



Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP

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Minutes of the **MEETING of the STRATEGIC OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HP on Thursday, 7th July, 2022 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor G Waller (Chair)
Councillor E Baines
Councillor P Browne
Councillor J Fox
Councillor L Toseland
Councillor S Webb (Vice Chair)

APOLOGIES

Councillor P Ainsley
Councillor N Begy
Councillor K Bool
Councillor S Lambert
Councillor R Wilson
Peter French, Statutory Co-Opted Member
Sarah Stickland, Statutory Co-Opted Member

**PORTFOLIO
HOLDERS
PRESENT**

Councillor S Harvey	Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Care
Councillor M Oxley	Portfolio Holder for Communities, Environment and Climate Change

**OFFICERS
PRESENT**

Penny Sharp	Strategic Director of Places
Angela Wakefield	Director of Legal and Governance
Vivienne Robbins	Consultant in Public Health
Jane Narey (Clerk)	Scrutiny Officer

ATTENDED

Councillor G Brown
Councillor R Payne

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES RECEIVED

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Councillor P Ainsley, Councillor N Begy, Councillor K Bool, Councillor S Lambert, Peter French and Sarah Stickland. Councillors Fox and Browne attended the meeting as the representatives for Councillors Begy and Bool respectively.

Councillors G Brown and Payne attended the meeting as non-voting members.

2 RECORD OF MEETING

The Chair requested that item 9e in the minutes of the meeting held on the 9th June 2022 be amended to include Councillor E Baines as part of the SEND group.

The remaining minutes of the meeting held on the 9th June 2022 were approved as an accurate record.

3 ACTIONS ARISING

The actions from the previous meeting were discussed and updated accordingly.

Action 1

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.

Item on the agenda for discussion.

Action 2

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.

Item deferred until January 2023 and added to the Work Plan.

Action 3

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.

The Chair had requested Councillor Bool to lead on this item as he had experience of a variety of different speeding concerns and so was well placed to view the problem Rutland wide. It was agreed that Councillor Bool would arrange a meeting with the Chief Executive, the Leader and the Strategic Director of Places to discuss the best way for this issue to be scrutinised.

ACTION: Councillor Bool

Action 4

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.

The Chair reported that she had asked Councillor Payne to be part of the SEND group and she confirmed that Councillor Webb would lead on the SEND item. A meeting had been arranged with Dawn Godfrey on the 15th July to discuss how best to continue scrutiny's work on this subject matter. It was agreed that the group (Councillors Ainsley, Baines, Begy, Browne, Payne and Webb) should meet before the 15th July and that Councillor Webb would confirm if Councillor Begy could continue to be part of the group.

ACTION: Councillor Webb

Action 5

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 confirmed that she had contacted the non-executive councillors. Councillor Toseland confirmed that she would like to be involved in this Task and Finish Group. It was agreed that Councillor Waller would speak with the Cabinet member regarding what the Task and Finish Group could do and by when and that Councillor Brown would contact Councillor Begy to confirm that he could still lead this Task and Finish Group.

ACTION: Councillors Waller and G Brown

Action 6

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: Devolution; Economic Development Strategy and UK Prosperity Fund. Councillors Waller and Webb confirmed that they were due to meet and would update at the next meeting.

ACTION: Councillors Waller and Webb

Action 7

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.

The Strategic Director of Places confirmed that a report had previously been developed by consultants on upgrading the existing museum facility. There had also been discussions with the previous portfolio holder with Scrutiny about the scope of a culture review. Both of these were put on hold due to the Covid pandemic. It was agreed that the culture review report would be circulated to members for their information.

ACTION: Jane Narey

It was agreed that Councillors G Brown, Fox and Waller would meet with the Strategic Director of Places, Councillor Oxley, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Environment and Climate Change and Councillor Payne, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Performance, Change and Transformation to produce a draft scoping document detailing what the Scrutiny Committee could do to assist as part of the Asset Review.

ACTION: Councillor G Brown

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

5 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

There were no petitions, deputations or questions.

6 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS

There were no questions with notice member members.

7 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS

There were no notices of motion from members

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

There were no call-ins

9 DENTAL SERVICES UPDATE

A copy of the report presented to the Joint Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee on the 27th June 2022 about the access to NHS Dental Services was received. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- Rose Lynch, Senior Commissioning Manager – Primary Care Dental Services (East), and her team would attend the next meeting of the Committee on the 8th September 2022 to answer members questions.

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Vivienne Robbins joined the meeting at 7.21 pm

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- The Portfolio Holder confirmed that all dental patients, including NHS dental patients, should be either triaged or referred by a dental practitioner in emergencies. Councillor Harvey, Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Care requested that details of cases where this had not occurred should be sent to her following consent from the member of public concerned.
- The Committee had the authority to call-in and question any health provider regarding the level and quality of service and notify the Secretary of State if required.
- It was noted that the Rutland MP had already written to the Secretary of State regarding the provision of dental health services in Rutland.
- Committee members identified the following specific areas for scrutinising:
 - Details of the Rutland dentists that were contracted to accept NHS patients should be distributed.
 - Data should be more Rutland specific.
 - What were the short-term solutions to the issues?
 - What were the long-term solution to the issues?
 - Joint Strategic Needs Assessment: was this a barrier for the provision of services?
 - What was being done to assist with the recruitment of dentists?
 - Was geography a barrier?
 - How were 'deprived areas' defined?

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Vivienne Robbins left the meeting at 7.51 pm

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10 HOMELESSNESS EVIDENCE PANEL: SCOPE

Councillor Waller distributed to attendees a scoping document for the work of the Homelessness Evidence Panel. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- Care leavers and the armed forces community needed to be included within the scope of the panel.
- The Local Housing Allowance (LHA) should be included within the evidence gathering.

- Councillor Waller would notify the non-executive members that the scope of the panel had been approved and seek volunteers to assist the panel.

ACTION: Councillor Waller

RESOLVED

That the Committee:

- a) **APPROVED** the scoping document for the Homelessness Evidence Panel (copy attached).

11 LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUPS' PERFORMANCE DATA

Report No. 128/2022 was received from Councillor S Harvey, Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Care. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- Committee Members were requested to review the data and report to the next meeting any specific areas they would like the Committee to scrutinise.

ACTION: All

RESOLVED

That the Committee:

- a) **NOTED** the LLR CCG's Performance Data Report.

12 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

- The Committee agreed to exclude the public and press but allow Councillors Brown, Payne and Harvey to remain within the meeting.

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The Chair closed the public meeting at 7.57 pm

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13 WASTE AND STREET CLEANSING

Report No. 129/2022 was received from Councillor Oxley, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Environment and Climate Change. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The contracts would expire on the 31st March 2024 and could not be extended.
- The length of the new contracts was set out in the pre-procurement business case.
- It was beneficial to have long term contracts due to high costs for the initial outlay of equipment.
- The contracts were bound by the new Environment Act including the requirement to provide a weekly food waste collection service.
- The education of the public would be critical to the success of the programme. The Council had identified the need to provide budget for communications campaigns in the run up and after the start of the new contract and services. The new suppliers would be expected to work with the Council to promote waste reduction and recycling.
- Educational material would be available in a range of formats as all Council contracts contained an equitable clause as standard.

- Members agreed that the sticky labels previously distributed by the Council detailing what could/could not be recycled were informative and should be produced again for the new contracts.
- The new Council website would signpost members of the public to other waste recycling schemes e.g. Tesco for soft plastics, Currys for electrical items.
- The assisted bin collection would continue as part of the Council's service.
- Flexibility had been built into the new contracts to include any future recycling proposals.
- Members agreed that the black bins should reduce in size to 140L with the collection remaining fortnightly. A larger bin and monthly collection were deemed undesirable due to the items of waste e.g. nappies.

RESOLVED

That the Committee:

- a) **REVIEWED** and commented on the re-procurement of the integrated Waste and Streetscene services (including waste and recycling collection and disposal) contract as detailed in the Pre-Procurement Business Case.
- b) **REVIEWED** and commented on the Municipal Waste Management and Streetscene Strategy 2022-2035.
- c) **RECOMMENDED** that Cabinet ensured that the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee continued to consider initial work on waste infrastructure provision in a timely manner.
- d) **RECOMMENDED** that Cabinet established a log of customer questions relating to what to put in each bin to inform RCC's waste collection web page and future notices to residents.

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The Chair closed the private meeting at 8.48 pm

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14 PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' UPDATE

There was no Portfolio Holder update. The Chair requested that Committee Members notify her of who, when and on what they would like an update.

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Councillors Harvey and Oxley left the meeting at 8.50 pm

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15 REVIEW OF THE FORWARD PLAN AND ANNUAL WORK PLAN

The Forward Plan and Annual Work Plan were discussed. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- Public Transport Service Proposals had been added to the Work Plan for discussion at the meeting on the 8th September. This was an urgent item following the Cabinet discussion on the 12th July about the Centrebus service.
- Councillors Waller and Webb were meeting with the Strategic Director of Places and the Governance Manager on the 28th July to discuss how the Scrutiny Committee could assist.
- Councillor G Brown to lead the Parish Council Re-Charging matter when timeline confirmed.

16 ANY URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 8th September 2022 at 7.00 p.m.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

No.	Ref.	Action	Person
1.	3	Councillor Bool to arrange a meeting with the Chief Executive, the Leader and the Strategic Director of Places to discuss the best way for Highways and Transport particularly speeding to be scrutinised.	Councillor Bool
2.	3	SEND group (Councillors Ainsley, Baines, Begy, Browne, Payne and Webb) to meet before the 15th July and Councillor Webb to confirm if Councillor Begy would continue to be part of the group.	Councillor Webb
3.	3	Councillor Waller to speak with the Cabinet member regarding what the Customer Experience Task and Finish Group could do and by when and Councillor Brown to contact Councillor Begy to confirm that he would still lead this Task and Finish Group.	Councillors Waller and G Brown
4.	3	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: Devolution; Economic Development Strategy and UK Prosperity Fund.	Councillors Waller and Webb
5.	3	Culture review report to be circulated to members for their information.	Jane Narey
6.	3	Councillors G Brown, Fox and Waller to meet with the Strategic Director of Places, Councillor Oxley, Portfolio Holder for Communities, Environment and Climate Change and Councillor Payne, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Performance, Change and Transformation to produce a draft scoping document detailing what the Scrutiny Committee could do to assist as part of the Asset Review.	Councillor G Brown

7.	10	Councillor Waller to notify the non-executive members that the scope of the Homelessness Evidence Panel had been approved and seek volunteers to assist the panel.	Councillor Waller
8.	11	Committee Members to review the LLR CCG performance data and report to the next meeting any specific areas they would like the Committee to scrutinise	All

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Chair closed the meeting at 8.55 pm.

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Rutland County Council

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Scoping Document: Task and Finish Groups; Working Groups; Evidence Gathering etc.

1. Topic

- 1.1 To gather evidence on homelessness in Rutland and make recommendations to Cabinet/Council on how to improve Rutland's offer regarding homelessness in the context of legislation and budget constraints.

2. Purpose

- 2.1 For members of the Council to get a better understanding of the legislation related to homelessness; how RCC responds to both legislative demands and needs of residents and make recommendations for improvement.
- 2.2 For members of the Council to better understand who in Rutland is at risk of homelessness and to explore ways which might reduce such risk.

3. Members (Identify Chairperson)

- Cllr Gale Waller (Chair)
- Cllr Leah Toseland
- Cllr Stephen Lambert
- Cllr Joanna Burrows

4. Portfolio holder(s)

- Cllr Lucy Stephenson (ref. Housing Services review meetings)
- Cllr Sam Harvey (homelessness)

- Cllr Rosemary Powell (Housing planning)

5. Officers

- John Morley (Director)
- Alison Morgan (Team Manager – Housing Options)
- Kim Sorsky (Head of Service –Prevention and Complex Care)
- Jane Narey (Scrutiny Officer)

6. Rationale

- 6.1 Members to have a better understanding of homelessness; the challenges the Council faces and the reasons for the increase in homelessness in recent years.
- 6.2 Homelessness can be prevented for more residents.
- 6.3 Fewer residents present as homeless.
- 6.4 RCC is able to meet its obligations to refugees without adversely impacting on other residents.
- 6.5 RCC is able to meet its obligations to Care Leavers.
- 6.6 RCC is able to meet the particular needs of the armed forces community.
- 6.7 Scrutiny is committed to making a positive difference for local residents. RCC's Corporate Strategy 2022-27 Priority 4: "A County for Everyone" includes the statement "Housing and the cost of living: We will ensure fair access to affordable and sustainable housing, prevent homelessness and provide support to those most effected by the cost of living."

7. Background

- 7.1 There is an existing RCC policy on housing and homelessness and one of the outcomes of this work is that

there might be a recommendation to review this policy.

7.2 Legislative and regulatory changes in recent years and anticipated changes impact considerably on this work. The changes include:

- Homelessness Reduction Act 2017
- Changes to tax relief for landlords with buy-to-let mortgages
- Right-to-Buy being extended to tenants in social housing
- The operation of the Homes4Ukraine Scheme, Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy/Afghan citizens resettlement scheme

7.3 RCC transferred its housing stock (council houses) to social landlords in 1979 and therefore has no housing stock of its own to use for homeless people and those facing homelessness.

7.4 Residents locally are staying put in their social housing homes and without turnover there are no voids to provide for those facing homelessness. This problem is particularly acute for families needed 3 bedroom accommodation or larger.

7.5 RCC's allocations policy is more generous than that found in neighbouring authority areas.

8. Timetable

8.1 To be determined

9. Methodology/Approach

- Desk-based review of legislation; data (to include that held by the homelessness team; housing prices; wage rates locally).
- Gathering an understanding of the work of the homelessness team through a “walk through” of their role; “shadowing” an officer.
- Reviewing the effectiveness of both RCC policy and the terms of reference/minutes of the Housing Services Review Meeting
- Comparisons with other authorities (specifically SKDC who have their own housing stock).
- Reviewing our Housing and Homelessness Policies and/or Strategies with those of neighbouring councils (possibly SKDC, Melton Borough, North Northamptonshire and Leicester City).
- Gaining understanding of the private rented sector.

10. Evidence Sources

- Government guidance / legislation.
- Current RCC policy.
- Performance Indicators held by RCC.
- Private landlord data held by Peterborough City Council.
- Independent research articles and papers.
- Data on second homes/holiday lets both trend data and as a % of total housing stock.
- Housing and Homelessness Policies and/or Strategies from neighbouring councils (see above).
- Case studies.

11. Witnesses

- Cabinet Member(s).
- Housing Associations.
- Officers from SKDC and Peterborough.
- CAB (Duncan Furey).

12. Other considerations

None

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