



Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP
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Record of a meeting of the **CORPORATE SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham at 7.00pm on **Thursday 7 October 2010**

PRESENT: Mr N Wainwright – Chairman (in the Chair)
Cpt V Dighé
Mr T C Ellis
Mr P J W Golden
Mr P D Ind
Mr B W Roper

Also in Attendance: Mr T C King Portfolio Holder for Development and Finance

OFFICERS PRESENT: Mrs V Brambini Head of Capital Projects (for part of the meeting)
Miss D Muddimer Strategic Director, Resources
Miss T D Stokes Democratic Services Manager

APOLOGIES: Mr T G Lovell

450 RECORD OF MEETING

The Record of the Meeting of the Corporate Services Scrutiny Panel held on 29 July 2010, copies of which had been previously circulated, was confirmed and signed by the Chairman

451 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Regulations, Members were invited to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they might have and the nature of those interests in respect of items on the Agenda and/or indicate if Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applied to them.

During consideration of agenda item number 7, Catmose Campus Update, Mr Wainwright declared a personal interest as a Governor of the College.

452 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

No petitions, deputation or questions had been received from members of the public.

453 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS

No questions had been received from members.

454 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS

No Notices of Motion had been received from members.

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

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

SCRUTINY

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Prior to consideration of the following item of business, Mr Wainwright declared a personal interest as a Governor of the Catmose College.

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456 CATMOSE CAMPUS UPDATE

An update on Catmose Campus was received from the Head of Capital Projects and the Portfolio Holder.

Issues considered:-

- i) Construction Programme – 10 days behind schedule primarily due to poor weather conditions earlier in the programme. It had been agreed to allow the construction to be ongoing by two weeks. Although no action was likely to be taken in respect of the delay, a review would be undertaken if further delays arose.
- ii) Fit-Out and Opening – completion of fitting-out the new learning, sport and community areas was scheduled to be finalised by the end of December 2010 however, this was dependent upon agreement on the terms of occupation and management of the community spaces which could result in delayed opening (originally intended for January 2011).
- iii) Budget and Expenditure – the construction contract remained within budget, with some contingency remaining uncommitted to date. Potential for some underspend in the FF&E and ICT budget. However, this would accommodate the expected overspend in terms of consultancy and staffing costs caused by the overrun of the project.
- iv) Residential Development – plans for maximising the developable area of the site had been drawn up and were due to be submitted. Housing development was due to commence in March 2011.

The Portfolio Holder updated the Panel on the ongoing issues relating to the management of the community spaces within the new College. Mediation had resulted in some progress being made, however, further requests were being received from the College regarding, for example, the length of the lease and additional issues relating to safeguarding were now being raised. Due to the ongoing issues, the opening date of the new College was likely to be jeopardised and concern was expressed regarding the non-occupation of the site.

During discussion of this item and to enable clarification to be sought on the detail of the contract and financial clarification, it was

RESOLVED

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting to allow discussion to take place as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Following further discussion relating to moving the project forward, the public and press were re-admitted to the meeting.

Clarification was sought in respect of slippage in the construction programme which, it was confirmed, remained at 10 days. However, it was possible that completion was not likely to happen for some time after 3 November 2010. An overlap with fit-out will need to be very closely managed.

In conclusion, members stressed the importance of occupying the site as soon as possible and the need to ensure the College was able to be opened on time. This would necessitate ongoing discussions with the College representatives, Governors and Local Authority representatives regarding, in particular, finalising the lease arrangements for management of the community spaces.

AGREED:-

- 1) That the update on Catmose Campus be noted.
- 2) That officers' input to progressing the project be recognised.

457 LITTLE BUILD UPDATE

It was noted that the rebuild of Oakham Church of England Primary School (the Little Build) was progressing well and remained within the allocated budget. Completion remained on target for occupation by September 2011 with demolition of the old school building thereafter.

During discussion, the following was raised:-

- i) clarification was sought in respect of the suitability of wooden framed buildings;
- ii) assurance was provided regarding the District Auditor's enquiries relating to value for money of the project and that a well managed scheme was being delivered to the community;
- iii) the transfer of children from the existing Parks School to the new facilities on Burley Road would provide well equipped space and better facilities for children with special needs;
- iv) it was intended that the existing Parks School site would be disposed of and "returned to the Council's Capital Budget".

AGREED:-

That the update on the "Little Build" project be noted.

458 BETTER SCHOOLS FOR ALL UPDATE

Referring to the programme of works for the schools within the Better Schools for All (BS4A) project, it was noted that works would be undertaken in three phases . Phase 1 was carried out in Summer 2010, phase 2 from October 2010 and phase 3 in Summer 2011.

It was noted that overspends were likely in respect of two schools (Edith Weston and Ryhall) due to their poor condition however, it was anticipated that this would be balanced against savings in other schools whilst reserving the option of approved borrowing being taken up if required.

The project would continue to be monitored to ensure delivery against the themes outlined within BS4A Strategy.

During discussion, it was noted:-

- i) that for the next meeting, costings be provided against each programme of works for those schools earmarked for improvement;
- ii) Uppingham Church of England Primary School would be moved into Phase 2 (October 2010);
- iii) clarification was sought regarding Southfield Primary School's position in view of the school being managed by Catmose College's Principal;
- iv) referring to Ketton Primary School (phase 3), it was noted that further work would be required on the school's high level aspirations;
- v) it was for the school to explore avenues of assistance with the Diocese (Ketton Primary School);
- vi) referring to Ketton Library and the possibility of incorporating the facility into the school, it was indicated that further work was required; and
- vii) referring to phase 3, it was noted that further work was required in respect of the three schools (ie Great Casterton, Cottesmore and Ketton) with a view to justifying the works identified.

AGREED:-

That the update on Better Schools for All be noted and that costings regarding the programme of works be provided at the next meeting of the Panel.

459 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT QUARTER 1 – 2010/11

Report No 177/2010 from the Chief Executive which was considered by the Cabinet on 7 September 2010, was received.

Consideration was given to the Council's performance against the Performance Management Framework for the quarter ending 30 June 2010. The Panel noted that

progress may have altered since the report was considered by Cabinet and since the statistics were gathered.

Members noted the improvements in customer services' performance and sickness absence which had decreased compared to the same period last year. The overall summary of current performance as at 18 August 2010 was outlined in Appendices A and B.

The Strategic Director for Resources undertook to investigate and report back on the following queries:-

- i) Further clarification was sought in respect of being able to process the number of planning applications coming forward which, it was noted, were currently within the red category; and
- ii) NI039 – clarification was sought in respect of the figure stated for the rate of hospital admissions per 100,000 for alcohol related harm.

AGREED:-

That the contents of Report No 177/2010 as presented to the Cabinet on 7 September 2010, be noted.

460 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT QUARTER 1 – 2010/11

Report No 178/2010 from the Chief Executive which was considered by the Cabinet on 7 September 2010, was received.

Consideration was given to the Council's performance against its revenue and capital budgets and the forecast out-turn position as at 30 June 2010.

During her introduction, the Strategic Director for Resources highlighted the number of in-year budget savings resulting in an additional £400,000 (approx) to be transferred to general reserves.

It was noted that Cabinet decided that proposals in respect of forecast revenue overspends would form part of the work on the Medium Term Financial Plan.

Further points noted included:-

- i) £11,000 underspend, transfer from earmarked reserves;
- ii) Central training budget on target;
- iii) IRIS project overspend due to ongoing development of the system and temporary staffing to manage the project. Clarification was sought in respect of the cost of the Agresso system, functionality and continued use of consultants. However, it was noted that to date, approximately £100,000 of savings had resulted following the implementation of Agresso and with further development and usage, additional savings should accrue. It was anticipated that the system would be fully developed and operational by 31 March 2011.

AGREED:-

That the contents of Report No 178/2010 as presented to the Cabinet on 7 September 2010, be noted.

PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS AND TOPICS

461 SCRUTINY PROGRAMME 2010/11 AND REVIEW OF FORWARD PLAN

No items received.

462 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

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

463 DATE AND PREVIEW OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 18 November 2010 at 7.00pm

- Update on Better Schools For All to include breakdown of costs for works to primary schools.
- Update on Post 16 budget.
- It was agreed that the Agenda for 18 November 2010 be flexible to allow for discussions relating to reorganisation and savings following the Comprehensive Spending Review to be announced by the Government on 20 October 2010.

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The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.40pm.

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