

## SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

14 January 2009

### Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee Members

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

### Other Members

Present: Councillor Kelly  
Councillor Nellist  
Councillor O'Boyle  
Councillor Ruane  
Councillor Williams

Employees Present: S. Gould (Chief Executive's Directorate)  
J. Parry (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 Arrowsmith

### 122. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### 123. **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings held on 19<sup>th</sup> November and 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December 2008 were signed as true records.

### 124. **Consideration of Call-ins – Stage 2: Neighbourhood Wardens Review and Operational Changes**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Community Services which had previously been considered by the Cabinet (their Minute 126/08 refers) and had been called in by Councillors O'Boyle, Ruane and Kelly.

The report detailed the outcome of the Wardens Service review and the consultation carried out with key partners in October/November 2008 and recommended approval of the implementation of the review of the Wardens Service which included changes to the provision of the service across the City and the piloting of a team of eight Neighbourhood Impact Officers who would have enforcement powers. The Committee also

considered a briefing note which addressed matters raised by the call-in.

Councillors questioned the Cabinet Member and officers on aspects of the consultation including:

- What consideration had been given to the responses received including the response from the West Midlands Police Chief Superintendent in charge of M1 Division?
- What consultation had been undertaken with communities to establish the impact of a reduced service during the week in order to allow for Neighbourhood Impact Officers to undertake duties in the City Centre on a Saturday?
- Given the reduction in Warden numbers, what measures were in place to ensure that sickness levels and absenteeism did not put further pressure on the service?

In response, officers reported on responses received during the two rounds of consultations undertaken including the concerns that had been raised by trades unions and wardens in relation to evening working and, in the light of those concerns, the rosters had been adjusted accordingly. A further meeting had taken place with the Chief Superintendent who, although unhappy about the withdrawal of wardens in the City Centre, accepted that the deployment of Neighbourhood Impact Officers in the City Centre on Saturdays would be helpful. In addition, he was satisfied with the proposed arrangements for Hillfields and had been given reassurances that the wardens' service would continue to be flexible.

Officers confirmed that no specific consultation had been undertaken in those areas which would be affected by the proposals for the City Centre. However, the consultation process had included discussion at meetings of the Coventry Public Service Board, Coventry Community Safety Partnership, Ward Forums and also a meeting with residents' focus groups.

The Committee discussed, at some length, the views associated with this matter. It was also noted that the proposals would be reviewed regularly as part of the pilot scheme and, should there be any further changes needed, these could be addressed as they arose.

**RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee concur with the decisions of the Cabinet.**

**125. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Governing Bodies of Henley College**

The Committee considered a report of Chris Hinde detailing the work of the Governing Body of Henley College over the previous 12 months and included attendance records for the City Council's representative at meetings of the Governing Body as well as the Finance and Policy Sub-Committee.

**RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to appoint a representative to the Governing Body of Henley College.**

**126. Voluntary Action Coventry (Formerly Coventry Voluntary Service Council)**

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Williams that detailed the work of Voluntary Action Coventry (formerly Coventry Voluntary Service Council) over the previous 12 months and included attendance records for the City Council's nominees at meetings of the organisation.

**RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommends that the City Council continue to appoint to Voluntary Action Coventry.**

**127. Outstanding Issues**

There were no outstanding issues.

**128. Work Programme 2008/09**

The Committee noted the Work Programme.

**129. Meeting Evaluation**

The Board discussed and evaluated the meeting. Comments offered by members would be used to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of future meetings.