

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

19 November 2008

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee Members

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

Other Members

Present: Councillor Blundell (Cabinet Member (Children, Learning and
Young People))
Councillor Field

Employees Present: D. Knaggs (Children, Learning and Young People Directorate)
J. Parry (Chief Executive's Directorate)
A. Pepper (Children, Learning and Young People Directorate)
C. Sinclair (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate)
C. Steele (Chief Executive's Directorate)
A. West (Chief Executive's Directorate)

Apologies: Councillor Arrowsmith
Councillor Clifford
Councillor Crookes

90. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

91. **Call-In Stage 2 – Improving Services for Young People**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Children, Learning and Young People that had previously been considered by the Cabinet (their Minute 97/08 refers).

The report outlined the organisational framework for the revised service for young people which had been developed following a consultation on proposals that responded to the findings of the Value for Money Review of Services for Young People and had sought Cabinet's approval for taking forward specific proposals to improve services for young people and achieve the savings identified in the Value for Money Review. A paper containing background information had been circulated to members of the Committee prior to the meeting.

There had been two call-ins by Councillors Kelly, J. Mutton and Duggins and by Councillors Field, Nellist and Windsor.

The Committee questioned the Cabinet Member and officers on aspects of the report in particular:

- What groups of young people, other than the Youth Council, had been consulted
- How the Youth Service would fit in with the extended school provision
- How much contact there had been between youth workers and young people
- What consultation had been undertaken with members
- How the service was going to be improved
- How the proposals would contribute to the development of services for young people
- How they would improve cross-sectional and departmental co-operation

Officers explained that PriceWaterhouseCoopers (PWC) had consulted a range of people at the first stage; the second and third stage involved meetings with a range of stakeholders including the Youth Council. Officers reported that the Youth Council had been the only organisation representing young people that had been consulted. However, further consultation with a wider range of young people was planned at the implementation stage.

Officers reported that the Youth Service would contribute to the extended school core offer: it already worked with every secondary school through the delivery of health programmes and through the initiatives and support of the Democracy Project. Another significant contribution was with the current '*National Challenge*' schools, where programmes focussed on achievement and inclusion and where a number of youth work programmes had become embedded. It was expected that the proposed actions would support and enhance current working with schools. The activities within the extended schools core offer would largely be programmed for weekdays: this would create the opportunity for the Youth Service to release resources from weekday provision to ensure that there is appropriate coverage over weekends, when reports of crime and anti-social behaviour tended to increase.

Following discussion, the Committee expressed concerns that Scrutiny Board 2's involvement had not been sought thus far and asked that, as this work is taken forward, the Board be kept fully involved. The Cabinet Member (Children, Learning and Young People) gave an undertaking that this would happen and the Committee indicated that it would be keeping a watching brief to ensure that this undertaking is followed through.

RESOLVED that the Committee concur with Cabinet's decisions but with the proviso that Scrutiny Board 2 be kept fully involved in the implementation of those decisions.

92. **West Midlands Spatial Strategy – Phase 2 Revision (Preferred Option and NLP Study)**

The Committee received a presentation on the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) Preferred Option and NLP (Nathanial Lichfield & Partners) Study.

The RSS was the top tier of the Development Plan, comprising the statutory documents which collectively set out the spatial and planning policies for the area (the relevant parts of the RSS and the Local Development Framework).

The Committee noted the presentation and asked that when Cabinet and Council considered it formally on 2 December 2008, officers ensured that clear and detailed maps of Coventry, Warwickshire and Solihull, showing the distribution of dwellings for each area were available for Members to view at the meetings.

93. **Outstanding Issues**

There were no outstanding issues.

94. **Work Programme 2008/09**

The Committee noted the Work Programme.

95. **Meeting Evaluation**

The Committee discussed the meeting to evaluate its effectiveness.

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

There were no other items of public business.