Rutland County Council

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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 27 November 2014**

PRESENT:	Mr J T Dale (Chairman, in the Chair) Mrs C Cartwright Mr W Cross Mr D Hollis Mr J Lammie Mr M Oxley Mrs C L Vernon Mr A Walters	
OFFICERS PRESENT:	Mr D Brown Mr P Phillipson Mrs M Green Mr A Green	Director for Places (Environment, Planning & Transport) Director for Places (Development and Economy) Accountant (Development) Corporate Support Officer
IN ATTENDANCE:	Mr R Begy Mr K Bool Mr T C King Mr M D A Pocock Mr D Webb Mr R Chandler	Leader and Portfolio Holder for Culture, Community Safety and Housing Rutland County Council's Representative on Leicestershire Combined Fire Authority Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Places (Development) and Finance Portfolio Holder for Places (Environment & Transport) and Resources Chief Fire and Rescue Officer, Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service Deputy Chief Fire and Rescue Officer, Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service
NON-PANEL MEMBERS PRESENT:	Mr R Clifton Mr J Munton Mr G Plews Miss G Waller	
APOLOGIES:	None received.	

503   RECORD OF MEETINGS

The Record of the Meeting of the Places Scrutiny Panel held on 30 October 2014, copies of which had been previously circulated, was confirmed and signed

by the Chairman.

504 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

505 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

No petitions, deputation or questions had been received.

506 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS

No Questions with Notice had been received from members.

507 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS

No Notices of Motion had been received from members.

508 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.

509 PRESENTATION FROM THE LEICESTERSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

The scrutiny panel received a presentation from the Chief Fire and Rescue Officer Mr David Webb and the Deputy Chief Fire and Rescue Officer Mr Richard Chandler on the Integrated Risk Management Plan 2015-2020 Consultation.

The following points were noted during discussion:

- There are only two areas in Rutland that are not rated low or very low risk. The reason for this is due to the risk of the A1 road.
- Oakham Fire Station is the quietest all time fire station in the area.
- The highest number of calls in Rutland are false alarms.

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Mr Baines entered the room 7.23pm
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- Mr Webb confirmed the aspects of the plan being consulted are finance aspects.

- It is possible to have a £5 rise in the precept which is above the cap and a precedent has been set for a special dispensation to allow an above cap precept rise.
- It is not likely that sharing with the ambulance and police services in Rutland was a viable option as there are legal constraints although the option for combining services with other fire authorities has been looked at although if that was to happen then there would be a need for parity.
- Even if the Fire Authority agree to all of the cost savings then there will still be a deficit of £1.5million.
- It was asked why the fire service is building a new fire station in Castle Donington to which Mr Webb confirmed that as it has been identified as a high risk area it is strategically important to have a fire station located in the area.
- Even though one of the ideas is to remove Oakham's second fire engine, Rutland as a whole will still have two fire engines.
- It was noted that the first engine will still get to an incident within the statutory time limit and the second engine will still arrive. There will be no reduction in how many engines turn up to the incident but there might be an increase in the time that a second engine will arrive.
- The point was raised that on some occasions it might be quicker if an out of area fire engine responds to an in area incident. Leicestershire does also occasionally attend out of area incidents and then the costs are netted off and then anything above the netted figures is paid for.
- It was confirmed that there will be no change in the fire provision for Uppingham.
- Oakham's second fire engine is staffed by a retained crew and is available 67% of the time.
- It was noted that 75% of the budget is spent on people and the proportion of frontline staff to back room staff is 4:1.

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Miss Waller left the meeting and did not return 8.30pm
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- Growth and new housing had been taken into account when assessing risk and the Fire Service have found that across the country new housing does not bring new risk.
- It was noted that future infrastructure developments could be jeopardised as a result of the changes proposed by the Fire Service.
- By removing Oakham's second fire station the Fire Service will be saving £140,000.

- Melton is a higher risk area than Oakham and Oakham has a higher service provision than Melton. It would make no sense to downgrade the service provision of Melton in order to maintain the strength of Oakham which is already stronger and quieter.
- It was noted that from a management point of view the proposals are the best possible and that Rutland is getting its fair share in terms of fire service provision.
- Any confusion about potential privatisation of the service may come from the fact that the Defence Fire and Rescue Service, which is the fire service for British defence estates and property, is currently out to tender.

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Mr Lammie left the meeting 9.07pm
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- Out of 38000 residents living in Rutland a total of 27 attended the consultation session at Oakham Rugby Club.

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Mr Lammie entered the room 9.09pm
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AGREED:
The chair thanked Mr Webb and Mr Chandler for attending and presenting to the Places Scrutiny Panel.

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The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9.13pm.

Mr Baines, Mr Begy, Mr Bool, Mr Clifton, Mr Hollis, Mr Munton, Mr Oxley, Mr Plews, Mr Pocock and Mr Walters left the meeting and did not return.

The Chair reconvened the meeting at 9.18pm
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510 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT 2014/15 QUARTER 2

Report 245/2014 was received from the Director of Resources.

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Places (Development) and Finance, Mr King, introduced the report the purpose of which was to inform Cabinet on how the Council was performing against its revenue and capital budgets and report a forecast year end outturn position as at the 30 September 2014.

The following points were noted during discussion:

- It was noted that in relation to page 4 question 2.1 some SEN transport savings have not been saved.
- In relation to page 4 question 5.1 the Digital Rutland project has been extended to cover areas that were originally going to be covered by a commercial rollout but are no longer going to receive a commercial coverage.
- The point was raised that the take up on the Pass Plus scheme has dropped by 84% and this was due to an introduction of a 50% contribution towards the cost of the Pass Plus course.

AGREED:

i)   That the content of Report No. 245/2014 be noted.

511 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT – QUARTER 2 2014/15

Report No. 239/2014 from the Chief Executive was received.

The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Places (Development) and Finance, Mr King, introduced the report the purpose of which was to report to Cabinet on the Council's Performance for the second quarter of 2014/15.

AGREED:

i)   That the content of Report No.239/2014 be noted.

512 SCRUTINY PROGRAMME 2014/15 & REVIEW OF FORWARD PLAN

Members were advised that the Community Infrastructure Levy is being presented at Cabinet on 6 January 2015.

513 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There was no other urgent business.

514 DATE AND PREVIEW OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 29 January 2015 at 7pm.

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The Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.45pm
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