

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

1st April, 2009

Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee Members

Present: -

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

Cabinet Member Present:- Councillor Ridley (Cabinet Member - City Development)

Employees Present: -

H. Abraham (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate)
V. Cook (Chief Executive's Directorate)
T. Errington (City Development Directorate)
E. Garratt (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate)
J. Handley (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate)
J. Parry (Chief Executive's Directorate)
H. Shankster (Chief Executive's Directorate)
C. Steele (Chief Executive's Directorate)
A. West (Chief Executive's Directorate)

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming and introducing the recently appointed Performance and Scrutiny Officer – Victoria Cook.

193. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

194. **Minutes**

The Minutes of the meetings held on the 4th and 18th February, and 4th March 2009 were signed as true records.

195. **Coventry City Council Inform, Consult & Involve Strategy 2009/10 –2011/12**

The Committee considered a report, which highlighted the statutory guidance issued by the Department for Communities and Local Government. The purpose of the strategy was to increase the involvement of residents in Coventry and to implement mechanisms that would further the participation and representation of local people through the 'duty to involve'. The Committee were informed that the strategy (which was to run for 3 years) would be all encompassing and inclusive of all communities.

It was further explained that the Council's duty to Inform, Consult and Involve would entail an ongoing co-ordination and consultation process with other partnerships

and public service providers within Coventry; furthermore, the Strategy would see a continuation in the support given to actively seeking the improvement of consultation and involvement given to local residents in order to improve Council services.

The Committee noted that minor amendments would be made to the wording of the report in order to tighten and clarify its purpose.

RESOLVED that the report be approved.

196. **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 23rd March, 2009, was 9.00 a.m. on Friday, 3rd April. 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).

197. **Report Back on the Red Route on the A4600**

The Chair reported that this report was to be considered by the Cabinet Member (City Development) at his meeting the following day and that he had been invited to attend that meeting to enable the report to be dealt with on the grounds of urgency and that call-in would therefore not apply. The Cabinet Member (City Development) and the relevant Officers explained to the Committee the reasons for urgency with particular attention being paid to the very restrictive timescale.

RESOLVED that the report and the reasons for urgency be noted.

198. **Reports Back in the Work of Outside Bodies – Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Partnership**

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Foster that detailed the work of the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Partnership over the preceding twelve months and included details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the Coventry, Solihull and Warwickshire Partnership.

199. **Councillor Call for Action (CCfA)**

The Committee considered the report and were informed that the Councillor Call for Action (CCfA) was to come into effect on the 1st April 2009. It was noted that The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 (LGPIH) and the Police and Justice Act 2006 introduced the CCfA, and the Government had commissioned guidance for its implementation, which was published in February. The report highlighted the Government's aspiration to provide opportunities for councils to engage with local people and communities of which CCfA was one part. The concept was viewed as a means to assist the roles of Councillors in addressing local problems relating to local government matters in their ward and

where other methods of resolution had been exhausted. It was explained that the initial introduction of a pilot scheme would allow further opportunities for more in-depth consideration before future adoption into the constitution.

Members questioned some indistinct aspects of the report, which related to how the national and proposed local framework would be applied. These would be clarified in the form and documents and the pilot will provide the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee with the opportunity to see how these things were being applied with included ward-specific and cross-boundary issues.

RESOLVED that: -

(1) Approval be given to the introduction of a pilot scheme for the CCfA (with effect from the 1st April 2009).

(2) Officers be requested to carry out further development work with Members, officers and partner organisations, with a view to submitting final arrangements for the CCfA for approval by the Standards Committee and Council by early 2010.

200. **Outstanding Issues**

There were no outstanding issues

201. **Work Programme 2008/09**

The Committee considered their Work Programme for the 2008/09 Municipal Year and noted that the Grounds Maintenance Joint Working progress report would be considered in May 2009.

202. **Meeting Evaluation**

The Committee briefly discussed the meeting to evaluate its effectiveness. Members commented that the meeting was fine.