

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

21st January, 2009

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee Members

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

Other Members

Present: Councillor Foster
Councillor Mulhall
Councillor Mal Mutton

Employees Present: B. Hastie (Finance and Legal Services Directorate)
J. McLellan (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate)
C. Steele (Chief Executive's Directorate)
A. West (Chief Executive's Directorate)
C. West (Director of Finance and Legal Services)

130. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

131. **Consideration of Call Ins – Stage 1**

The officers reported on the following call-in that had been received:-

Belgrade Plaza Phase 3

The report had been called in by:-

Councillors Bigham, Mutton and O'Boyle.

The reason for the call-in was, "to better understand how housing students in a prestigious development meant to include affordable homes helps in the overall development of the City Centre."

The Committee noted that the deadline for call-ins for Cabinet and Cabinet Member decisions made during the week commencing 12th January, 2009, was 9.00 a.m. on Friday, 23rd January, 2009. 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).

RESOLVED that on this particular occasion, it would be more appropriate for

Scrutiny Board (3) to consider the call-in relating to Belgrade Plaza Phase 3 at a special meeting, given the Board's interest and expertise in considering development issues such as this.

132. Consideration of Call-ins – Stage 2: Revenue and Capital Pre-Budget Report 2009/10

With reference to Minute 115/08, the Committee considered a report of the Management Board which had previously been considered by the Cabinet (their Minute 129/08 refers) and had been called in by Councillors M. Mutton, J. Mutton and Mulhall.

The report provided an update on the work undertaken in preparation for the 2009/10 and future years' Revenue Budget and Capital Programme. 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 report including:

- How the consultation process was to be undertaken on the category 1 decisions that would be delivered by management within their delegated authority or that had been, or would be, subject to a separate Cabinet or Cabinet Member report?
- Why the report had been considered by Cabinet before Scrutiny when it was a change of policy?
- Social Care Review of Charging
- Efficiency savings

In response, officers reported on consultation that had been undertaken and on management action that had been taken within existing delegated levels which included reviews in areas of service.

The Cabinet Member undertook to ensure that in future years the report would be considered by the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee prior to Cabinet.

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

133. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Coventry Venture Capital Limited

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Foster detailing the work of the Coventry Venture Capital Limited over the previous 12 months and included attendance records for the City Council's representative at meetings of the Board.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to appoint a representative to the Coventry Venture Capital Limited.

134. **Hillfields Action Plan Partnership Board**

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Ridley that detailed the work of the Hillfields Action Plan Partnership Board 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 recommend that the City Council continue to appoint to the Hillfields Action Plan Partnership Board.

135. **Outstanding Issues**

There were no outstanding issues.

136. **Work Programme 2008/09**

The Committee noted the Work Programme.

137. **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.

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

28th January, 2009

Scrutiny Co-ordination
Committee Members

Present:

Councillor Arrowsmith
Councillor Bigham (Substitute for Councillor Mutton)
Councillor Charley
Councillor Clifford
Councillor Crookes
Councillor Duggins
Councillor Ridge (Chair)

Employees Present:

S. Bennett (Customer and Workforce Directorate)
A. Davey (Community Services Directorate)
E. Garratt (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate)
S. Morrison (City Services Directorate)
J. Parry (Chief Executive's Directorate)
C. Steele (Chief Executive's Directorate)
A. West (Chief Executive's Directorate)

Apologies:

Councillor Maton
Councillor Mutton

138. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

139. **Consideration of Call Ins – Stage 1**

The officers reported on the following call-in that had been received.

Allesley Park Walled Garden

The reason for the call-in was, "To better understand why another section of the land cannot be maintained by the Allesley Park Walled Garden Group. Also, to better understand the implications for the young people studying for their NVQ's".

RESOLVED that the call-in detailed above be considered in detail by the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee at their meeting on the 4th February 2009.

140. **Consideration of Call-ins – Stage 2**

Belgrade Plaza Phase 3: Proposed Amendments to the Development Agreement

The reasons for the call-in were, "To better understand how housing students in a prestigious development to include affordable homes helps in the overall development of the City Centre".

Further to Minute 131/09 the Committee noted that this call-in would be considered by Scrutiny Board (3) on the 2nd February 2009, to which all Members of Scrutiny Co-ordination had been invited to attend. As he was unable to attend this meeting, Councillor Arrowsmith asked that the following questions to be raised by the Chair of Scrutiny Board (3), Councillor Ridge: -

- i) Why the shared equity apartments were proposed to be replaced with social housing as opposed to student accommodation?
- ii) Would the Radisson Edwardian hotel development be jeopardised by this change of use?

141. **Update on Grounds Maintenance Joint Directorate Working**

Further to Minute 65/08, the Committee considered a briefing Note, which provided an update on the joining of the grounds maintenance function between the two directorates of Culture, Leisure and Libraries and City Services. The Note covered progress to date; an anticipated completion date of April 2010; the membership of the project board and the scope of the project.

The Committee questioned the officers on a number of aspects of the Note and raised concerns in relation to the anticipated completion date of the project. The Officers explained numerous difficulties had been faced during the transitional stage but that emphasis was being placed on a service that would deliver an effective and constructive working partnership.

RESOLVED:

- i) **That the officers be requested to submit the Project Plan, with dated milestones to this Committee in 3 months time to include clear evidence that the project is progressing and that the relevant Cabinet Members be invited to attend that meeting.**
- ii) **That the relevant Cabinet Members be informed of the Committee's concerns regarding the anticipated completion date.**

142. **Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Local Government Association Urban Committee**

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Gazey that detailed the work of the Local Government Association Urban Commission over the last 12 months and included the attendance records for the City Council representatives 2007 and 2008.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to Local Government Association Urban Committee

143. **Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Birmingham International Airport Limited**

The Committee considered a report from Councillor Taylor that detailed the work of Birmingham International Airport (BIA) Limited over the last 12 months and included the attendance record for the City Council nominees at meetings of the Committee.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to Birmingham International Airport Limited.

144. **Report back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Regional Flood Defence Committee**

The Committee considered a report from Councillor Gazey that detailed the work of Regional Flood

Defence Committee over the last 12 months and included the attendance record for the City Councils nominees at meetings of the Committee.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the Regional Flood Defence Committee

145. **Outstanding Issues**

There were no outstanding issues.

146. **Work Programme 2008/09**

The Committee noted the Work Programme, and that the Value for Money Partnership Progress would be considered at their meeting on the 25th February 2009.

147. **Meeting Evaluation**

The Committee briefly discussed the meeting to evaluate its effectiveness.

148. **Any Other Urgent Items of Public Business**

There were no other items of public business.