

## SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE

23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2013

### Scrutiny Co-ordination

Committee Members Present: Councillor Mrs Abbott  
Councillor Mrs Bigham (Chair)  
Councillor Blundell  
Councillor Mrs Fletcher  
Councillor Lakha  
Councillor Skinner (Substitute for Councillor Foster)  
Councillor Welsh

### Deputy Chairs of Scrutiny Boards Present:

Councillor Clifford

### Cabinet Members Present:

Councillor Kershaw  
Councillor Townshend

### Other Members Present:

Councillor Clifford  
Councillor Lancaster

### In attendance:

Honorary Alderman J. Gazey

### Employees Present:

H. Abraham (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate)  
P. Bharadwa (City Services and Development Directorate)  
V. Castree (Chief Executive's Directorate)  
D. Haley (Children, Learning and Young People Directorate)  
B. Hastie (Finance and Legal Services Directorate)  
T. Healey (Chief Executive's Directorate)  
G. Holmes (Chief Executive's Directorate)  
J. McLellan (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate)  
J. Nichols (Neighbourhood Management)  
C. Pearson (Chief Executive's Directorate)  
J. Venn (Customer and Workforce Services Directorate)  
A. West (Chief Executive's Directorate)

### Apologies:

Councillor Foster  
Councillor Howells  
Councillor M. Mutton  
Councillor Skipper  
Councillor Sweet

## **Public Business**

### **67. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made.

### **68. Minutes**

- (a) The Minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> December, 2012 were signed as a true record.

- (b) There were no matters arising.

#### **69. Advice Services Review.**

The Cabinet Member (Community Safety and Equalities), Councillor Townshend, was present for the consideration of the item.

The Committee considered a report of the Scrutiny Co-ordinator which indicated that there had been an abc briefing for all Members on the 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2011, which had provided information on the scope and scale of the Advice Service Review. The proposed outcomes of the review were currently out for consultation. A copy of the Advice Services Review 2013 was appended to the report.

The Committee discussed the report and questioned the Head of Building Sustainable Communities on the following matters:-

- Role of Voluntary Organisations
- Role of Coventry Direct
- Geographical locations
- Service Level Agreements
- Provision of services and the process

The Committee noted that feedback on the consultation exercise would be available on the City Council's website by the end of May 2013.

**RESOLVED that Scrutiny Board 5 Welfare Reform Sub-Group invite members of Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee to their next meeting to consider the consultation document, and to report back to the meeting of the Committee on the 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2013.**

#### **70. Update on Progress on the Recommendations from the Services to Schools Task and Finish Group**

The Cabinet Member (Education), Councillor Kershaw, was present for the consideration of the item.

The Committee considered a briefing note which provided a report back on the work carried out by the Services to Schools Task and Finish Group.

The Appendix to the report detailed the full recommendations which had been accepted by Cabinet.

The Committee noted that the recommended actions of the Services to Schools Task and Finish Group that had been completed and which included:-

- Developing a finance model to determine full cost recovery for services to schools pricing for 2013/14
- Identifying and understanding the implications of different categories of service which could affect charging structures and risk levels

- Work on marketing and branding to deliver a co-ordinated, corporate approach to marketing schools services
- Exploring ways in which the Council can adopt a more commercial and business-like approach in its relationship with schools, including designation of a specific role within existing staff roles and responsibilities.

**RESOLVED that consideration of future subsidy for the two areas of schools services that do not have a plan in place to achieve full cost recovery be referred to the Cabinet Member (Education).**

#### **71. Member Training and Development Programme 2013/14 and 2012/13 Update**

The Cabinet Member (Community Safety and Equalities), Councillor Townshend, was present for the consideration of the item.

The Committee considered a report by the Assistant Director (Democratic Services), which provided options for delivering the 2013/14 programme for member training and development following consultation with Council Members and officers. This was in line with the objectives in the Council's Member Training and Development Approach. The programme covered strategic, corporate and mandatory issues and personal skills development. It took into account individual member requests for training and development arising from this year's Personal Development Plan (PDP) process and lessons learnt from evaluating previous training. Two focus groups were being held with members mid-January to obtain feedback on the current and proposed training programme. This feedback would be shared with Scrutiny members.

An update was also given of delivery of the 2012/13 programme against the objectives set, identified needs and the budget. To date, 72% of training and development needs had been met, and the target of 90% was expected to be met. It was anticipated the budget of £23,773 would be underspent by £4,700 mainly in group budgets and not having to purchase a separate e-learning package. Successes of the current year included the Leadership Academy with 5 members attending this year. The focus in the remainder of this year was on the Member Development Charter reassessment and launching the Accredited Member Certificate course, in partnership with Coventry University. The proposed budget spend for 2013/14 was £23,919.

The Committee welcomed the report and particularly the new Accredited Member Certificate and raised the following matters with the Cabinet Member:-

- Mandatory Training
- Training Delivery Styles
- Co-ordinated training with officers
- Benefits of external involvement
- Timing of training

**RESOLVED that the report be noted and the Cabinet Member (Community Safety and Equalities be requested as part of his formal consideration of the report to consider the issues raised above.**

## **72. Census 2011 – Identifying Ward Level Census Data**

The Committee considered a briefing note by the Scrutiny Co-ordinator which incorporated as an Appendix the Census Briefing December 2012 which had been produced by the Corporate Research Team.

**RESOLVED that elected members be invited to join a working group to be established:-**

- (1) To work closely with officers to identify summary information from the 2011 Census and the Household Survey to be most useful for a Members' briefing on individual ward levels.**
- (2) To identify the best way to disseminate this information to elected members.**

## **73. Establishment of an Olympic Legacy Scrutiny Panel**

The Committee considered a report by the Scrutiny Co-ordinator which detailed the proposed membership and terms of reference for the Olympic Legacy Scrutiny Panel which was established by the Cabinet Member (Policy, Leadership and Governance) at his meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2012.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) That a Scrutiny Panel be established, with the terms of reference detailed in the report, to identify recommendations for the appropriate Cabinet Member to develop proposals for a lasting Olympics legacy for Coventry from London 2012.**
- (2) That the membership of the Panel be as follows:-**

**Councillor Abbott (Chair – Streets and Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Board)**  
**Councillor Bigham (Chair – Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee)**  
**Councillor Fletcher (Chair – Wellness, Liveability and Public Health Scrutiny Board)**  
**Councillor Howells (Chair – Transport and Infrastructure Development Scrutiny Board)**  
**Councillor Lakha (Chair – Jobs, Skills and Growth Scrutiny Board)**  
**Councillor M. Mutton (Chair – Cabinet Advisory Panel on the 2012 Olympics)**

## **74. 6 Month (April – September 2012) Cumulative Sickness Absence 2012/2013**

The Committee considered and noted a report of the Director of Customer and Workforce Services which provided information on the first six months absence. The Committee supported the actions taken to monitor and manage absence and promote health at work.

## **75. Report Back on Conference – Local Government Association Annual Safer Communities Conference: Partnership Working in a New World**

The Committee noted a report by Councillor Lucas, Cabinet Member (Health and

Community Services) on the above conference which was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2012. The report detailed the benefits of attending the conference, and in particular the follow up work that officers would do in order to learn from other areas across the country.

**76. Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee Work Programme 2012/2013**

The Committee noted the Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2012/13.

**77. Outstanding Issues**

Outstanding issues were included in the Work Programme.

**78. Meeting Evaluation**

The Committee evaluated the meeting and concluded that although it went well they felt that the meeting was too long. They did, however, appreciate that there was a timeline for the reports to be considered.

**79. Any Other Items of Public Business.**

There were no other items of public business.

**Private Business**

Nil

(Meeting closed at: 12.40 p.m.)