



# **Rutland County Council**

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP.

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Minutes of the **MEETING of the GROWTH, INFRASTRUCTURE AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY PANEL** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham on Thursday, 16th November, 2017 at 7.00 pm

**PRESENT:**

Mr J Lammie (Chair)

Mr I Arnold

Mr E Baines

Mr O Bird

Mr G Brown

Mr W Cross

Mr A Mann

**OFFICERS**

**PRESENT:**

Mrs H Briggs

Chief Executive

Mr D Brown

Director for Places (Environment, Planning and Transport)

Mr S Della Rocca

Assistant Director – Finance

Mr R Ranson

Planning Policy Manager

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

Miss G Waller

Ward Member for Normanton

## **377 RECORD OF MEETING**

The Record of the Meeting of the Growth, Infrastructure and Resources Scrutiny Panel held on 31 August 2017 was confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **378 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mr Baines declared an interest in item 10 of the agenda as he had close family members that owned a property on High Street West, Uppingham.

### **379 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS**

No petitions, deputations or questions had been received.

### **380 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS**

No questions with notice had been received from Members.

### **381 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS**

No notices of motion had been received from Members.

### **382 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.

### **383 QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Report No. 193/2017 was received from the Chief Executive.

Mr Mathias gave a brief introduction for the report. The Quarter 2 reports were more important than in previous years, with their being a less in depth report for Quarter 1, this quarter gives a better direction for the year.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i. The number of affordable homes delivered was still not achieving its target. An officer had looked at funds that the Council had to contribute to affordable housing; once the figures had been sorted it would be possible to move further. There would need to be a definition of what affordability was as house prices in Rutland were higher than a lot of places. The Chair reported that a number of under 35's were going out of the county to buy houses due the high costs in Rutland.
- ii. It was noted that up to date figures for residual household waste per household and % of household waste sent for reuse, recycling or composting could take time as they needed to be validated. It would be better to look at the figures year to year.
- iii. It was praised that the Council's average sickness days lost per employee was almost half the national average.

### **384 QUARTER 2 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Report No. 191/2017 was received from the Director for Resources.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i. It was reported that the Council was aware that some of the services from Spire Homes had not been well managed, however the Council and Spire Homes were beginning to form a working relationship.
- ii. It was noted that part of the increase in the projected budget deficit related to requests for the unspent budget to be carried forward to meet ongoing

- obligations. Cabinet would then decide at the end of the year whether requests would be agreed or not. It would often be the case that funds could not be spent on anything else due to the on-going need for that work or because they are ring fenced.
- iii. The increase to the Chief Executive Office budget was due to the approved One Public Estate work. This is a one off increase.
  - iv. The Council gets a good interest rate on treasury investments considering the extreme cautiousness on investments, but there could be a significant increase if greater risk was taken. A paper would be going to Council regarding this matter.
  - v. The Legal forecast was currently being reviewed by the new Head of Governance as the legal budget could be overspent if the rate of spending continued. It was noted that staff were getting more confident dealing with legal queries themselves rather than referring to Peterborough legal services, which was one of the causes of high expenditure.

### **385 LOCALISM WORKING PARTY - TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Chairman of the Panel, Mr Lammie, advised that at the last meeting the Panel chose to take Localism forward as a task and finish group. The Panel were asked to consider the draft Terms of Reference for the working group.

#### **AGREED**

That the Terms of Reference for the Task and Finish Group be APPROVED.

### **386 RUTLAND LOCAL PLAN - CONSULTATIVE DRAFT**

Report No. 201/2017 was received from the Chief Executive.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i. There had so far been a healthy response from the consultation process with comments being taken into consideration for the next version of the Local Plan.
- ii. A further consultation would take place prior to its submission to the Secretary of State.
- iii. On page 11, the report referred to consultation bodies that the authority considered appropriate. These included statutory bodies, other Councils, and community road shows. Mr Ranson would send out information regarding community involvement after the meeting to Members.
- iv. It was noted that there had been alterations to existing housing allocations which were not built or were under construction due to re-appraisals, and these were set out in the policies and maps.
- v. There was confusion on the definition of convenience goods and comparison goods. Mr Ranson noted to include them in the glossary.
- vi. The appraisals for the remainder of the conservation areas would monitor change and identify opportunities for enhancement. There was the possibility of seeking support from a specialist from South Kesteven to enable progress to be made with conservation area appraisals. The Council would need to find resource to do this and put together a work programme.
- vii. Mr Cross asked what the difference was between a small service centre and a small village. Mr Ranson would provide a website link to clarify segregation of settlements.

- viii. Mr Brown mentioned that alongside building new houses, there needs to be work done to get more employment in the county or it would not be sustainable. Mr Ranson noted the need for suitable sites and would be happy for any additional suggestions to the provisional sites which have been identified.
- ix. The infrastructure delivery plan that covered health, education, water, power and transportation would be included in the next stage of the Local Plan.
- x. It was noted that there would be further mention of St George's Barracks in the next iteration of the Local Plan. Mrs Briggs noted that information on how the barracks worked with the Local Plan was available as a PowerPoint document on the website.

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Mr Ranson left the meeting at 8.48pm and did not return.

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### **387 LOCAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

Report No. 202/2017 was received from the Director for Places (Environment, Parking and Transport).

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i. The latest Environment Agency (EA) modelling of surface water flooding identified Oakham as being a high risk area despite floods being rare. The Council had requested more detailed modelling as it did not take into account the draining systems and culverts that are in place.

### **388 OAKHAM TOWN CENTRE**

The Panel received a verbal update regarding Oakham town centre from Mr Mathias.

On the 10<sup>th</sup> October 2017, Cabinet approved the selection of Option A (one-way), as the preferred option to be taken forward for detailed design.

Public displays had been shown at Oakham Library and had generated significant interest. As well as general plans for the town centre, the displays showed the materials that would be used, such as the type of paving.

The Council were aware of a petition against the idea of a one way system; however it had not yet been delivered to the Council. If it was formally submitted to the Council it would be considered in accordance with the Council's Petitions Guidance.

Consultation letters would be sent to residents in the surrounding identifying areas where changes would be happening and how it affected where they lived.

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

The Chair reported that due to the heavy agenda of the meeting, another Panel meeting was called for 07 December at 7pm to take further items identified below before they went to Cabinet.

### **390 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no other urgent business.

### **391 DATE AND PREVIEW OF THE NEXT MEETING**

Thursday 07 December 2017 at 7pm

Items to include:     Fees and Charges 2018/19  
                             Signs Policy  
                             Oakham Enterprise Park Development Strategy

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Chairman closed the meeting at 9.07 pm.

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