



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 26 March 2015**

PRESENT: Mr J T Dale (Chairman, in the Chair)
Mr M E Baines
Mrs C Cartwright
Mr W Cross
Mr D Hollis
Mr A Walters

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mr D Brown Director for Places (Environment, Planning & Transport)
Mrs S Baker Senior Planning Officer (for part of the meeting)
Mrs D Greaves Finance Manager – Accounting
Ms N Brown Corporate Support Officer

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr M D A Pocock Portfolio Holder for Places (Environment & Transport) and Resources
Mr T King Portfolio Holder for Places (Development and Finance)

APOLOGIES: Mr J Lammie
Mr M Oxley
Mrs C Vernon

ABSENT: Mr D Richardson

862 RECORD OF MEETING

The Record of the Meetings of the Places Scrutiny Panel held on 14 January 2015 and 29 January 2015, copies of which had been previously circulated, were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

863 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mr Baines confirmed that he had been Chairing the Uppingham Neighbourhood Plan task group, but not in his capacity as a Councillor.

Mr King confirmed that he had referred to the Monitoring Officer regarding his involvement in the Cottesmore Neighbourhood Plan for clarity and had received confirmation that he was able to take part in this meeting.

864 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

No petitions, deputation or questions had been received.

865 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS

No Questions with Notice had been received from members.

866 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS

No Notices of Motion had been received from members.

867 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.

868 DRAFT COTTESMORE NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Report No. 65/2015 was received from the Director for Places (Development and Economy).

Mr King introduced the report the purpose of which was to consider the draft Cottesmore Neighbourhood Plan consultation document and the issues identified and report any comments back to Cottesmore Parish Council.

The following points were noted during discussion:

- i) There had been some issues, identified in section 4.4 of the report, that need to be addressed in order for the Cottesmore Neighbourhood Plan to satisfy the current planning policy framework in Rutland. These were not considered major changes and once addressed, the CNP would be in conformity with the policy framework;
- ii) Cottesmore Parish Council had been made aware that the Site

Allocations and Core Strategy are subject to review and amendments had been made to take account of changes in national guidance regarding affordable housing;

- iii) The CNP was supportive of the site allocations document. Some areas had been specified for safeguarding from development, , and no sites had been specifically allocated for development at this time;
- iv) Members commented that the maps in the report provided to them were very small and so difficult to read; and
- v) The Chair commended Cottesmore Parish Council for the work that had gone into producing this document.

AGREED:

- 1. The Panel were supportive of the Cottesmore Neighbourhood Plan and agreed that it should continue in line with the process.

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Mrs S Baker left the meeting and did not return.

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869 QUARTER 3 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT 2014/15

Report No. 40/2015 was received from the Director for Resources.

The 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 31 December 2014.

The Following points were noted in discussion:

- i) There had been a number of variances within the report, but most areas were in or around budget;
- ii) The forecast for the Places Directorate was that there would be an underspend against the revised budget;
- iii) The most significant variances in the Places (Environment, Planning & Transport) were in highways, this had been caused by complications with applying costs and savings across multiple cost centres, and home to school transport;
- iv) The savings in the home to school transport budget had been achieved by some rationalisation, but also from income received for places purchased for non-entitled children. The home to school transport service runs from September to September, but the budget is set to run from April to April so it could be difficult to envisage what services would be required at the time the budget is

- set;
- v) Proposals being put forward for a new school in Oakham would improve the home to school transport budget as it would avoid having to transport children from Oakham, where the demand for places is high, to schools in the villages, where there is currently capacity;
 - vi) The underspend for salt due to the mild winter would not appear until Quarter 4. Any underspend in this area would be transferred to a reserve for winter maintenance to give resilience in case of more severe winter conditions in the future;
 - vii) The street cleaning budget was a stable one, allowing for a programme of sweepers and litter picking gangs to work to a schedule covering the County. Where there were problem areas, the gangs could be diverted to these areas;
 - viii) The effectiveness of litter picking was dependent on the season;
 - ix) The variance detailed for Waste and Amenities was due to agency staff covering staff posts for maternity leave and long term sickness. The members of staff concerned were now back at work. Any queries in relation to this area could be directed to Mr Mark Loran the replacement for George Chase; and

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was recommended that the public and the press be excluded from the meeting in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1092, as amended, and in accordance with the Access to Information provisions of Procedure rule 239, as the following item of business was likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

RESOLVED

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting in accordance with Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1092, as amended, and in accordance with the Access to Information provisions of Procedure rule 239, as the following items of business were likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

Members agreed to move into exempt session so that the Portfolio Holder could provide information regarding the payment of s.106 funds.

The Meeting continued in public.

- x) It was confirmed that the sale of Barleythorpe Hall had now been agreed subject to conditions and that applications for proposals for the Hall had been submitted.

AGREED:

1. That the content of report No. 40/2015 be noted.

870 QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT 2014/15

Report No. 41/2015 from the Chief Executive was received.

The 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 third quarter of 2014/15.

The Following points were noted in discussion:

- i) Some affordable homes on the Braunston Road development in Uppingham had been delayed due to the provision of services being behind schedule;
- ii) There would be an increase in the number of affordable homes going forward;
- iii) The Portfolio Holder confirmed that he had done some advertising on Rutland Radio in order to encourage people to put themselves on the housing list and this had led to an increase of people on the list;
- iv) It was confirmed that where a number of affordable houses came onto the list at one time, they were offered within the County for a short period of time and after this time they could be offered outside of County. A more phased approach to the release of affordable homes would assist with this situation to ensure that more are offered within County;
- v) The possibility of Registered Social Landlords or even the Local Authority purchasing the affordable homes and then releasing them in a phased way was raised, along with the possibility of changing the scoring system to include those people working within the County; and
- vi) The policy on affordable housing would need to be reviewed.

AGREED:

1. That the content of Report No. 41/2015 be noted.

871 SCRUTINY PROGRAMME 2014/15 & REVIEW OF FORWARD PLAN

The Chairman, Mr Dale, requested that Members advise him of any items.

872 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There was no other urgent business.

873 DATE AND PREVIEW OF NEXT MEETING

To be confirmed.

The Chairman wished to thank the panel for their support over last few years and also thanked officers for their support.

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The Chair declared the meeting closed at 7:50pm

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