

## SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

1<sup>st</sup> September, 2010

- Members Present: Councillor Blundell (Substitute for Councillor Sawdon)  
Councillor Foster  
Councillor Lakha  
Councillor Lancaster  
Councillor Mrs Lucas (Chair)  
Councillor M. Mutton  
Councillor Noonan (Non-Voting Co-opted Member)  
Councillor Ridley  
Councillor Ruane  
Councillor Taylor  
Councillor Walsh (Substitute for Councillor McNicholas)
- Other Members Present: Councillor Duggins (For the matter in Minute 22 below)  
Councillor Gazey  
Councillor Townshend (For the matters in Minutes 21 and 23 below)
- Employees Present: M. Coult (Chief Executive's Directorate)  
P. Deas (City Services and Development)  
J. McLellan (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate)  
J. Nichols (Neighbourhood Management)  
J. Parry (Chief Executive's Directorate)  
S. Roach (Community Services Directorate)  
C. Steele (Chief Executive's Directorate)  
A. West (Chief Executive's Directorate)
- Others Present:- M. Nelson (PricewaterhouseCoopers)  
C. Robson (Student – Work experience)
- Apologies: Councillor McNicholas  
Councillor Sawdon

### **Public Business**

#### **18. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations of interest were made.

#### **19. Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2010, were signed as a true record, subject to the final paragraph on page 2 of Minute 3 headed "Consideration of Call-ins – Stage 2 – Proposed New Salvation Army Residential Centre, Harnall Lane West", being amended to read Primary Care Trust instead of Primary Car Trust.

#### **20. Consideration of Call-ins – Stage 1**

There were no call ins.

## 21. **Neighbourhood Management Review - Consultation**

Councillor Townshend (Cabinet Member (Corporate and Neighbourhood Services)) and Janice Nichols (Neighbourhood Management) attended the meeting during consideration of this item.

The Committee considered a briefing note by Adrian West, Performance and Scrutiny Team, on the proposed Neighbourhood Management Restructure, appended to which was a copy of the consultation document.

A review of Neighbourhood Management was commissioned by the Council's Chief Executive and Management Board in September 2009 in order to refocus the service to meet changing needs in Coventry's neighbourhoods, and to generate savings from the neighbourhood management budget of £500,000 by April 2011.

The review took place from October 2009 to February 2010. It had actively involved customers and stakeholders in consultation processes over this period, including staff and elected members. There were workshops for stakeholders and elected members and some stakeholders were individually interviewed. Residents and community representatives were engaged in focus groups in each of the Neighbourhood Management areas.

**RESOLVED** that the approach to the restructure set out in the document be supported and that the Committee request that the following issues be taken into consideration when the report was being finalised for Cabinet:-

- (1) The intention for Neighbourhood Management to move away from a role of "policing" the performance and delivery of other services (leaving service providers to manage their services) and instead to act as a facilitator, for example by providing analysis to assist service providers in improving their services or bringing a range of service providers together to tackle wider problems.**
- (2) The key role played by the Council's partners in the work of Neighbourhood Management should be drawn out more clearly.**
- (3) Details of how the capacity-building role of Neighbourhood Management could be developed should be included.**

## 22. **Transformation Programme – Partnership Progress Report 2010**

Councillor Duggins (Cabinet Member (Strategic Finance and Resources)), Mike Coult (Chief Executive's Directorate) and Madeleine Nelson (PricewaterhouseCoopers) attended the meeting during the consideration of this item.

Further to Minute 117/09, 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 17<sup>th</sup> February, 2010.

The Committee questioned the Cabinet Member, Mike Coult and Madeleine Nelson on

aspects of the report and particularly with regard to Member involvement in the programme.

**RESOLVED that Members be invited to future Transformation Programme workshops and that quarterly reports on the Programme continue to be submitted.**

**23. Council Response to the Home Office Consultation – Policing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Reconnecting Police and the People**

Councillor Townshend (Cabinet Member (Corporate and Neighbourhood Services)) and Sara Roach, Assistant Director (Public Safety) attended the meeting during the consideration of this item.

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Community Services, which was also to be considered by Cabinet and Council, and detailed the City Council's response to the Home Office consultation on the future of policing which was published on 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2010. The Consultation Paper set out a number of consultation questions, the response to which was mainly based around those proposals that would have a direct impact on the City Council and were detailed in the Appendix to the report.

During its discussions, the Committee emphasised the following:-

- (a) that if in future there were directly elected mayors in Coventry and Birmingham (as currently proposed by the Government), the relationship between them and an elected Crime and Police Commissioner could potentially be very difficult and not conducive to effective and efficient administration.
- (b) that the West Midlands was too large and diverse an area to be covered by one commissioner: a more local approach would be more sensible.
- (c) whilst supporting the use of police force volunteers, there needed to be a robust vetting procedure before their appointment.

**RESOLVED that the proposed consultation response be supported and that the Cabinet be informed of the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee's comments as detailed above.**

**24. Local Enterprise Partnerships**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of City Services and Development which had previously been considered by the Cabinet (their Minute 39/10 refers), which detailed the current thinking and outlined how local authorities and business could realise the economic potential of their areas by joining together to form a Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

Attached to the report was the proposed Coventry and Warwickshire Expression of Interest submission to Government prepared by key representatives of private and public sectors in this area to evidence the strength of partnership working to build a sustainable and vibrant economic future.

The Committee also considered a briefing note by the Director of Strategic Planning and

Partnerships together with a document tabled at the meeting from Local Government Improvement and Development which detailed the Governance Arrangements for Local Enterprise Partnerships.

**RESOLVED that the Committee note the update on regional and sub-regional issues, including the proposal for a Local Enterprise Partnership.**

**25. Scrutiny Boards' Annual Report to Council 2009/2010**

The Committee considered the Annual Report prior to its consideration by the City Council. The Annual Report was drafted as per the requirements of the Council's Constitution, which stated "Scrutiny Boards must report annually to inform Council of their work and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate".

**RESOLVED that the Scrutiny Boards' 2009/2010 Annual Report be approved for submission to the City Council on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2010.**

**26. Scrutiny Development Plan 2010/2011**

The Committee received and noted the Scrutiny Development Plan 2010/2011.

**27. Report Back on Conference – Civic Visit to Kiel, Germany for 128<sup>th</sup> Kieler Woche**

The Committee noted a report back on the Lord Mayor, Councillor Brian Kelsey's, civic visit to Kiel and the associated Kieler Woche (Kiel Week), which was held from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2010.

**28. Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee Work Programme 2010/2011**

The Committee considered and noted the changes to the Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2010/11.

**29. Outstanding Issues**

There were no outstanding issues.

**30. Meeting Evaluation**

The Board evaluated the meeting. Comments given by members, which included that the meeting had been well organised, Members had been well briefed prior to the meeting, and that documentation and presentations were clear, factual and informative, would be used to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of future meetings.