

## SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

17<sup>th</sup> September, 2008

### Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee Members

Present: -

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

Employees Present: -

L. Knight (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate)  
J. Parry (Chief Executive's Directorate)  
S. Roach (Chief Executive's Directorate)  
C. Steele (Chief Executive's Directorate)  
A. West (Chief Executive's Directorate)

Apology:-

Councillor Charley

#### 49. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### 50. **Consideration of Call Ins – Stage 1**

The Committee noted that the deadline for call-ins for Cabinet and Cabinet Member decisions made during the week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2008, was 9.00 a.m. on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> September, 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).

#### 51. **Coventry City Council's Response to the Home Office Consultation on Policing – 'From Neighbourhood to the National'**

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Chief Executive concerning the Home Office consultation on Policing 'From the Neighbourhood to the National' and sought members views on the draft responses that were set out in the appendix to the report. It was noted that the report was also to be considered by Cabinet on 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2008 and Council at their meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2008. Due to time constraints associated with the responses, that were required to be returned by the deadline of 10<sup>th</sup> October, 2008, retrospective Council approval would be sought.

The report indicated that on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2008, the Home Office published a Green Paper for consultation on Policing. The Paper responded to ideas and recommendations that had resulted from the Independent Review of Policing conducted by Sir Ronnie Flanagan and the Engaging Communities in Fighting

Crime Review led by Louise Casey. The paper consisted of 7 chapters as follows:

- (i) Empowering citizens, improving the connection between the public and the police
  - (ii) Professionalising and freeing up the police, reducing bureaucracy and developing technology
  - (iii) Defining roles and leadership in the police service
  - (iv) Focusing on development and deployment
  - (v) Strategic role for Government, co-ordinating change in policing
  - (vi) Reinforcing collaboration between forces
  - (vii) Reshaping of national performance management arrangements.
- The report set out the key issues contained in each of these chapters.

The proposed responses answered a number of questions, mainly focusing on the more strategic issues. It was noted that there was not a response for all of the chapters. The Community Safety Manager drew attention to the main concerns detailed in the responses.

The Committee discussed the issues raised by the draft responses expressing support for the views outlined. Strong support was given to the response on the proposal to introduce directly elected Crime and Policing representatives. This would make co-operation between Police Authorities and Local Authorities much more difficult since these representatives may be elected on a different platform, perhaps of a very narrow or extreme nature, which would not reflect the wider wishes of local people. It was felt appropriate for the content of this response to be strengthened.

**RESOLVED that the Committee support the proposed responses and Cabinet and Council be informed of this and their recommendation that the response to the proposal to introduce directly elected Crime and Policing representatives be strengthened.**

52. **Outstanding Issues**

There were currently no outstanding issues.

53. **Work Programme 2008/09**

The Committee considered and noted their Work Programme for the 2008/09 Municipal Year. Attention was drawn to the additional issues, the dates for which were still to be allocated. It was the intention to give a presentation to the Committee at their meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2008 on the Local Area Agreement and a number of issues concerning the future development of Scrutiny.

54. **Meeting Evaluation**

The Committee briefly discussed the meeting to evaluate its effectiveness. The members acknowledged the content of the report referred to in Minute 51 above.

55. **Other Urgent Items of Public Business**

There were no other items of public business.