



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, 15th November, 2018 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Mr B Callaghan (Chair)
Mr E Baines
Mr O Bird
Mr W Cross
Mr J Dale
Mrs J Fox
Mr A Mann

OFFICERS

PRESENT:	Mrs H Briggs	Chief Executive
	Mr S Della Rocca	Strategic Director for Resources
	Mr D Pye	Senior Transport Manager
	Mrs N Taylor	Governance Manager
	Mr K Silcock	Governance Officer

IN

ATTENDANCE:	Mr O Hemsley	Leader and Portfolio Holder for Rutland One Public Estate & Growth, Tourism & Economic Development, Resources (other than Finance)
	Mr G Brown	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Finance
	Mrs L Stephenson	Portfolio Holder for Culture and Leisure, Highways & Transport
	Mrs J Clough	Representative of the Oakham Town Task and Finish Group
	Miss G Waller	Ward Member for Normanton
	Mr A Walters	Ward Member for Oakham North East

416 APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

417 RECORD OF MEETING

The minutes of the meetings of the Growth, Infrastructure and Resources Scrutiny Panel held on 13 September 2018 were confirmed, subject to the change noted below, and signed by the Chairman.

The Panel agreed that the wording at minute number 249 discussion point iii) be amended to read “Regarding the recommendation for Mr O Bird to fill the Rutland County Council Vacancy, Mrs Fox stated that she felt the seat should remain vacant as most of the work of the group had been completed and there were only three meetings left. Mr Baines and Mr Cross supported the comments from Mrs Fox.”

The minutes of the Special Growth, Infrastructure and Resources Scrutiny Panel held on 11 October 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

418 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest had been received.

419 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

Two questions had been received from members of the public. Members had received the full text prior to the meeting:

1. Mr Norman Milne

“Following the special Scrutiny Panel meeting on 11 Oct 18 can you detail:

- a. The subsequent discussion the Panel has had following the meeting and the conclusions the Panel has drawn?
- b. How you have formulated recommendations to the Cabinet / Council following this meeting?
- c. When Cabinet / Council considered your recommendations?”

Answer

The Chair of the Panel responded to the question. The response is shown below:

“Following the meeting on 11 October 2018, I emailed the members of the Growth, Infrastructure and Resources Scrutiny Panel and requested feedback from the discussion at the meeting particularly in relation to issues around communication regarding the process, as raised by members of the public.

Formal recommendations to Cabinet and/or Council were not proposed or agreed by the Panel, however feedback received from members of the panel in response to my email has been forwarded to the relevant Portfolio Holder, Councillor Gordon Brown, for information.

Full Council will consider the issues raised as a part of the Local Plan making process. The approach to this is set by Statute and in addition to consideration by Full Council there is independent Examination of the Local Plan and compliance with the statutory processes through the Planning Inspectorate.”

Supplementary Question

“Will the information be made available to the Parish Council Liaison Group and the St George’s Barracks Advisory Board”

Answer

The Chair responded:

“All the information was in the minutes of the Special Growth, Infrastructure and Resources Scrutiny Panel.”

2. Mr Vic Pheasant on behalf of Mr Neil Newton

“All members of the Panel will have received by email, a letter from the St George’s Barracks Parish Councils’ Liaison Group (PCLG) directed to Cllr Hemsley. How will you, as Chairman of the Growth, Infrastructure and Resources Scrutiny Panel ensure that the issues raised in this letter are addressed?”

Answer

“In holding the Special Meeting held on the 11 October 2018 I have provided the opportunity to scrutinise the process of developing the St Georges Draft Master Plan. Members of the public were able to ask questions, through the council’s public speaking scheme, and a representative of the St George’s Advisory Group was invited to attend to provide a representation. Scrutiny Panel Members and other members present were able to ask further questions and scrutinise the process. As already confirmed, any comments received from members following the meeting were also provided to the relevant Portfolio Holder.

Whilst there might be a future opportunity for Scrutiny to be involved, this matter now rests with the Project Board and the Councils decision making and governance processes.”

420 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS

No questions were received from Members.

421 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS

No notices of motion were received from Members.

422 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 a call-in of a decision in accordance with Procedure Rule 206.

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The Chairman notified the Panel that the Oakham Town Task and Finish Group item would be taken before the Quarter 2 Finance Management Report.

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423 OAKHAM TOWN TASK AND FINISH GROUP FINAL REPORT

Report No. 214/2018 was received from the Strategic Director for Resources.

A brief introduction was provided by Mrs Helen Briggs, Chief Executive, and the Chairman, Mr Callaghan. Mr Callaghan highlighted that the group had worked very hard to prepare the final report and the Scrutiny Panel were now being requested to respond to the recommendations and decide whether to refer the report on to RCC Full Council.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i. The Panel appreciated the amount of work that had gone into the report and the difficulties the group overcame with an extremely positive outcome. The Chair commented that the Task and Finish Group were in an excellent position to make recommendations to Council.
- ii. Mr Cross noted that the Task and Finish Group was a good example of the democratic process.
- iii. Mrs Joy Clough, representative of the Oakham Town Task and Finish Group suggested that the Chairman for the Partnership Group would need to be someone who understood Oakham and the issues the town faces.
- iv. Mrs Briggs stated that in regards to recommendation 2 of the report, a feasibility study had begun to assess the deliverability of individual recommendations/proposals. It was noted that this work would take some time to complete given the nature of recommendations and that it would be a work in progress by the time the report was presented to Council in December.
- v. When asked if the report was approved by the Chair of the Task and Finish Group, Mr Callaghan responded that the report was a combination of a report by the Chair and a report by the Group. The final report was approved by the Group unanimously.
- vi. Mrs Clough clarified that membership of the Partnership Group would aim to represent stakeholders in the regeneration of Oakham Town, and that work would be streamlined once the Partnership Group had been formed in order to avoid duplication.
- vii. Miss Waller noted that further work was required in order to provide detail on costing for all the recommendations set out in the report and who would pay for them.
- viii. Mrs Clough confirmed that the Group would look at securing grant funding.
- ix. It was clarified that the Council would not be able to deliver the entire project by itself, there needed to be a partnership of organisations and the community, for example, many of the events within Rutland were setup by other organisations as well as Rutland County Council.

RESOLVED

The Panel **ENDORSED** the Report of the Oakham Town Task and Finish Group and **AGREED** the response of the Panel for Council consideration.

The Panel **REQUESTED** that officers undertake a high level feasibility study of the recommendations in the report in order to provide further detail regarding potential deliverability to Council in December.

The Panel **RECOMMENDS** to Council the approval of the Oakham Town Task and Finish Group Recommendations and Future Framework Report including establishing a budget of £2000 for initial funding of the Partnership Group

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The Chairman adjourned the meeting for five minutes to allow for members of the public attending the item regarding the Oakham Town Task and Finish Group to leave if they wished to.

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424 QUARTER 2 FINANCE MANAGEMENT REPORT

Report No. 193/2018 was received from the Strategic Director for Resources.

Mr Gordon Brown, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Corporate Finance, introduced the report, the purpose of which was to inform members of the full year forecast position as at Quarter 2 for 2018/19 and to alert them to issues that may impact on the Medium Term Financial Plan.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i. Mr Bird questioned that with the amount spent on pool and hire cars, should the Council consider electric cars. Mr Brown stated that discussion had been had on the issue. The reasons the Council acquired pool cars in the first place was to save the Council more than £200k in payments to essential car users per year. Another consideration would also need to be made regarding electric charging points throughout the community.
- ii. The occupancy of Oakham Enterprise Park was currently at 78% but would be close to 90% by then end of March. The King Centre should have an occupancy of 100% by the end of March.
- iii. The Chair questioned that the Planning and Licensing Committee had recently approved the development of Oakham Enterprise Park with new building and would that make the occupancy percentage worse. Mr Brown responded that the development was on hold until the Council was sure that the market was right for additional units. Market research was being done and would be included within the Oakham Enterprise Park Phase 2A Revised Business Plan report going to Cabinet on 15 January 2019.
- iv. The £85k from prudential borrowing on investigation works to determine future property maintenance requirements on Council owned assets would be paid to outside experts. Mrs Briggs confirmed that while the Council used to be able to get funding for supporting costs, funding was now harder to obtain.
- v. Mrs Fox noted she had seen information regarding match funding for improving boilers to keep costs down and would pass on the information to Mr Brown.
- vi. Mr Brown confirmed that there was hot desking available at the King Centre.
- vii. The Panel congratulated Mr Della Rocca, Strategic Director for Resources, and his team regarding the value of the savings made in the financial year.
- viii. Miss Waller questioned whether the Council charged Parish Councils for the emptying of their green waste bins. Mr Brown would look into the matter, he was aware the Council charged village halls, but was not sure about Parishes

- with cemeteries. Mr Brown would confirm and email members outside of the meeting.
- ix. Miss Waller stated that while she was not 100% in favour of the green waste collection charge at the start, she recognised that the introduction of the charge had been more than successful, with the intake being greater than expected. Miss Waller also noted that Cabinet should rethink initial thoughts on not increasing the fees by inflation. It would be easier for the public for an inflation increase rather than a larger sudden increase later down the line. Mr Brown confirmed it had been discussed at the Green Waste Project Group but that small inflationary charges every year of may be less preferable than say a £1 increase every few years.
 - x. Mr Brown confirmed that there had been no significant increase in fly-tipping since the introduction of the green waste collection charge.

RESOLVED

That the Panel **NOTED** the report.

425 LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN - MOVING RUTLAND FORWARD

A presentation was received from Mr Dave Pye, Senior Transport Manager at Rutland County Council.

During discussion the following points were noted:

- i. Mrs Stephenson, Portfolio Holder for Culture and Leisure, Highways & Transport noted that the consultation for the Local Transport Plan (LTP) ends on 19 January 2019 and would be happy to meet with any members in person or answer questions via e-mail.
- ii. When asked to what extent the Council were using volunteers and ramblers to keep public rights of way free, Mr Pye responded that his team were liaising with groups, and that a Local Access Forum may be needed for Rutland. In the past two years, the maintenance of public rights of way had been delivered by the Council. A structure had been put in place to make sure there was a lot more done in terms of maintenance for a lot less money, and getting the rights of way ready for the winter period to make sure they were still usable.
- iii. Mrs Stephenson confirmed that a link had been sent out to Parishes and Councillors asking for feedback on the LTP. A further push of communications was needed to make sure the Local Transport Plan was fit for Rutland.
- iv. Mrs Stephenson would look to making information within the LTP more accessible.
- v. Mrs Fox noted that there needed to be clear communication to residents regarding if a service was not use, the service may be taken away.
- vi. Mr Baines suggested that the main highlights of the LTP could be placed on a single sheet of paper, giving the opportunity for residents to give a more meaningful response from a simpler document.
- vii. Miss Waller commented that the team at RCC looking after the public rights of way were more effective than neighbouring authorities. When a complaint was received, they were quick to get on the case.
- viii. Mr Baines suggested the possibility of using the Uppingham and Oakham hoppers to incorporate villages in the surrounding areas.
- ix. The Chair suggested the use of smaller buses with multiple uses such as for delivery to bring the cost running buses down.

- x. Mrs Stephenson clarified to members that Call Connect was a bookable bus service that was available to anyone, whilst the Voluntary Action Rutland bus service was available for frail, elderly, disable and vulnerable people in Rutland.
- xi. Miss Waller commented that there had been a case where the bookable bus services were not able to provide a bus despite 8 days' notice and another case where a resident needed to attend a hospital appointment but the bus offered was after the hospital appointment was due to take place. Miss Waller suggested a subsidised taxi service could be more useful. Mr Hemsley commented that there used to be a token system for taxis and buses, Mr Pye confirmed that taxi and bus tokens were still in use.
- xii. Mr Brown noted that Barrowden and other parishes had a Good Neighbour Scheme which used volunteers from the village to provide help to anyone who needed assistance, which included travel to hospital appointments.

426 REVIEW OF FORWARD PLAN AND ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2018-19

The Panel reviewed the Forward Plan and the Scrutiny Panel's Annual Work Plan 2018/19.

427 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There was no other urgent business.

428 DATE AND PREVIEW OF NEXT MEETING

Scrutiny Panel Budget Meeting (TBC)

Wednesday 23 January 2018 at 7pm

Thursday 24 January 2018 at 7pm

Regular Scrutiny Panel Meeting

Thursday 14 February 2018 at 7pm

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Chairman closed the meeting at 9.15 pm.

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