



# Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP.  
Telephone 01572 722577 Facsimile 01572 75307 DX28340 Oakham

Minutes of the **MEETING of the GROWTH, INFRASTRUCTURE AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY PANEL** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham on Thursday, 31st August, 2017 at 7.00 pm

**PRESENT:** Mr J Lammie (Chair)  
Mr O Bird  
Mr A Mann  
Mr G Brown (as  
substitute for Mr  
W Cross)

**APOLOGIES:** Mr E Baines  
Mr A Stewart  
Mr W Cross

**OFFICERS  
PRESENT:**

|              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Mrs D Mogg   | Director for Resources                                    |
| Mr D Brown   | Director for Places (Environment, Planning and Transport) |
| Mr D West    | Technical Lead Officer                                    |
| Mr K Silcock | Corporate Support Officer                                 |

**IN  
ATTENDANCE:**

|              |  |
|--------------|--|
| Mr T Mathias | Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Places (Highways, Transport and Market Towns)      |
| Mr O Hemsley | Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Growth, Trading Services and Resources (except Finance) |
| Mr A Walters | Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Culture, Sport & Recreation and Environment             |
| Mr I Arnold  | Ward Member for Whissendine  |

## **205 RECORD OF MEETING**

The Record of the Meeting of the Growth, Infrastructure and Resources Scrutiny Panel held on 15 June 2017 was confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**206 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

**207 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS**

No petitions, deputations or questions had been received.

**208 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS**

No questions with notice had been received from Members.

**209 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS**

No notices of motion had been received from Members.

**210 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.

**211 QUARTER 1 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT 2017/18**

Report No. 141/2017 was received from the Chief Executive.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i. Mr Brown questioned whether it was normal that there was more absence in winter than summer. Mrs Mogg noted that it is generally expected, and would circulate further information as the management team analyse this data.
- ii. It was noted that the planning application targets are nationally set, however the targets may not be appropriate to Rutland as the Council has generally hit the 100% mark and the targets were significantly lower.
- iii. Fly tipping was still being monitored. The Council investigates where possible to identify the culprit.
- iv. Composters would be promoted if the charge for green bins was approved.
- v. Affordable housing has remained an issue, but this was being addressed. It was noted that people brought up in Rutland tended to move to places such as Northamptonshire rather than stay in Rutland as there were cheaper housing options. Housing developers had focused on developing larger houses, but it was hoped that development of the St George's Barracks site could address this issue.

**AGREED**

That the Panel **NOTED** the content of the report.

## 212 QUARTER 1 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT 2017/18

Report No. 147 was received from the Director for Resources.

### **AGREED**

That the Panel **NOTED** the content of the report.

## 213 TECHNICAL REFORM OF COUNCIL TAX REVIEW

Report No. 148/2017 was received from the Director for Resources.

During discussion the follow points were noted:

- i. The consultation had been sent out to a select number of groups that would be involved in the review.
- ii. There would be an element of how RCC compare to other Local Authorities, when recommendations go to Cabinet.
- iii. If applied it would mean an income equivalent of a 1% tax rise.
- iv. Responses so far from the consultation had been broadly supportive.

### **AGREED**

That the Panel **NOTED** the content of the report.

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Mr West left the meeting at 8.00pm and did not return

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## 214 LOCALISM REPORT

A presentation was received from the Director for Places (Environment, Planning and Transport), Dave Brown.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i. The Chair asked the Panel what approach should be taken in regards to Parish/Town Councils taking on more responsibilities.
- ii. An issue was raised that there had been a high number of resignations from Parish Councillors; the workload had increased for the Clerks and Councillors with legislations that needed to be discussed that led to agendas with 40 items.
- iii. Transparency code requirements have not been met by some Parish/Town Councils.
- iv. Planning training has been set up for Parishes on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2017.
- v. The Chair suggested that a Working Party of Members be created to provide an approach. The Party would gather evidence, provide updates to each of the panel meetings, and formulate a timescale.
- vi. It was noted that this would need to go through Council to be set up.

## **AGREED**

The Panel **RECOMMENDS** that a working party be established to look at Localism and report back to the Growth, Infrastructure and Resources Scrutiny Panel. The Working Group would be made up of no less than four Rutland County Council Members, and would be open to all non-Cabinet Members. Terms of reference would be presented to full Council on 9 October 2017.

### **215 SCRUTINY PROGRAMME 2017/18 & REVIEW OF FORWARD PLAN**

The Forward Plan was reviewed.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i. The Chair suggested possible agenda items for future Scrutiny Panels:
  - a) Local Plan Consultation Draft
  - b) Update from the Localism Working Party
  - c) Fees and Charges
  - d) Local Flood Risk Management Strategy

### **216 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no other urgent business.

### **217 DATE AND PREVIEW OF NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 16 November 2017 at 7pm

Items to include: Q2 Performance Management Report  
Q2 Financial Management Report

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Chairman closed the meeting at 9.07 pm.

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