



Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP

Telephone 01572 722577 Email governance@rutland.gov.uk

Minutes of the **MEETING of the STRATEGIC OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HP on Thursday, 9th June, 2022 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor G Waller (Chair)
Councillor N Begy (representing Councillor Ainsley)
Councillor E Baines
Councillor S Lambert
Councillor L Toseland
Councillor S Webb (Vice Chair)
Councillor D Blanksby (representing Councillor Wilson)

APOLOGIES

Councillor P Ainsley
Councillor K Bool
Councillor R Wilson

PORTFOLIO HOLDERS PRESENT

Councillor L Stephenson Leader and Portfolio Holder for Policy,
Strategy, Partnerships and Economy

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mark Andrews Chief Executive
Tom Delaney Governance Manager
Jane Narey (Clerk) Scrutiny Officer

ATTENDED

Councillor J Dale
Councillor P Browne

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Councillor Waller welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the new Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SOSC).

Apologies were received from Councillor Paul Ainsley, Councillor Ken Bool, Councillor Rick Wilson.

Councillor Nick Begy and Councillor David Blanksby were welcomed as the attending representatives for Councillors Ainsley and Wilson.

Councillor Waller also welcomed Councillor Jeff Dale to the meeting, who was attending as a non-voting member.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

There were no petitions, deputations and questions received.

4 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS

There were no questions with notice received from members.

5 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS

There were no notices of motion received from members.

6 CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTER REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE IN RELATION TO THE CALL-IN OF A DECISION

There were no call-ins received.

7 ELECTION AND APPOINTMENTS

a) ELECTION OF A VICE CHAIR

- Councillor Sue Webb was nominated for the role of Vice-Chair.
- There were no other nominations.

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Councillor Paul Browne joined the meeting at 7.04 p.m.as a non-voting member

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RESOLVED

That the Committee:

- a) Unanimously **APPROVED** Councillor Sue Webb as the Vice-Chair.

b) CONFIRMATION OF STATUTORY MEMBERS – EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVES

Councillor Waller informed attendees that the previous Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee had education representatives as statutory co-opted members to speak and vote on matters of education. Under the new scrutiny arrangements, the approved co-opted members would be invited to attend meetings of the SOSC when an education related matter was on the agenda.

- As per Procedure Rule 136, the following were nominated as the named education representatives:
 - i. Peter French, Church of England Diocese
 - ii. Sarah Stickland, Parent Governor
 - iii. Sian Armstrong, Parent Governor
 - iv. Andreas Menzies, Roman Catholic Diocese

RESOLVED

That the Committee:

- a) Unanimously **APPROVED** the named nominations as the Statutory Co-opted Members – Education Representatives to the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee for 2022-2023.

c) **ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Councillor Waller informed attendees that, as Chair of the SOSC, she would attend meetings of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Joint Health Scrutiny Committee but that an additional member and a substitute representative would be required to attend.

- Councillor Ainsley was nominated as the additional member.
- Councillor Toseland was also nominated as the additional member but she declined the nomination due to the time commitment required.
- There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED

That the Committee:

- a) Unanimously **APPROVED** Councillor Paul Ainsley as the additional member to the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Joint Health Scrutiny Committee for 2022-2023.

- Councillor Webb was nominated as the substitute representative.
- There were no other nominations.

RESOLVED

That the Committee:

- b) Unanimously **APPROVED** Councillor Sue Webb as the substitute representative to the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Joint Health Scrutiny Committee for 2022-2023 to attend meetings as and when required.

8 DRAFT IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Councillor Waller briefed attendees on the draft improvement plan for the new SOSC, which was requested by Council. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- All councillors would be invited to a scrutiny training session that was being organised by Governance.
- It was proposed and agreed that the draft improvement plan should be reviewed after members had received their scrutiny training.
- Improved communication with residents was raised and it was agreed that this should be incorporated into the proposed 'Customer Experience' item for addition to the committee's work plan.

9 ANNUAL WORK PLAN

Councillor Waller briefed attendees on the draft annual work plan, which had been compiled by the Corporate Leadership Team and Portfolio Holders. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The draft work plan and the list of options for addition to the work plan included items carried over from the previous scrutiny committee meetings and proposed upcoming items.
- Eight items were proposed for scrutiny by the committee:
 - i. Grounds Maintenance
 - ii. Museum and Castle (including future options)
 - iii. Local Plan – what are other Local Authorities doing?
 - iv. Use of CIL and S106 monies
 - v. Cost of home to school and SEND transport
 - vi. Speeding (including work done by the Highways Transport Working Group)
 - vii. VAR Closure – where have services re-located to?
 - viii. Prioritisation of sites for footpaths etc.
- Other items proposed by members included:
 - i. Homelessness
 - ii. Impact of Rail Expansion
 - iii. Children’s Services (including OfSTED readiness and Family Hubs)
 - iv. Fees and Charge – do we recover all costs?
 - v. Asset Review
- The Chief Executive reported that ambitious targets had been set for the Council to be net carbon zero so a Carbon Reduction Plan was required to achieve this. The committee was requested if it wanted to be involved in the creation of the plan e.g. by examining best practice of carbon reduction by other Local Authorities, private organisations and companies and so make recommendations for inclusion into the Carbon Reduction Plan.
- The Leader suggested looking at parish council re-charging as a whole rather than the specific charges just for grounds maintenance.
- The Chief Executive proposed that the committee included the scrutiny of the museum and castle as part of the Culture Review as this could include examination of other local authority best practice and the proposition of recommendations for inclusion into the Culture Review.
- Members were reminded that the committee must identify what difference would be made by scrutinising a subject and how the subject should be best scrutinised i.e. report to the SOSC, a Task and Finish Group, Evidence Panel, etc.
- Matters members needed to be aware of would not be brought to the SOSC ‘for information’ as done previously but would instead be circulated to all members for their attention.
- Members agreed that homelessness within the county should be a priority for the SOSC.
- It was agreed that the following items should be removed from the list of options to be scrutinised:
 - i. Local Plan – what are other Local Authorities doing?
Work had already been done on this subject matter so the SOSC would not add anything new.

- ii. Cost of home to school and SEND transport
Can be dealt with directly by officers.
 - iii. VAR Closure – where have services re-located to?
Can be dealt with directly by officers.
 - iv. Prioritisation of sites for footpaths etc.
Can be dealt with directly by officers.
- The subject matter of SEND: Delivery Better Value for investigation by the committee was raised.

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Councillor Leah Toseland declared a conflict of interest as her children received support from the SEND service. It was deemed that Councillor Toseland could stay in the meeting as the subject matter itself was not being discussed, just the proposed method of scrutiny.

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- At the meeting of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee on the 21st April 2022, Children's Services had confirmed the provision of a mediation service and that the committee had recommended active engagement with SEND Active Rutland to assist in the improvement of communication with parents. It was confirmed that the first mediation meeting had been held week beginning the 6th June 2022 and that the second mediation meeting was due at the end of June 2022.
- The Chief Executive emphasised that each Task and Finish Group, Evidence Panel etc must have clearly defined Terms of Reference detailing its purpose, aims and objectives, methodology and timetable.
- The Leader and the Chief Executive requested the committee's assistance in assessing the experience of customers when they contacted/dealt with the Council and its services. Understanding the journey and identifying what the Council does/does not do well would provide valuable information to the council as part of its transformation programme. The assessment could be undertaken by members through various means including discussions with customers and mystery shopper events.

RESOLVED

- a) Residents' access to dentistry services within Rutland was identified as a priority for scrutinising by the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee (SOSC). An update on Dental Services, providing information on the recovery of services across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) following COVID-19 and access to dentistry was presented at the LLR Joint Health Scrutiny Committee in November 2021. A further update would be considered at its next meeting on the 27 June 2022. However, it was felt that more detail relating to Rutland was needed and so the issue would be considered by the Rutland SOSC.
- b) An Evidence Panel comprising of Councillors Toseland, Lambert and Waller would be established to gather evidence regarding the issue of homelessness in the county and their findings reported to the SOSC.
- c) Councillor Begy would lead/establish an Evidence Panel to gather information about the implementation of the Council's Minerals Authority Contract and report

back to the SOSC. This item was first discussed by the Growth, Infrastructure and Resources Scrutiny Committee on the 10th February 2022, with an update report to follow within six months.

- d) Highways and transport remained an area of concern for Rutland residents – particularly the issue of speeding. It was agreed that the Chief Executive and the Leader would discuss this matter with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Highways and Transport and the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Environment and Climate Change to help inform the committee on the best method of scrutinising this important issue.
- e) Councillors Ainsley, Baines, Begy, Webb and P Browne would consider how to follow up on the SEND work that was started by the last Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee; especially in light of the Government's support via the Delivering Better Value programme.
- f) Councillor Waller would contact the non-executive councillors about the creation of a 'Customer Experience' Task and Finish Group to learn more about what Rutland residents experience when accessing Council services. The Task and Finish Group would be chaired by Councillor Begy.
- g) Councillors Waller and Webb would discuss with portfolio holders the following items for possible inclusion on to the Committee's Work Plan, ready for final approval at the next meeting:
 - i. Devolution
 - ii. Economic Development Strategy
 - iii. UK Prosperity Fund
- h) The Leader would discuss with the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Environment and Climate Change the possibility of an informal briefing session for all Councillors regarding the current status of the Culture Review and to identify what the SOSC could do to assist the Council as part of the review process.

10 RCC GUIDE TO STRATEGIC OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Councillor Waller briefed attendees on the proposed Guide to Strategic Overview and Scrutiny which was planned for publication on the Council's Overview and Scrutiny webpage. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The clarification regarding the difference between 'a public meeting' and 'a meeting held in public' was duplicated within the guide.
- The term 'citizen' needed changing to 'resident'.
- The SOSC must not duplicate or seek to overtly influence the work of other external bodies e.g. the Safer Rutland Partnership. Many of the external bodies are statutory groups and must be allowed to set their own agenda.
- The Proposal Form for the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Plan should be amended to be more accessible for use by the public as the current format would only be understood by officers.
- Members recommended that an executive summary of the guide be produced and that overall communication to engage the public must be improved.

- It was confirmed that information from the SOSC to Cabinet/Council would be presented using the most appropriate method, which would not always entail the use of the template shown in Appendix C of the guide.

RESOLVED

- a) The Guide to Strategic Overview and Scrutiny would be updated with the amendments recommended by the SOSC.

11 ANY URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 7th July 2022 at 7.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber at Catmose, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HP.

SUMMARY OF AGREED ACTIONS

No.	Ref.	Action	Person
1.	9	Councillors Toseland, Lambert and Waller to establish a Homelessness Evidence Panel to gather evidence regarding the issue of homelessness in the county and report their findings to the SOSC.	Councillors Toseland, Lambert and Waller
2.	9	In September 2022, Councillor Begy to lead/establish an Evidence Panel to gather information about the implementation of the Council's Minerals Authority Contract and report back to the SOSC.	Councillor Begy
3.	9	Chief Executive and the Leader to discuss highways and transport – particularly the issue of speeding - with the Portfolio Holder for Planning, Highways and Transport and the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Environment and Climate Change to help inform the committee on the best method of scrutinising this important issue.	Chief Executive / Leader of the Council
4.	9	Councillors Ainsley, Baines, Begy, Webb and Browne to consider how to follow up on the SEND work that was started by the last Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee; especially in light of the Government's support via the Delivering Better Value programme.	Councillors Ainsley, Baines, Begy, Webb and Browne

5.	9	Councillor Waller to contact the non-executive councillors about the creation of a 'Customer Experience' Task and Finish Group to learn more about what Rutland residents experience when accessing Council services.	Councillor Waller
6.	9	Councillors Waller and Webb to discuss with portfolio holders the following items for possible inclusion on to the Committee's Work Plan, ready for final approval at the next meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Devolution • Economic Development Strategy • UK Prosperity Fund 	Councillors Waller and Webb
7.	9	The Leader to discuss with the Portfolio Holder for Communities, Environment and Climate Change the possibility of an informal briefing session for all Councillors about the current status of the Culture Review and identify what the SOSC could do to assist the Council as part of the review process.	Leader of the Council

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Chair closed the meeting at 8.52 pm

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