

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

29 October 2008

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee Members

Present: Councillor Arrowsmith
Councillor Charley
Councillor Clifford
Councillor Crookes (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Lakha (Substitute for Councillor Duggins)
Councillor Mutton
Councillor Ridge (Chair)

Other Members

Present: Councillor Foster (Cabinet Member (Finance & Value for Money))

Employees Present:

B. Hastie (Finance and Legal Services Directorate)
D. Parfitt (Chief Executive's Directorate)
C. Sinclair (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate)
C. Steele (Chief Executive's Directorate)
A. West (Chief Executive's Directorate)

Apologies: Councillor Duggins

82. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

83. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 October 2008 were signed as a true record.

84. **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 20 October, 2008, was 9.00 a.m. on Friday 31 October 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).

85. **Value for Money Partnership**

Further to Minute 68/08, the Committee questioned the Cabinet Member and the Value for Money Manager on the Council's progress of the Value for Money Partnership with PricewaterhouseCoopers.

The questions had been agreed by the Committee and notified to the Cabinet Member in advance. A written response to each of the questions had been

received and circulated to the Committee. The Cabinet Member and Value for Money Manager attended the meeting to present their responses and answer supplementary questions raised at the meeting.

The questions covered aspects relating to the origins of the partnership including costs, how satisfied the Cabinet Member was with progress and how delivery of review outcomes would be ensured. In respect of payment arrangements, the Committee sought to establish which fees had been paid and which had been committed, the annual cost of the Partnership, and in particular, why, when members had been told that PWC would get paid when savings had been realised, the Council had already spent or committed in excess of £600k on reviews and governance arrangements.

In respect of future funding of the Partnership, the Committee asked about the budget up to 2011, how the PPR process would impinge on the work of the Partnership, and, if expected results were not achieved, what exit strategy arrangements were in place.

The Committee also questioned the Cabinet Member on the involvement of Scrutiny in review work and monitoring so far and sought an undertaking that Scrutiny would be involved in future reviews and overall progress of the Partnership.

Following discussion, the Committee were of the opinion that the Gate 2 business case proposals should be considered by the appropriate Scrutiny Board. In addition, and in order that they were kept fully informed, they asked for quarterly progress reports and the six-weekly "dashboard" reports.

RESOLVED that the Committee submit a report on their consideration of the progress of the Value for Money Partnership to the Cabinet Member (Finance and Value for Money).

86. **Outstanding Issues**

The Committee noted that there were no outstanding issues.

87. **Work Programme 2008/09**

The Committee considered the Work Programme for 2008/09 and noted that the item "Culture and Leisure – progress in use of new technology" would now be considered in December 2008.

88. **Meeting Evaluation**

The Committee discussed the meeting to evaluate its effectiveness.

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

There were no other items of public business.