



# Rutland County Council

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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, 7th December, 2017 at 7.00 pm

**PRESENT:** Mr J Lammie (Chair)  
Mr I Arnold  
Mr N Begy  
Mr E Baines  
Mr W Cross

**APOLOGIES:** Mr O Bird  
Mr A Mann

## **OFFICERS**

**PRESENT:** Mrs H Briggs Chief Executive  
Mr D Brown Director for Places (Environment, Planning and Transport)  
Mr J Frieland Economic Development & Tourism Manager  
Mr N Tomlinson Senior Highways 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)  
Miss G Waller Ward Member for Normanton

## **455 RECORD OF MEETING**

The Record of the Meeting of the Growth, Infrastructure and Resources Scrutiny Panel held on 16 November 2017 was confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **456 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mr Baines declared an interest in item 8 of the agenda as he had an A-Board sign on High Street West in Uppingham.

#### **457 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS**

No petitions, deputations or questions had been received.

#### **458 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS**

No questions with notice had been received from Members.

#### **459 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS**

No notices of motion had been received from Members.

#### **460 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.

#### **461 FEES AND CHARGES 2018/19**

Report No. 213/2017 was received from the Director for Resources.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i. Mr Baines raised that it could be worth looking at setting residents parking permits at £500 per year. Mr Brown, Director for Places (Environment, Planning and Transport) reported that a parking review would be brought forward next year which would consider any potential change.
- ii. Mr Arnold questioned whether the brown signs fee could be raised further as the venues were benefitting from the signs. Mr Tomlinson raised that the brown tourism signs were for directing people to places and were not advertisement signs per say, and that the cost to the businesses was still fairly substantial.
- iii. Mr Cross suggested a 1 hour free parking as minimum to encourage more movement of parked vehicles. Mr Mathias reported that there would be a loss of revenue worth £50-70,000 if that were to be brought into place. It was pointed out that Tesco offered free parking for two hours, and as part of their planning application it was not limited to customers only.
- iv. Miss Waller questioned why the inflation increase was set at 2% when it was currently running at around 3%. Mr Mathias noted that the fees were looked at in September, there was no reason why next year it couldn't be taken into consideration that inflation was higher. Mrs Briggs, Chief Executive, suggested this was fed back to Mr Della Rocca, as changes could still be made.

#### **AGREED**

That the Panel **NOTED** the Report.

#### **462 SIGNS GUIDANCE & STREET FURNITURE POLICY**

Report No. 219/2017 was received from the Director for Places (Environment, Planning & Transport)

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i. Miss Waller noted regarding the A-Boards, the need to reduce street clutter, so that it was easier for people to move around the streets. The A-Boards needed to be defined more carefully taking into consideration colour and contrast so they could be easily visible for those visually impaired.
- ii. The Chair noted the need to stick to the policy and make sure to follow through with all aspects. Mr Mathias reported that while it would not be feasible to walk or drive down every road throughout the county every day or week, the Council is looking for the town centres to remain clean.
- iii. Mr Mathias asked that any further comments be brought forward by the end of January before the report was presented to Cabinet in April.

## **AGREED**

That the Panel **NOTED** the Report.

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Mr Tomlinson left the meeting at 7.45pm and did not return.

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## **463 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS**

### **RESOLVED**

That the public and press be excluded from the meeting in accordance with paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)).

## **464 OAKHAM ENTERPRISE PARK DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

Report No. 170/2017 was received from the Chief Executive.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i. It was noted that the proposal was in phases, the next phase would only begin when the previous had been completed.
- ii. Mr Begy noted that going for cheaper options from design to construction may not be best value as the Council could end up paying more on maintenance.
- iii. The rental income was a forecast and would increase, this was built into the business plan.
- iv. Mr Arnold mentioned that the head count for gaining employment seemed optimistic. Mr Frieland reported that with businesses moving to bigger units this would generate more employment opportunities. Mrs Briggs noted that there would also be employment opportunities from the construction work that would take place.
- v. Whilst the Ward Member was not on the Oakham Enterprise Park (OEP) Project Board they would be kept involved with any changes and were happy with the changes so far. Previously it had been that the Ward Member was also the Portfolio Holder.
- vi. The Chair congratulated Officers for the work that had been done and having taken on the changes after the Audit and Risk report regarding OEP.

- vii. It was noted that with other projects going forward such as The King Centre and St George's Barracks, there would be a need to make sure that OEP was not left unfinished. Mrs Briggs noted that the St George's Barracks would not be vacated until 2021, it would be a disappointment if OEP was not completed by then.
- viii. Mr Arnold asked whether the Council could use the media to celebrate the success of OEP. Mrs Briggs replied that they could try in the New Year.

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After discussion the Panel **APPROVED** that the meeting returned to public session.

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Mr Frieland left the meeting at 8.34pm and did not return.

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

- i. Mr Begy asked that the panel consider reviewing a policy regarding the conversion of barns. Mr Begy had written a detailed document on the subject and would circulate to the panel. The Chair noted that the Panel would take a look at the Scrutiny Panel in February.
- ii. Miss Waller asked that the Panel looked at the report regarding Uppingham Library when it was ready.

#### **466 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no other urgent business.

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

##### Budget Meeting

Thursday 25 January 2018 at 7pm

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Chairman closed the meeting at 8.46 pm.

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