



Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP
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Record of a meeting of the **PLACES SCRUTINY PANEL** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham at 7.00 pm on **Thursday 30 October 2014.**

- PRESENT:**
- Mr J T Dale (Chairman, in the Chair)
 - Mrs C J Cartwright
 - Mr R Clifton (for Mrs Vernon)
 - Mr W J Cross
 - Mr D Hollis
 - Mr J Lammie
 - Mr D L Richardson
- OFFICERS PRESENT:**
- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Mr D Brown | Director for Places (Environment, Planning & Transport) |
| Mr P Phillipson | Director for Places (Development and Economy) |
| Mr R Clayton | Senior Culture and Leisure Manager |
| Mrs L Kingsley | Senior Economic Development Officer |
| Mr A Merry | Technical Accountant |
| Mr A Daynes | Team Manager Corporate Support |
| Miss S Croad | Corporate Support Officer |
- IN ATTENDANCE:**
- | | |
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| Mr T C King | Portfolio Holder for Places (Development) and Finance |
| Miss G Waller | |
- APOLOGIES:**
- Mr Baines, Mrs Vernon and Mr Pocock

418 RECORD OF MEETINGS

The Record of the Meeting of the Places Scrutiny Panel held on 17 July 2014, copies of which had been previously circulated, was confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

419 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

420 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

No petitions, deputations or questions from members of the public had been

received.

421 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS

No Questions with Notice from members had been received.

422 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS

No Notices of Motion had been received from Members.

423 CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTER REFERRED TO THE PANEL FOR A DECISION IN RELATION TO CALL IN OF A DECISION

No matter had been referred to the Panel for a decision in relation to call-in of a decision in accordance with Procedure Rule 206.

424 DRAFT ECONOMIC GROWTH STRATEGY 2014-2021

Report No. 232/2014 from the Director for Places (Development and Economy) was received the purpose of which was to inform the Scrutiny Panel of progress on the development of the Council's Economic Growth Strategy 2014-2021 and receive comments from the Panel on the draft strategy.

Comments noted included:

- Any Broadband service provider should be accessible over a current BT line into residential properties;
- Some companies have staff travel into Rutland for basic skilled jobs but many people travel out of the county for higher paid jobs. The council was trying to increase the wages earned within the county;
- The Council was active in supporting business and visits leading businesses to see the progression of work and works with them on issues;
- The council does work with CBEC (Casterton Business and Enterprise College) to improve the employability of young people and there has been a reduction in 18-24 year olds who experience problems with finding employment;
- Opportunity Peterborough (from the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)) Skills Service project to develop local employment skills with schools and colleges has received wide recognition and money was secured from the LEP to provide this service. Peterborough Regional College was also more involved in the county and had a wider range of apprenticeship courses offering more in the county than before;
- The Greater Cambridgeshire Greater Peterborough LEP was selected to join and therefore much of the government and European funding would come from there rather than via Corby or Kettering;
- Tourism was important to the county but the jobs in the industry were mainly

low paid;

- Most house building was around Oakham leaving the majority of the agricultural land untouched;
- A-level performance was based on results in Rutland and did not include students who attended schools outside the county boundaries – rather than comparing to national average could compare to similar local authorities;
- Work was done to provide opportunities to take up work for military families but not all were seeking employment;

Comments raised during debate included:

- Many people look to Rutland to commute from, not to;
- Cannot increase high paid jobs easily or force companies to come here;
- Suggest putting abbreviated terms on all pages that they occur instead of just on the last page;
- Low wages does not always mean good wages and being employed does not mean making ends meet for families;
- The council could do more to facilitate business development;
- Training providers who receive funding from government could be approached to take on young people to increase skills relevant to business;
- Need to determine what Rutland needs for the future. It is currently a commuter belt for higher paid work;
- Rutland Local Development Strategy for 2014-2020 still out to consultation and should wait for this first;
- No strategy on how to address the number of over 65s in employment as there was an increasing number;
- If quality of life was already considered to be high, why the need to drive up wages?
- Extending the bus service to Corby station from Uppingham would open the possibility of getting a train to Kettering for work. Corby station was very important for many people.

AGREED:

1. To note the achievements under the previous Strategy for Growth (2011);
2. To note the draft Council Economic Growth Strategy 2014-2012;
3. That further consultation with the business community and other key stakeholders will inform the final version prior to seeking formal Council approval.

425 SECTION 106 CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS FOR SPORT, LEISURE AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Report No. 233/2014 from the Director for Places (Development and Economy) was received the purpose of which was to receive comments from Scrutiny on the merits of allocating Section 106 funding, including a grant and loan programme to support community sport, recreation and leisure facilities and the possible process

for allocating such funding if a scheme was agreed.

Comments noted included:

- The application timescale will be an ongoing process but initially 10 November to 5 December. Lots of consultation already undertaken and proposals already received;
- Organisations must be financially sustainable;
- The discriminatory practice clause applies mainly to private members clubs and the need to be an open membership;
- If organisations made a strong case for purchasing a vehicle then the funding could do this;
- For funding claims, officers will need evidence and a timescale for proof of starting the project. There would be no retrospective funding;
- Will check the criteria and make sure awards are suitable for organisations wishing to come into Rutland;
- Some clubs have little funds in the bank to be able to match fund awards. Need some flexibility;
- There may be less organised clubs bidding for smaller amounts of funding but would expect a higher level of management and organisation from clubs seeking higher value awards;

Comments raised during debate included:

- Need to make organisations aware that they should also look at other sources for funding;
- There is already a funding deficit accruing interest.
- The S106 funding from the Sainsburys development is already allocated to the sports hall at OEP. This funding has already been received;
- Some funding requests appeared to be from organisations already in receipt of funding;
- Could limit the number of grants to each organisation in a set time;
- Projects should start within 1 year of funding being awarded;
- For smaller villages the criteria could be amended from number of users to number of activities per week;
- Need clearer strategy first before allocating funding;
- A cap of £75,000 per organisation should be applied. This could be amended by future Councils;
- If awarding the funding before the council receives it, could consider asking clubs to pay the accrued interest until funding is received into the council accounts;
- More financial and usage figures required before commenting or committing to allocating S106 funding to the swimming pool.

AGREED:

1. That a £75,000 cap be applied to each organisation;
2. That a report will be received on swimming pool facilities before commenting further.

426 PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS AND TOPICS

WORK PROGRAMME 2014/2015 AND REVIEW OF FORWARD PLAN

The Panel was asked to consider the Forward Plan and Work Programme 2014/2015.

Items to be included on future meeting agendas to include:

- Contract with Lafarge and what is included in it; and
- Swimming Pool funding.

427 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

No items of urgent business had been previously notified to the person presiding.

428 DATE AND PREVIEW OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 27 November 2014.

- Presentation on Fire Service;
- Growth Strategy; and
- Highway Capital Programme.

The Chair recommended that questions for the Fire Service be submitted in advance of the meeting to enable for full responses to be given.

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The Chairman closed the meeting at 9.20pm.

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