

SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

17th February, 2010

- Members Present: Councillor Arrowsmith
Councillor Clifford
Councillor Crookes
Councillor Lakha (Substitute for Councillor Duggins)
Councillor Maton
Councillor Mutton
Councillor Ridge (Chair)
- Employees Present: M. Coult (Chief Executive's Directorate)
J. McLellan (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate)
C. Steele (Chief Executive's Directorate)
A. West (Chief Executive's Directorate)
- Others Present: M. Nelson (PricewaterhouseCoopers)
- Apologies: Councillor Duggins
Councillor Reece

Public Business

114. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

115. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th January, 2010, were agreed as a true record.

116. Consideration of Call-ins – Stage 1

There were no call-ins.

117. Transformation Partnership Progress Report

Mike Coult (Chief Executive's Directorate) and Madeleine Nelson (PricewaterhouseCoopers) attended the meeting during the consideration of this item.

Further to Minute 79/09, the Committee considered a report by the Assistant Chief Executive which provided a further update on the progress made in delivering the Council's abc Transformation Programme since the last report was submitted on 25th November, 2009.

The Committee questioned Mike Coult and Madeleine Nelson on aspects of the report and particularly with regard to areas that PricewaterhouseCoopers consider as challenges.

RESOLVED that a further report be submitted in 3 months time and that the report include information on the areas which PricewaterhouseCoopers consider as challenges.

118. Scrutiny of Coventry Partnership – Final Report

With reference to Minute 110/09, the Committee considered a briefing note by Corinne Steele, Performance and Scrutiny, which summarised the Committee's work on this issue and identified the following issues which it considered required further attention by the Partnership:-

- **Communications** – The Committee found that the rather complex Partnership structure meant that it was difficult for the public to understand its role and also made it hard for details of all its activities work to be pulled together centrally. Information was made available on the Partnership website, a quarterly bulletin was produced and some publicity was carried out by the Partnership's members separately. Nevertheless, it was acknowledged by the Partnership Manager that more could be done. The Committee accepted that some publicity was better carried out by the relevant organisation. It considered that, whilst not every activity needed to be shown as being Partnership work, those which made a real difference or which would not have happened without Partnership involvement, should be identified as such.
- **Funding arrangements** – The Committee were informed that some outside funding had been obtained and that opportunities had been taken to make representations to some funders (for example Advantage West Midlands) about making available longer term funding streams. However, it considered that this was an area which might merit further work.
- **Managing and Evaluating Performance** - The Committee found that this needed to be improved. Currently there was no central monitoring or management, by the Partnership's secretariat, of all Partnership's and Theme Groups' initiatives, nor was there a central evaluation process. However, the Committee acknowledged that work to rectify this had now been started.
- **Adapting to change** – The Committee were given examples of how the Partnership had reallocated its resources to meet changed circumstances, for example prioritising work on the economy which led to the establishment of the employment placement scheme. The Committee considered that the Partnership must continue to ensure that its structures were sufficiently flexible to enable it to adapt quickly to future changes.

RESOLVED:-

- (1) **That the Coventry Partnership be recommended to consider taking action as follows:-**
 - (a) **Communications – strengthening its communications arrangements (for example by producing articles for the Council's Insight/Citivision magazines and identifying target audiences more clearly) in order to raise public awareness of its role and achievements.**
 - (b) **Managing and evaluating performance – continuing the work already started in this area, given the importance of managing and evaluating initiatives centrally in order to identify the Partnership's achievements, share good practice and identify areas for improvement.**

- (c) **Funding arrangements – making further efforts to obtain outside and longer term funding for its work.**
- (d) **Adapting to change – continuing to ensure that its structures and decision-making processes are sufficiently flexible to react quickly in a changing environment.**

- (2) **That the Partnership be requested to inform the Committee whether or not it accepts these recommendations and, if so, to report on progress in 6 months' time.**
- (3) **That the Partnership be requested to appoint a Council Member to each Theme Group and that they submit regular reports and that if necessary the Chairs of the Theme Groups be called into Scrutiny.**
- (4) **That the arrangements for the scrutiny of Total Place be clarified.**

119. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Connexions Strategic Partnership Board

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Blundell that detailed the work of the Connexions Strategic Partnership Board over the preceding 12 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 Connexions Strategic Partnership Board and requested that further information be sought on the outreach work undertaken by Connexions.

120. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Coventry Fairtrade City Steering Group

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Lee that detailed the work of the Coventry Fairtrade City Steering Group over the preceding 12 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 Fairtrade City Steering Group and that the Secretary to the Group be contacted to check when meetings are held to ensure that Members appointed were able to attend meetings.

121. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Governing Body of Hereward College.

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Lee that detailed the work of the Governing Body of Hereward College over the preceding 12 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 Governing Body of Hereward College.

122. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – West Midlands Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Ridley that detailed the work of the West Midlands Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee over the preceding 12 months and included details of attendance by the City Council representatives.

RESOLVED that further information be sought on the future of the West Midlands Joint Committee and its Sub-Committees following the establishment of the West Midlands Leaders' Board.

123. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Older People's Partnership Board

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Mrs. Johnson that detailed the work of the Older People's Partnership Board over the preceding 12 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 Older People's Partnership Board.

124. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies - Coventry Citizens Advice Bureau

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Gazey that detailed the work of the Coventry Citizens Advice Bureau over the preceding 12 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 Citizens Advice Bureau.

125. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Special Interest Groups of Municipal Authorities (SIGOMA)

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Gazey that detailed the work of the Special Interest Groups of Municipal Authorities (SIGOMA) over the preceding 12 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 Special Interest Groups of Municipal Authorities.

126. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – West Midlands Police Authority

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Sawdon that detailed the work of the West Midlands Police Authority over the preceding 12 months and included details of his attendance at meetings of the Authority.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and that further details of Councillor Sawdon's attendance be sought.

27. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Daimler Green Recreational Trust

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Mal Mutton that detailed the work of the Daimler Green Recreational Trust over the preceding 12 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 Daimler Green Recreational Trust.

128. Outstanding Issues

There were no outstanding issues.

129. Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee Work Programme 2009/2010

The Committee considered and noted their Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2009/10.

130. Meeting Evaluation

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