

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.

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

10th September, 2008

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee Members

Present: -

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

Employees Present: -

V. Clowes (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate)
J. Handley (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate)
J. Jardine (Chief Executive's Directorate)
J. McLellan (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate)
J. Parry (Chief Executive's Directorate)

39. **Apologies for Absence**

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

40. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made.

41. **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 1st September, 2008, was 9.00 a.m. on Friday, 12th 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).

42. **Report Back on Conference – Small Print, Big Picture**

The Committee considered and noted a report by Councillor Clifford which detailed his attendance at the above conference held in London on the 22nd July, 2008.

43. **Report Back on Conference – Conference of Atlantic Arc Cities (CAAC)**

The Committee considered a report by the Deputy Director of City Development on the outcome of the above conference held in Lorient, France from the 8th –10th April, 2008, and 1st - 3rd June, 2008, in Auditorio Kursaal, San Sebastian, Spain.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and that the officers be requested to provide information on Council attendees at the conference to Members of the

Committee.

44. Report Back on Conference – Centre for Public Scrutiny 6th Annual Conference

The Committee considered and noted a report by Councillors Ridge and Clifford which detailed their attendance at the above conference held in London on the 10th June, 2008.

45. Outstanding Issues

There were currently no outstanding issues.

46. Work Programme 2008/09

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

47. Coventry City Council's Response to the Ministry of Justice's Consultation on Week-end Voting

With reference to Minute 74/08 of the Cabinet, the Committee considered a report of the Director of Customer and Workforce Services, which contained a proposed response to the Ministry of Justice's consultation paper on Weekend Voting.

The Committee noted that the report submitted was also to be considered by the Council, at their meeting scheduled for 16th September 2008.

The report indicated that one of the Government's strategic aims was that people should be able to exercise their right to vote with ease and without unnecessary barriers. Its objective was to ensure that voting processes were accessible, convenient and easy to use without compromising security.

The consultation aimed to promote debate on the merits of moving the election day from a Thursday to a weekend and on the best way to do this.

The Government was also keen to hear views on advance voting at polling stations and the use of advance and remote voting over the internet/telephone, and whether these would be acceptable alternatives to election days being held on a Thursday or may usefully support election days at the weekend.

The Committee noted that current legislation required local elections in England to be held on the first Thursday in May. There was no statutory requirement for Parliamentary Elections to be on a Thursday but they could not be held on 'dies-non', i.e. weekends, bank holidays, etc. Any move of local or Parliamentary elections in England and Wales would mean elections held on different days in different parts of the UK. Under his current powers, the Secretary of State could set weekend voting for European Parliamentary elections, but the rules for the conduct of the election would need to be amended to allow weekend voting.

The consultation was in the format of a series of questions and the report submitted contained the detailed responses proposed.

RESOLVED that Committee concur with the decision of the Cabinet to recommend to the City Council to approve the response appended to the report for submission to the Ministry of Justice by the deadline of 26th September 2008.

(Note: This item was considered as urgent public business, the grounds for urgency being the need to allow Scrutiny to have an input to the report prior to its consideration by the City Council at their meeting on 16th September, 2008.)

48. Meeting Evaluation

The Committee briefly discussed the meeting to evaluate its effectiveness