

**SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE**

17<sup>th</sup> March, 2010

Members Present: Councillor Arrowsmith  
Councillor Crookes  
Councillor Duggins  
Councillor Maton  
Councillor Mutton  
Councillor Reece  
Councillor Ridge (Chair)

Employees Present: C. Steele (Chief Executive's Directorate)  
A. West (Chief Executive's Directorate)  
M. Salmon (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate)

Apologies: Councillor Clifford

**Public Business**

**131. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**132. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2010, were agreed as a true record.

**133. Consideration of Call-ins – Stage 1**

The Committee received a briefing note detailing two call-ins relating to the proposed new Salvation Army residential centre, Harnall Lane West.

At his meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2010, the Cabinet Member (City Development) considered a report (minute 34/09 refers) that the gave approval for the Director of Finance and Legal Services to undertake the statutory process for the closure of the Harnall Lane West long-stay surface car park as the first stage in the proposed development of a new Salvation Army residential centre. The report indicated that any objections and petitions received to the car park closure, including those petitions already submitted, would be formally reported to the Cabinet Member for consideration.

Subsequently, two call-ins had been received relating to the Cabinet Member (City Development) decision as follows:

Call-in 1) – from Councillors Auluck, Bains and O'Boyle

"To better understand how and why this decision was taken before any objections and petitions have been heard. Further more we would like clarification on the accuracy of

paragraph 5.2 of the report."

Call-in 2) – from Councillors Field, Nellist and Windsor

"To further examine (i) whether investigations were made before the decision, as to the degree of intense parking problems in the area which would be exacerbated by the closure (ii) whether the value of the land on the open market, as opposed to part of a land swap, would have exceeded the Cabinet Member's level of delegated authority."

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Chair of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee, Councillor Ridge, considered these call-ins against the criteria decided by the Committee and, having received advice from the Assistant Director (Democratic Services) and the Assistant Director (Legal Services)/Council Solicitor, determined both of the call-ins to be inappropriate. The reasons for his decisions were as follows:

Call-in 1) – Reasons for decision

- officers determine at which meeting it would be appropriate for petitions to be presented and therefore this is not a call-in issue.
- a letter was forwarded to a number of councillors, including Councillor O'Boyle and Councillor Auluck, which gave the reasons as to why the petitions would not be heard at the 18th February, 2010 meeting.

Call-in 2) – Reasons for decision

- The issue of parking had already been addressed by Planning Committee at its 14<sup>th</sup> January 2010 meeting. Within the Planning Committee report there is clear reference to the parking issues raised and reference was made to the availability of nearby car parking that could be used instead and there was also discussion on this during the meeting. The Committee concluded that there was capacity within the surrounding car parks to compensate for the loss of the existing car park facility.
- Planning Committee decisions cannot be called in. In view of this it is not appropriate for an issue that has already been addressed by Planning to be called in, as the Planning Committee is the relevant regulatory body.
- The issue regarding land values is not an issue that is before the Cabinet Member to determine and does not form part of the report and, therefore, is unable to be called in.

The Elected Members that had submitted the call-ins had been informed of the Chair's decisions and the reasons for them.

**RESOLVED that the Committee noted the action that had been taken relating to the determination of the call-ins and requested that the Salvation Army Residential Centre issue be referred to the Economy and Environment Scrutiny Board to enable further discussions to be undertaken and any comments to be forwarded to Cabinet Member (City Development) for consideration.**

(Note: 1) Councillor Duggins and Councillor Mutton registered their objections to the invalidation of the call-ins and asked that these be recorded accordingly.

2) Councillor Nellist, who was not present at the meeting, registered his objection to the decision reached and the process used to determine the call-ins as inappropriate and asked that this be recorded accordingly.)

#### 134. **Outreach Work by Connexions Coventry and Warwickshire**

Further to Minute 119/09, the Committee considered a briefing note on information provided by the Connexions Manager (Coventry) relating to the outreach work carried out by Connexions. Statistical Information relating to Activity (total numbers in each age group who were registered as Connexions clients), Connexions interactions for January to December 2009 and a statistical summary for February 2010 was attached to the briefing note.

At its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2010, the Committee had expressed concern that some young people might not get the help they needed to access education, training or employment and asked officers to contact Connexions to request information on the outreach work carried out by them, to try to ensure that the number of young people receiving help was maximised.

Connexions had units in each secondary school and Further Education College in Coventry and also operated with the Integrated Youth Support Services in 3 one-stop shops, in the city centre, Broad Street and Jardine Crescent. Personal Advisers were assigned to work with the Youth Offending Service, teenage parents and looked after children/care leavers. In addition, a personal adviser worked with young people at Chace Extended Learning. Information, advice and guidance was provided to all young people in statutory education, including non-attenders and those receiving home tuition. On-line services were offered through the local Integrated Youth Support Services website and Connexions Direct and were available out of hours.

All young people aged 16 to 19 were tracked to ensure that they maintained a place in education, employment or training. This included home visits for those who had not responded to letters, phone calls, texts, and e-mails. Connexions also contacted its partner agencies to try to obtain information about what young people were doing. Those young people who were identified as not in education, employment or training (NEET) were followed up regularly with details of available opportunities suitable to their needs. However, inevitably, contact was lost with some young people who moved address or left the area. This number was 2.8% of the cohort, which compared to 3.9% for the West Midlands region and 4% for England. The NEET figure had reduced year on year until this year, when it had been confirmed as 6.9%, up from 6.7% last year.

Connexions had been working very closely with the Learning and Skills Council and education and training providers to ensure that there was as much suitable provision as possible. The new national January Guarantee\*, an initiative under which all young people who left statutory education in 2008 or 2009 and who were NEET at the end of December 2009 or who became NEET during January 2010 had to be contacted and offered a place of educational training by the end of March 2010, had ensured that all NEET young people aged 16 or 17 had been contacted since the New Year to offer them a place of training. This would continue until the end of March. Some new training places had been contracted for this purpose by the Learning and Skills Council.

Connexions offered a universal service to all young people and also targeted resources on those known to be at a disadvantage in the work and learning market, whom it was proactive in contacting.

**RESOLVED** that the Committee noted the information provided by the Connexions Manager (Coventry) and referred the issue to the Children, Young People, Learning and Leisure Scrutiny Board for inclusion on their work programme for the next municipal year.

**135. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Coventry and Solihull Waste Disposal Ltd. Shareholders Panel**

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Noonan that detailed the work of the Coventry and Solihull Waste Disposal Ltd. Shareholders Panel over the preceding 12 months and included details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

**RESOLVED that:**

**(1) the Committee continue to nominate to the Coventry and Solihull Waste Disposal Ltd. Shareholders Panel**

**(2) that members of the relevant Coventry and Solihull Waste Disposal Ltd Panel be invited to attend a meeting of Economy and Environment Scrutiny Board to provide Members with details of the options considered to ensure the best solution to meet the needs of the sub-region and the European procurement rules, for the new residual waste treatment solution.**

**136. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Coventry Refugee Centre**

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Williams that detailed the work of the Coventry Refugee Centre over the preceding 12 months and included details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

**RESOLVED that the Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the Coventry Refugee Centre.**

**137. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Coventry Sports Trust Limited**

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Lapsa that detailed the work of the Coventry Sports Trust Limited over the preceding 12 months and included details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

**RESOLVED that the Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the Coventry Sports Trust Limited.**

**138. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – CVOne Limited**

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Ridley that detailed the work of CVOne Limited over the preceding 12 months and included details of attendance by the City Council representatives.

**RESOLVED that the Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to CVOne Limited pending a strategic review of CVOne when the structure of the Board and the appointments to it will be reviewed.**

**139. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Transport Museum**

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Ridley that detailed the work of the Transport Museum over the preceding 12 months and included details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

**RESOLVED that:**

**1) the Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the Transport Museum.**

**2) the Committee be provided with details of the Coventry Transport Museum presentation that was made to the Children, Young People, Learning and Leisure Scrutiny Board in March 2010.**

**140. Report Back on the Work of Outside Bodies – Mental Health Partnership Board**

The Committee considered a report of Councillor Johnson that detailed the work of the Mental Health Partnership Board over the preceding 12 months and included details of attendance by the City Council's representatives.

**RESOLVED that the Committee recommend that the City Council continue to nominate to the Mental Health Partnership Board.**

**141. Outstanding Issues**

There were no outstanding issues.

**142. Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee Work Programme 2009/2010**

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

**143. Meeting Evaluation**

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