

**Minutes of the Meeting of Scrutiny Co-ordination
Committee held at 2.00 p.m. on 7th August 2013**

Present:

Committee Members: Councillor Mrs Fletcher (Chair)
Councillor Clifford (Deputy Chair) up to Minute 14
Councillor Miks (substitute for Councillor Abbott)
Councillor Mulhall (substitute for Councillor Skipper)
Councillor Sandy
Councillor Skinner (substitute for Councillor Blundell)
Councillor Thomas

Employees (by Directorate):

Chief Executive's: G Holmes, S. Nagra, J Venn, A West

Customer & Workforce Services: S. Iannantuoni, S. Lal, C. Sinclair

Finance and Legal Services: C. Bradford, M. Burn, C. Evans, C. Forde, M. Rennie,

Apologies: Councillors Abbott, Blundell, Khan and Skipper

Public business

11. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

12. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 10th July 2013 were signed as a true record.

Matters Arising

The Committee noted the following:

- (a) Minute 3/13 (Coventry's Alcohol Strategy 2013-16): A briefing note summarising the Committee's comments would be presented to Cabinet when they consider this matter on 3rd September 2013.
- (b) Minute 4/13 (Development of the Community Safety Partnership): The Safety Partnership had accepted the Committee's recommendation in respect of young people's representation.
- (c) Minute 5/13 (Council Plan – Performance Report): A note on the recording of performance data in relation to jobs created in the City had been produced. The Committee's comments about how this indicator should be presented would be taken on board for the future.
- (d) Minute 9/13 (Progress and Outcomes of Olympic Legacy Scrutiny Panel): The Sports Vision and Strategy, Tourism and City Wide Events Advisory Panel would be holding themed meetings and it had been proposed that the recommendations from this Committee on the Olympic legacy would be

considered at one of these meetings.

13. **Equality Strategy – Performance Report**

The Committee considered the Equality Strategy Performance Report. The current Council's Equality Strategy which set out the Council's equality objectives and how the Council complied with the Equality Act 2010 was approved in March 2013. The Equality Strategy was linked to the council's priorities set out in the Council Plan. The performance report set out the progress made in the first year of the strategy.

The Council Plan would be revised for 2013/14 onwards to reflect new aspirations for Coventry and the council objectives would be revised to take forward key priorities and actions. The council was also developing a range of health inequality indicators as part of its work as a Marmot City. The equality objectives in the Equality Strategy would subsequently be reviewed and revised where necessary.

The Committee questioned officers on a number of aspects of the report and arising from discussion, requested that officers investigate as to whether any of the employment agencies utilised by the City Council employed people on zero hour contracts.

Following consideration of the report, the Committee considered that, as the report made a number of references to 'disability' that this category be widened out to include mental health.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and notwithstanding the inclusion of mental health as part of health inequalities reporting, that this category also be included in future Equality Strategy reports.

14. **Equalities in Employment**

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Customer and Workforce Services which detailed proposals setting out how vacancies at the middle and senior levels within the authority could be advertised with disadvantaged groups in mind and highlighted further actions that could be taken to empower disadvantaged groups to gain employment within the City Council. The Cabinet Member also requested that this work include the continued recruitment of Apprentices in line with the council's apprenticeship strategy. The report had been referred to the Committee by the Cabinet Member (Community Safety and Equalities) at his meeting on 4th July 2013.

The Committee discussed the report, noting that the figures included therein did not include employees in schools. In order to understand the full picture, Members requested that they receive further information to include all employees including school staff.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and that the proposal for the coaching and mentoring programme be extended to include other protected groups.

15. Changes to the Constitution: Recommendations of the Constitutional Advisory Panel

The Committee considered a report of the Assistant Director (Legal Services) and Monitoring Officer in respect of a number of changes to the Constitution which had been recommended by the Constitutional Advisory Panel.

The Constitutional Advisory Panel had considered proposed changes to the Constitution and feedback from members on those proposals. The Panel had asked the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee for its views on the the recommendations that the Panel will make to the Cabinet Member (Community Safety and Equalities).

The report included, as the Appendix, a copy of the report that was considered by the Constitutional Advisory Panel (CAP). The CAP report had been updated to show, in bold, the recommendations that the Panel had made on the points that it was asked to consider. It was those recommendations upon which the Committee was asked to give its views. The remainder of the CAP Report, including its three appendices, were otherwise unchanged from those presented to the Panel.

RESOLVED that the following be conveyed to the Cabinet Member (Community Safety and Equalities):

- (a) That the Committee agreed the proposed changes to the Constitution relating to scrutiny (namely paragraphs 2.2.2, 2.2.5, 2.3.2)**
- (b) That the Committee sought to ensure that Deputy Cabinet Members had been considered in respect of the proposed changes to the Constitution relating to Cabinet Member functions.**

16. Outstanding Issues

The Board noted that all outstanding issues had been included in the Work Programme for the current year.

17. Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee Work Programme 2013/14

The Work Programme was noted.

18. Meeting Evaluation

The Scrutiny Board discussed and evaluated the meeting. Members' comments would be used to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the future meetings.

19. Any Other Items of Pubic Business

There were no additional items of public business.

(Meeting closed: 11.30 am)