. Barnett (Chief Executive's Directorate)
R. Barreto (Finance and Legal Services Directorate)
L. Bull (Acting Director of Community Services)
A. Carr (Community Services Directorate)
P. Fahy (Community Services Directorate)
J. McLellan (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate)
D. O'Donnell (Community Services Directorate)
J. Parry (Chief Executive's Directorate)
E. Seager (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate)
A. West (Chief Executive's Directorate)
C. West (Director of Finance and Legal Services)

Others Present:-

J. Green
G. Hume
J. Hume
M. Moulson
L. Ritchie
C. Shankland
P. Shankland
Louise J.C.

31. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Charley (substitute Councillor Smith) and Councillor Field.

32. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Windsor declared a personal interest in the matter the subject of Minute 34 /08 below headed "Implementing the Older People's New Homes for Old Policy".

33. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July, 2008 were signed as a true record.

34. Implementing the Older People's New Homes for Old Policy

With reference to Minute 25/08, the Committee considered a report of the Acting Director of Community Services that had previously been considered by the Cabinet at their meeting on 15th July, 2008 (their Minute 39/08 refers) and had been called in by Councillors Nellist, Windsor and Field.

The report detailed the outcome of the consultation process for the closure of the City Council's remaining residential homes for older people under the New Homes for Old programme and sought approval from the Cabinet to further implement this programme and proceed with the closure of the dementia residential accommodation at Jack Ball House and George Rowley House and the closure of Hawthorn Lodge. It also sought approval to further explore the viability of redeveloping the site currently occupied by Hawthorn Lodge for further provision which would then allow the closure of Eric Williams House.

Councillors Nellist and Windsor and Committee Members questioned the Cabinet Member and Officers at length on aspects of the report and in particular:-

- Conflicting information contained in the report
- Provision of services in the future
- Financial implications including capital, current finance and ongoing revenue costs
- Current and future staffing
- Minimum registration standards and safeguards
- Costs of refurbishment compared to new build
- Consultation with service users, relatives, partners and staff
- Choice of options
- Private sector homes
- Fees
- Planning for the future
- Current vacancies

Members of the public present at the meeting were also given the opportunity to question the Cabinet Member and officers and they requested information on issues relating to:-

- Professor Jolly's report on quality of life in dementia
- Refurbishment of Jack Ball House
- Funding after the 5 year support had ended

The Cabinet Member and the officers responded to the questions asked and referred to the report and supporting documents to support their response. They clarified issues which related to conflicting information in the documentation. They also confirmed that the proposals contained in the report would help to ensure that City Council resources

were effectively deployed to meet the needs of older people, allow service improvement and provide the best care possible.

The Chair of the Committee (Councillor Ridge) thanked Councillors Nellist and Windsor for calling the item in and the members of the public who attended the meeting.

RESOLVED that, after taking account of the issues raised at the meeting by the Committee and the answers given by the Officers, as well as the representations made by members of the public and the Councillors who called the item in, the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee concur with the decisions of the Cabinet.

35. Call-Ins Stage 1

The Committee noted that the deadline for call-ins for Cabinet and Cabinet Member decisions made during the week commencing 4th August, 2008, was 9.00 a.m. on Friday, 15th August, 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 4.5.25.4 of the City Council's Constitution refers).

36. Outstanding Issues

There were currently no outstanding issues.

37. Work Programme 2008/09

The Committee considered and noted their Work Programme for the 2008/09 Municipal Year.

38. Meeting Evaluation

The Committee briefly discussed the meeting to evaluate its effectiveness and commented on the problems that had been experienced due to the typographical errors in the report of the Acting Director of Community Services and supporting documents not being available.