

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee held at 2.00 pm on
Thursday, 22 September 2016

Present:

Members: Councillor R Lancaster (Chair)
Councillor N Akhtar
Councillor S Bains (Sub for Councillor M Mutton)
Councillor J Blundell
Councillor G Crookes
Councillor Gannon
Councillor J McNicholas
Councillor R Singh (Deputy Chair)

Other Members: Councillor J O'Boyle, Cabinet Member for Jobs and
Regeneration

Employees By Directorate:-

Resources S Bennett, G Holmes, P Jennings, C West

Apologies: Councillor L Kelly
Councillor M Mutton

Councillor G Duggins, Cabinet Member for Policy and
Leadership
Councillor J Mutton, Cabinet Member for Strategic Finance
and Resources

Public Business

22. Declarations of Interest

There were no declaration of interest.

Further to media reports following the last meeting, Councillor Gannon clarified that he does not work for either University in the City.

23. Business Rates Reform and Consultation

Further to Minute 15, the Committee considered a Briefing Note of the Executive Director of Resources appended to which were two Appendices detailing proposed responses to two consultation papers published by the Government regarding proposals for 100% localisation of Business Rates.

At the request of the Committee, the Briefing Note also provided information on the potential for pooling of business rates within the Combined Authority and the

Council's strategy for maximising business rates income. The Committee noted that since the production of the Briefing Note, the situation had changed and it was now possible for the Council to remain within the Coventry and Warwickshire Business Rate pool and join the WMCA Business Rate pilot.

The Committee asked officers questions and sought clarification on a number of issues including:-

- The position regarding Universities (which was not mentioned in the consultation)
- Initial consideration regarding the range of associated budgets that could be pooled at the Combined Authority level
- The role of LEP's in relation to the process for approving levies
- How funding/budgets would be calculated and reset post 2020
- Matters relating to "fair funding" and the complexities of issues relating to this matter
- Coventry's ability to grow Business Rate in the future given its geographical constraints

The Committee recognised that the two consultations documents were only the first stages of the Business Rates Reform and that there would be a series of further consultations on this matter.

The Committee did not identify any substantive amendments to the proposed consultation responses and thanked the officers for their attendance and comprehensive responses.

RESOLVED:-

- 1) **That the responses to the consultation documents appended to the report be noted.**
- 2) **That officers be requested to submit further consultation documents in relation to Business Rates Reform to the Committee as and when they become available.**

24. Any Other Items of Public Business

There were no other items of public business.

(Meeting closed at 3.00 pm)