

# Rutland County Council

Catmose, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6HP

Telephone 01572 722577

Email [democraticservices@rutland.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@rutland.gov.uk)

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A meeting of the **STRATEGIC OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** will be held in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HP on **Thursday, 15th June, 2023** commencing at **7.00 pm** when it is hoped you will be able to attend.

Yours faithfully

Mark Andrews  
**Chief Executive**

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Although social distancing requirements have been lifted there is still limited available seating for members of the public. If you would like to reserve a seat, please contact Democratic Services at [democraticservices@rutland.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@rutland.gov.uk). The meeting will also be available for listening live on Zoom using the following link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84416138066>

## **A G E N D A**

### **1) WELCOME AND APOLOGIES RECEIVED**

### **2) RECORD OF MEETING**

To confirm the record of the meeting of the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023.  
(Pages 7 - 14)

### **3) ACTIONS ARISING**

To review and update the actions arising from the previous meeting

No.	Ref.	Action	Person
1.	9	Councillor Stephenson stated that Governance had received a large number of questions from Councillor Begy regarding the minerals authority contract and	<b>Roger Ranson / Justin Johnson</b>

		that officers would provide a written response to those questions for circulation to <u>all</u> members of the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	
<b>2.</b>	9	The Development Services Manager confirmed that he would check if NNC had access to RCC's planning portal as was requested in February 2022.	<b>Justin Johnson</b>

#### 4) **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In accordance with the Regulations, Members are invited to declare any personal or prejudicial interests they may have and the nature of those interests in respect of items on this Agenda and/or indicate if Section 106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 applies to them.

#### 5) **PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS**

To receive any petitions, deputations and questions received from Members of the Public in accordance with the provisions of [Procedure Rules 25 and 159](#).

The total time allowed for this item shall be 30 minutes. Petitions, declarations and questions shall be dealt with in the order in which they are received. Questions may also be submitted at short notice by giving a written copy to the Committee Administrator 15 minutes before the start of the meeting.

The total time allowed for questions at short notice is 15 minutes out of the total time of 30 minutes. Any petitions, deputations and questions that have been submitted with prior formal notice will take precedence over questions submitted at short notice. Any questions that are not considered within the time limit shall receive a written response after the meeting and be the subject of a report to the next meeting.

#### 6) **QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS**

To consider any questions with notice from Members received in accordance with the provisions of [Procedure Rule No 161 and 162](#).

#### 7) **NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS**

To consider any Notices of Motion from Members submitted in accordance with the provisions of [Procedure Rule No 163](#).

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

To consider any matter referred to the Committee for a decision in relation to call in of a decision in accordance with [Procedure Rule 149](#).

## **9) ELECTION AND APPOINTMENTS**

### **A. ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

To appoint the Vice Chair of the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2023-2024.

### **B. CONFIRMATION OF STATUTORY MEMBERS - EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVES**

To approve the appointment of the Statutory Members – Education Representatives for the municipal year 2023-2024.  
(Pages 15 - 16)

### **C. ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES**

To confirm the additional member and substitute representative at the Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland Joint Health Scrutiny Committee.

## **10) SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23**

To receive Report No. 79/2023 from Angela Wakefield, Strategic Director of Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer). The report will be presented by Councillor Ramsay Ross, Chair of the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Jane Narey, Scrutiny Officer.  
(Pages 17 - 42)

## **11) SCRUTINY ANNUAL WORK PLAN**

To review and approve the proposed Scrutiny Annual Work Plan following the Scrutiny Committee Work Programming Session held on the 7<sup>th</sup> June 2023.  
(DOCUMENT TO FOLLOW)

## **12) SCRUTINY IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Members to discuss the development and implementation of an improvement plan for the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee as recommended by [Council on the 27 March 2023](#).

## **13) GROUP/PANEL UPDATES**

### **A. ECONOMIC STRATEGY TASK AND FINISH GROUP**

To appoint new members to the Economic Strategy Task and Finish Group following the May 2023 election and update the scoping document.  
(Pages 43 - 46)

#### 14) ANY URGENT BUSINESS

To receive any items of urgent business, which have been previously notified to the person presiding.

#### 15) DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 21 September 2023 at 7 pm in the Council Chamber, Catmose, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HP

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#### TO: ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE STRATEGIC OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Name	
1.	Councillor R Ross (Chair)
2.	Councillor N Begy
3.	Councillor T Carr
4.	Councillor M Chatfield
5.	Councillor H Edwards
6.	Councillor S Lambert
7.	Councillor K Payne
8.	Councillor R Powell
9.	Councillor L Stephenson

#### PORTFOLIO HOLDER:

Name	Title
10. Councillor G Waller	Leader of the Council
11. Councillor A Johnson	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Resources
12. Councillor P Browne	Portfolio Holder for Planning and Property
13. Councillor D Ellison	Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Health
14. Councillor R Payne	Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, Homelessness and Housing Policy
15. Councillor C Wise	Portfolio Holder for Highways, Transport and the Environment

#### OFFICERS:

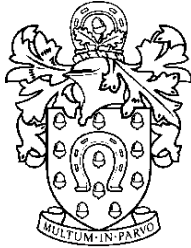
Name	Title
16. Mark Andrews	Chief Executive
17. Angela Wakefield	Strategic Director of Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer)
18. Dawn Godfrey	Strategic Director of Children and Families

19.	Kim Sorsky	Strategic Director of Adult Services and Health
20.	Kirsty Nutton	Strategic Director of Resources (S151 Officer)
21.	Penny Sharp	Strategic Director of Places
22.	Jane Narey (Clerk)	Scrutiny Officer

**FOR INFORMATION:**

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
23.	Angela Hillery	Chief Executive, Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust
24.	Peter Cantley	Diocesan Director of Education, Diocese of Peterborough

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# Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP

Telephone 01572 722577 Email [governance@rutland.gov.uk](mailto: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, 20th April, 2023 at 7.00 pm

**PRESENT**

- Councillor G Waller (Chair)
- Councillor P Ainsley
- Councillor N Begy (Vice Chair)
- Councillor K Bool
- Councillor A Brown
- Councillor S Lambert
- Councillor L Toseland
- Councillor R Wilson

**APOLOGIES**

- |                     |   |
|---------------------|---|
| Councillor E Baines |   |
| Andreas Menzies     | Co-Opted Member - Roman Catholic Diocese                                |
| Councillor R Powell | Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning, Highways and Transport |
| Councillor S Harvey | Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Care                   |
| Angela Wakefield    | Strategic Director of Law and Governance                                |
| Kim Sorsky          | Strategic Director of Adults and Health                                 |
| Penny Sharp         | Strategic Director of Places  |

**STATUTORY CO-OPTED MEMBERS – EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVES**

**PRESENT**

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| Peter French | Diocesan Deputy Director of Education, Dioceses of Peterborough |
|--------------|---|

**PORTFOLIO HOLDERS PRESENT**

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

**OFFICERS PRESENT**

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| Roger Ranson       | Planning Policy and Housing Manager   |
| Justin Johnson     | Development Services Manager  |
| Mark Chant         | Head of Planning Services, Minerals and Waste, North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) |
| Kelly McAleese     | Adult Social Care Principal Social Worker and Quality Lead                          |
| Emma Jane Hollands | Head of Community Care Services   |
| Tammy Thurley      | Community Care Services Operations  |

	Sarah Savage	Manager
	Jane Narey (Clerk)	MiCare Co-ordinator Scrutiny Officer
<b>ATTENDED</b>	Mr David Hodson	Chair, Rutland Quarry Forum
	Mr David Baker	Rutland Quarry Forum
	Mr Ken Edward	Chair, Greetham Parish Council

## 1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES RECEIVED

The Chair welcomed everyone to the last scrutiny committee meeting of the municipal year. She thanked everyone for all their hard work and support particularly Councillors Bool, Toseland, Wilson and Councillor G Brown, who would not be standing for re-election in the May 2023 elections. Apologies were received from Councillor Baines, Councillor Rosemary Powell, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning, Highways and Transport, Councillor Sam Harvey, Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Care, Penny Sharp, Strategic Director for Places, Angela Wakefield, Strategic Director for Law and Governance, Kim Sorsky, Strategic Director for Adult Services and Health (DASS) and Andreas Menzies (Co-Opted Member).

## 2 RECORD OF MEETING

The minutes of the meetings of the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 were approved as an accurate record.

## 3 ACTIONS ARISING

There were no actions from the previous meeting.

## 4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

## 5 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

No petitions or questions were received but the Clerk confirmed that a deputation had been received from the Rutland Quarry Forum regarding the Minerals Authority Contract and would be presented by Mr David Hodson, Chair of the Rutland Quarry Forum. It was noted that the deputation had been approved by the Chief Executive and the Monitoring Officer and had been added to the website and circulated to committee members in advance of the meeting.

---oOo---

**Mr Hodson joined the meeting at 7.04 p.m. along with Mr David Baker from the Rutland Quarry Forum and Mr Ken Edward, Chair of Greetham Parish Council.**

---oOo---

- Mr Hodson addressed the Chair with the details of his deputation.
- The Chair clarified that the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee was not a decision making body and but could make recommendations to Cabinet and/or Council.



- Concerns regarding possible breaches of contract, specifically relating to hedge cutting, had been discussed at a meeting of the Rutland Quarry Forum and raised with the Planning department at Rutland County Council (RCC).
- Rutland Quarry Forum were informed by RCC that a Planning Enforcement Officer would investigate the alleged breaches of contract and notify Rutland Quarry Forum of the findings. No report had been received but the Forum had been notified that a meeting with the respective operator would be held in the near future to discuss the concerns.

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**Mr Hodson, Mr Baker and Mr Edward left the meeting at 7.17 pm.**

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## **6 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS**

No questions with notice with notice were received from Members.

## **7 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS**

No notices of motion were received.

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

No call-ins were received.

## **9 MINERALS AUTHORITY CONTRACT: UPDATE REPORT**

Report No. 66/2023 was received from Councillor R Powell, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning, Highways and Transport and Penny Sharp, Strategic Director of Places. The report was presented by Roger Ranson, Planning Policy and Housing Manager and Justin Johnson, Development Services Manager. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- Councillor Stephenson stated that Governance had received a large number of questions from Councillor Begy regarding the minerals authority contract and that officers would provide a written response to those questions for circulation to all members of the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

**ACTION: Roger Ranson / Justin Johnson**

- The Planning Policy and Housing Manager informed attendees that the monitoring and enforcement of planning conditions was the responsibility of Development Services and not Planning.
- The Development Services Manager confirmed that an investigation had taken place into the alleged contract breaches stated by the Rutland Quarry Forum. The investigation had just been completed and the findings would be communicated to the Rutland Quarry Forum and Greetham Parish Council.
- The Planning Policy and Housing Manager stated that site monitoring visits had been undertaken to ensure compliance with the contract. However, due to staff changes and the national shortage of mineral planning officers, 3 x site monitoring visits had been delayed but he reported that the Portfolio Holder had been informed of the delay and that since that time 1 monitoring visit had been completed and the second had a visit date confirmed whilst the third was still to be arranged.

- The main concern of the Rutland Quarry Forum had been the cutting of hedgerows in February when the contract excluded such work between the months of February and September.
  - Attendees were informed that the contract stated that such work could only be done between February and September after consultation with an ecologist to ensure no environmental damage would be done. The Development Services Manager stated that North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) had consulted with their ecologist who had confirmed that the work would not be an issue as there would be no nesting birds in February.
  - NNC had omitted to inform RCC of this fact prior to the commencement of the work and this had been deemed as a 'minor' breach of contract, which required no enforcement action by RCC and no payment of punitive damages by NNC.
  - As a result of the investigation, NNC were now aware that such breaches would not be permitted and that RCC would continue to closely monitor the contract. RCC had also reviewed its contract restrictions so that future quarrying contracts were more clearly defined.
  - It was noted that money had been allocated within the Local Plan to pay for staff training regarding mineral waste qualifications and that investigations were ongoing as to which courses staff should attend. The 'upskilling' of staff has also included RCC officers attending NNC mineral waste meetings/discussions and the introduction of an action log by Development Services detailing what needed doing and by when so that RCC officers would be more proactive in the monitoring of contracts.
  - The Planning Policy and Housing Manager confirmed that NNC received the revenue from the site monitoring visits and that the enforcement regulations fell under RCC's enforcement policy and not NNC's enforcement policy.
  - The Development Services Manager informed attendees that the meetings between NNC and the quarry operators had no official minutes but RCC officers were either in the meeting or sent notes from the meeting.
  - RCC managers also received monthly update reports from NNC and attended quarterly review meetings.
  - It was noted that since February 2022, 2 members of NNC's mineral waste team had left, 1 new member of staff had been recruited and 3 members of staff had remained. Attendees were informed that the team included a very experienced officer who had been a professor at Oxford and worked for the National Infrastructure Commission.
  - The Planning Policy and Housing Manager confirmed that the details of the SMART objectives outlined in the mineral waste contract would be re-circulated as requested.
  - Members were informed that the previous contract had not been properly monitored but the Planning Policy and Housing Manager assured attendees that the new contract was being monitored correctly.
  - The Development Services Manager confirmed that he would check if NNC had access to RCC's planning portal as was requested in February 2022.
- ACTION: Justin Johnson**
- It was confirmed by the Planning Policy and Housing Manager that a material or persistent breach as detailed in paragraph 6.1 would be a failure to deliver over a period of time against the performance indicators.
  - Councillor G Brown requested stronger and clearer SMART objectives in future contracts particularly the upcoming Ketton quarry contract.

## **RESOLVED**

That the Committee:

1. **CONSIDERED** the report on the first year of the contract with North Northamptonshire Council for the provision of minerals and waste planning advice to the County Council.
2. **RECOMMENDED** to the Leader that minerals waste was explicitly identified within a portfolio and that the Portfolio Holder and Members received a quarterly overview report regarding the progress of the minerals waste contract and the monitoring visits and that the details of the monitoring visits should be shared with the Rutland Quarry Forum.
3. **RECOMMENDED** that Cabinet considered the SMART objectives within the Minerals Waste Contract and developed them to be SMART i.e. more robust.
4. **RECOMMENDED** to Cabinet that the minimum planning conditions as detailed in the Greetham Quarry contract should be adopted as the standard for future quarrying contracts by Rutland County Council.
5. **RECOMMENDED** that Cabinet should undertake to investigate a plan to increase minerals monitoring and enforcement skills/resource and review potential funding through the Local Plan funds, monitoring visits and planning fees.

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**Councillor G Brown, Mr Roger Ranson and Mr Justin Johnson left the meeting at 8.28 p.m.**

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## **10 CQC INSPECTION FRAMEWORK**

A presentation was received from Kelly McAleese, Adult Social Care Principal Social Worker and Quality Lead (copy attached). During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The Adult Social Care team had worked intensively to prepare for a future CQC inspection especially around quality assurance and this had included the creation of a new Quality Assurance Team.
- A major piece of work had been the development of digital options for customers and staff to provide feedback to the service.
- Feedback from staff had highlighted an issue regarding the care and support assessment process. As a result, a new assessment template had been developed and a review of the new template would be undertaken to ensure that it had been successfully implemented.
- The service had undertaken a self-audit using the areas of best practice listed in the CQC inspection framework and this had identified areas requiring further improvement.
- A 'strategic' CQC Regulation Board had been established as had a CQC Delivery Group, which would identify projects and workstreams to be undertaken.
- Staff briefing sessions were being held monthly to ensure that consistent and up-to-date information was communicated to all officers.

- A peer review of RCC's Adult Social Care Service had been undertaken by Derby City Council. No major issues were found and positive feedback had been received.
- An audit had also been undertaken by Welland Internal Audit Consortium on the service's CQC inspection readiness and no areas of 'high risk' were identified.
- Digital accessibility was a major workstream for the service. A customer self-service portal had been created and this would be publicly launched at the end of May 2023.
- A revised training and workforce development offer had been created following consultation with staff and this had led to the development of action plans and trackers for the analysis of all internal data.
- The service had planned a 'mock' inspection for September 2023 as a CQC inspection was anticipated in the autumn of 2023.
- Members were informed that staff recruitment and retention continued to improve within the Adult Social Care Service.
- The Adult Social Care Principal Social Worker and Quality Lead explained that 'market shaping' was how the service ensured the continuity and integrity of the care market, how it supported the provider sector and how it listened to the views of the community.

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**Kelly McAleese left the meeting at 9.02 p.m.**

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## 11 MICARE CQC INSPECTION: OUTCOME

A verbal update was received from Emma Jane Hollands, Head of Community Care Services. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The Head of Community Care Services gave a presentation (copy attached) and introduced two members of the MiCare service to members: Tammy Thurley, Community Care Services Operations Manager and Sarah Savage, MiCare Co-ordinator.
- A video by Lucy from the MiCare service was not shown during the meeting due to technical difficulties. The full video could be viewed using the following link: [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1V65repjTN7fTC\\_NhGI88vDoi1YRw-2BG/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1V65repjTN7fTC_NhGI88vDoi1YRw-2BG/view?usp=sharing)
- The service operated 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Overnight care was currently provided on an emergency basis but a permanent 'overnight team' was planned for the future.
- 6 main services offered:
  - 1) Reablement
  - 2) SafetyNet
  - 3) Crisis Response
  - 4) Discharge to Assess (D2A)
  - 5) Complex Care
  - 6) End of Life
- The MiCare service started just before the pandemic and began with only 5 workers. The flexibility of the service was difficult to maintain during this time but the pandemic brought the team closer together and things have only improved as the team has grown in size .

- The Head of Community Care Services confirmed that staff retention rates in MiCare were exemplary as the team was like an extended family. All the staff worked well together as their main focus was the service users.
- This was the team's first MiCare inspection and it was the first time that RCC's service had been officially rated overall as 'outstanding.'
- Members thanked the Head of Community Care Services, the Community Care Services Operations Manager and the MiCare Co-ordinator for all their hard work and asked that they passed on their thanks and congratulations to all the staff in the MiCare service.

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**Emma Jane Hollands, Tammy Thurley and Sarah Savage left the meeting at 9.26 p.m.**

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## 12 GROUP AND PANEL UPDATES

### ECONOMIC STRATEGY TASK AND FINISH GROUP

- Councillor A Brown confirmed that a meeting of the Economic Strategy Task and Finish Group had been held on the 12<sup>th</sup> April 2023 (notes attached).

## 13 REVIEW OF THE FORWARD PLAN AND THE DRAFT ANNUAL WORK PLAN FOR 2023-2024

The Forward Plan and the Draft Annual Work Plan for 2023-24 were discussed. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- County elections would be held on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2023.
- Annual Council meeting was deferred to the 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023

## 14 ANY URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

## 15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 7 p.m.

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**The Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.28 pm.**

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## SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

No.	Ref.	Action	Person
1.	9	Councillor Stephenson stated that Governance had received a large number of questions from Councillor Begy regarding the minerals authority contract and that officers would provide a written response to those questions for circulation to <u>all</u> members of the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	<b>Roger Ranson / Justin Johnson</b>

2.	9	The Development Services Manager confirmed that he would check if NNC had access to RCC's planning portal as was requested in February 2022.	<b>Justin Johnson</b>
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## **STRATEGIC OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Statutory Co-opted Members – Education Representatives for 2023-24

- Andreas Menzies, Roman Catholic diocese representative
- Peter French, Church of England diocese representative
- TBC, Parent Governor representative
- TBC, Parent Governor representative

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**SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

15 June 2023

**SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23**

**Report of the Strategic Director for Law and Governance**

Strategic Aim:	All	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	N/A	
Contact Officer(s):	Angela Wakefield, Strategic Director of Law and Governance (Monitoring Officer)	01572 758220 awakefield@rutland.gov.uk
	Jane Narey, Scrutiny Officer	01572 722577 jnarey@rutland.gov.uk
Ward Councillors	N/A	

**DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Committee:

1. Recommends to Council that it notes the Scrutiny Annual Report 2022-23 and approves its publication.

**1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To report the work undertaken by Scrutiny for the 2022-23 municipal year.

**2 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS**

- 2.1 The Annual Scrutiny Report provides a summary of the work undertaken by the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee during 2022- 2023.
- 2.2 It is considered a useful reference for members to be able to see the topics which have recently been covered by Scrutiny and the outcomes. This information may inform future work plans and also provide a basis for recommendations which would enhance the scrutiny function.

**3 CONSULTATION**

- 3.1 The report was written in consultation with the Scrutiny Committee Chair and Vice Chair for the last municipal year: Councillor Gale Waller and Councillor Nick Begy.

## **4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

4.1 The only alternative is not to publish an annual report.

## **5 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 There are no financial implications.

## **6 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS**

6.1 Article 6, item 3) paragraph e) of the Constitution states that '*The Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee will report annually to full Council on its workings and make recommendations for future work programmes and amended working methods if appropriate.*'

## **7 DATA PROTECTION IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 There are no data protection implications.

## **8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) has not been completed because there are no service, policy or organisational changes being proposed.

## **9 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There are no community safety implications.

## **10 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS**

10.1 There are no health and wellbeing implications.

## **11 CONCLUSION AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

11.1 The Annual Report will provide Council with an overview of the work of the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee during the municipal year 2022 – 2023 and is recommended for publication to mark the achievements of Scrutiny and highlight the plans to improve the effectiveness of the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the next municipal year.

## **12 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

12.1 Agendas and minutes of the meetings of the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the 2022-2023 municipal year.

## **13 APPENDICES**

13.1 Appendix A – Scrutiny Annual Report 2022-23.

**A Large Print or Braille Version of this Report is available upon request – Contact 01572 722577**

# Rutland County Council Scrutiny Annual Report 2022-23



Version	1.2
Guardian	Jane Narey, Scrutiny Officer 01572 722 577 x8311
Date Produced	June 2023
Next Review Date	May 2024
Approved by Scrutiny	
Approved by Full Council	

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# Scrutiny Annual Report 2022-23



## **Foreword**

This has been an interesting and busy first year for the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee and this report details the variety of topics that have been considered by the committee throughout the municipal year, as well as the additional work done through task and finish groups and evidence panels. We hope you find the report interesting and informative.

The Chair and Vice Chair have met regularly with the Chief Executive and Strategic Directors to coordinate the work of Scrutiny, to share best practice and develop the work programme in accordance with the Committee's Terms of Reference. This Annual Report meets constitutional requirements, but it also gives us the opportunity to reflect on the year and recognise achievements, whilst thinking about how we could have done things differently. We have included some ideas on how we think Scrutiny could be improved in the next municipal year for member's consideration post May 2023.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is responsible for setting its own work programme and this is guided by the Council's agreed priorities as set out in the Rutland Corporate Strategy and the Future Rutland Vision

We would like to thank everyone who contributed to the Scrutiny function this year including all Members of the Council, Officers, partners and the public.



**Councillor Gale Waller  
Chair  
Strategic Overview and  
Scrutiny Committee**



**Councillor Nick Begy  
Vice Chair  
Strategic Overview and  
Scrutiny Committee**

## Scrutiny in Rutland - Overview

The Council must have at least one overview and scrutiny committee to support the work of the Cabinet and the Council as a whole. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee allows Cabinet decisions to be examined and matters of local concern to be considered. These lead to reports and recommendations to advise the Cabinet, Partners and the Council as a whole on-policies, budget and service delivery.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee also monitors the decisions of the Cabinet. It can 'call-in' a decision which has been made by the Cabinet but not yet implemented. This enables it to consider whether the decision is appropriate. It may recommend that the Cabinet reconsiders the decision. It may also be consulted by the Cabinet or the Council on forthcoming decisions and the development of policy.

The general role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as detailed in Part 2 of the RCC Constitution is to:

- a) review and/or scrutinise decisions made, or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions;
- b) review, develop or propose policies in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions.
- c) make reports and/or recommendations to the full Council and/or the Cabinet and/or any policy, joint or Area Committee in connection with the discharge of any functions.
- d) consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants; and
- e) exercise the right to call-in, for reconsideration, decisions made but not yet implemented by the Cabinet and/or any joint or Area Committees.
- f) discuss initiatives put forward for consideration by individual members of the Committee and any relevant 'call-for-action' in accordance with the Scrutiny Procedure Rules set out in Part 4 of this Constitution; and
- g) consider petitions referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in accordance with provisions set out in the Petition Scheme set out in Part 5 of this Constitution.
- h) Follow up on any Recommendations or reports.

According to the RCC Constitution, the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee was scheduled to hold 6 ordinary meetings during the 2022-23 municipal year. However, for its first year as a single scrutiny committee, 12 ordinary meetings were held. These included:

- The meeting that was adjourned in September and re-convened in October following the announcement of the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

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- The additional meeting held in December to scrutinise the Public Bus Transport Review and the Leisure Strategy.
- The meeting held in January to scrutinise the budget.

In addition, there has been:

- One meeting of the Culture/Asset Review Task and Finish Group
- One meeting of the Customer Experience Task and Finish Group
- One meeting of the SEND Task and Finish Group
- Three meetings of the Economic Strategy Task and Finish Group
- Four meetings of the Homelessness Evidence Panel.

Further details of the topics considered by Scrutiny, along with the outcome of the Task and Finish Groups and the Homelessness Evidence Panel can be found within this report.

## Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Summary of Items Considered

DATE	REPORT TITLE	RESOLVED - That the Committee:
July 2022	Waste and Street Cleansing (Presentation)	a) <b>REVIEWED</b> 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) <b>REVIEWED</b> and commented on the Municipal Waste Management and Streetscene Strategy 2022-2035. c) <b>RECOMMENDED</b> that Cabinet ensured that the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee continued to consider initial work on waste infrastructure provision in a timely manner. d) <b>RECOMMENDED</b> 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.
	Access to NHS Dental Services within Rutland	Reviewed the report and identified areas for scrutinisation at the next meeting.
	Homelessness Evidence Panel: Scope	a) <b>APPROVED</b> the scoping document for the Homelessness Evidence Panel
	LLR CCGs Performance Data	Report For Information Only
October 2022	SOSC Improvement Plan	a) <b>AGREED</b> that comments regarding the Improvement Plan should be sent to Governance ( <a href="mailto:governance@rutland.gov.uk">governance@rutland.gov.uk</a> ). b) <b>AGREED</b> that the Improvement Plan should be added to the Work Plan for the December meeting.
	Economic Development Strategy, Devolution & Levelling Up: Scoping Document	a) <b>AGREED</b> to proceed with the review of economic development, levelling up and devolution. b) <b>APPROVED</b> the scoping document for an Economic Development, Levelling Up and Devolution Evidence Panel.
	Portfolio Holders Briefing	a) <b>AGREED</b> that the Leader should provide a briefing/be questioned regarding the plans for economic development, levelling up and Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs).



DATE	REPORT TITLE	RESOLVED - That the Committee:
	Scrutiny Review of Public Transport Service Proposals:  a) Scoping Document b) Timescale	a) <b>AGREED</b> not to continue with the review of the public transport service. b) <b>REQUESTED</b> to review the report on the Public Bus Transport Review, following its presentation to Cabinet on the 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2023 for input regarding the proposed business plans prior to a final decision being made towards the end of 2023.
	Culture Review: Scoping Document	a) <b>AGREED</b> to move forward in principle with the Culture/Asset Review. b) <b>AGREED</b> to seek the advice of the Director of Places regarding reviewing culture as a whole or breaking it down in different phases.
	SEND Group	a) <b>RECOMMENDED</b> better communication and engagement between Strategic Director of Children and Families and Councillors.
	Access to NHS Dental Services within Rutland	a) <b>NOTED</b> that dental practitioners were independent contractors to the NHS. Many dental practices operated a mixed private/NHS model of care and all patients were free to choose what option of dental care they would prefer to receive. b) <b>NOTED</b> that the commissioning responsibility for all NHS dental services would transfer from NHSE to the Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland (LLR) Integrated Care Board on the 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2023 and that the statutory responsibility for oral health improvement would remain with the local authority public health team. c) <b>AGREED</b> that NHS England – Midlands would return in a year to provide the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update regarding access to NHS dental services within Rutland. d) <b>AGREED</b> that the Committee would write to MP for Rutland and/or the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care regarding:

DATE	REPORT TITLE	RESOLVED - That the Committee:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The fluoridation of Rutland's water.</li> <li>The issues with the process of implementing new NHS dental premises.</li> <li>The review of contract provision to encourage NHS dental workers and service providers</li> <li>The possible use of Rutland Memorial Hospital to provide additional NHS dental services</li> </ul>
November 2022	Mid-Year Finance Update Report (Reports 156 & 157/2022)	a) <b>AGREED</b> that a review of the Council's council tax support scheme should be undertaken for the 2024/25 financial year.
	Mid-Year Performance & Corporate Strategy Progress	a) <b>AGREED</b> that the Strategic Director for Resources would discuss with Human Resources the collation of data from staff exit interviews.
	LLR CCGs Performance Data	Report For Information Only
December 2022	Corporate Asset Review and Strategy	Discussed Report No. 183/2022 on the Corporate Asset Review and Strategy that went to Cabinet on the 15 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
	Portfolio Holder Update: Public Health	Noted the update briefing from the Portfolio Holder regarding Rutland's public health services
	Public Bus Transport Review	Noted the presentation and verbal update received from the Strategic Director of Places
	Leisure Strategy	Noted the presentation and verbal update received from the Strategic Director of Places
January 2023	Treasury Management Strategy and Capital Investment Strategy 2023/24 (Report 21 & 22/2023)	The draft Treasury Management and Capital Investment Strategies were considered by Cabinet on 12 January 2023 and recommended for approval by Council on 27 February 2023. The Committee was invited to provide comments and views on the strategies prior to their consideration by Council. There were no recommendations from the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
	Draft Revenue and Capital Budget 2023/24	The draft Revenue and Capital Budget for 2023/24 was approved by Cabinet for a three-week public consultation on Thursday, 12 January 2023. The Committee was invited to provide comments and views

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DATE	REPORT TITLE	RESOLVED - That the Committee:
		regarding the draft budget before the final budget was considered by Cabinet on 14 February 2023 and recommended for approval by Council on 27 February 2023. There were no recommendations from the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
	Fees and Charges 2023/24	The Fees and Charges for 2023/24 were due to be considered by Cabinet at their meeting on 14 February 2023, for recommending to Council for approval. The Committee was invited to provide comments and views on the report prior to its consideration by Cabinet. There were no recommendations from the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
February 2023	Portfolio Holder Update: Access to GP Services: Review of Actions	Noted the presentation and verbal update from the Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Care.
	Culture/Asset Review Task and Finish Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>AGREED</b> that the Culture/Asset Review Task and Finish Group should cease.</li> <li>b) <b>AGREED</b> that Councillor E Baines would, with the support of Governance, continue to seek information from educational establishments as to how the culture offer would be of most benefit to students and how they might become more involved.</li> <li>c) <b>AGREED</b> that, after the elections in May 2023, the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee should consider recommending the Culture/Asset Review Task and Finish Group with updated Terms of Reference following the outcome of the Council's transformation programme.</li> </ul>
	Customer Experience Task and Finish Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>AGREED</b> that the Customer Experience Task and Finish Group should cease.</li> <li>b) <b>AGREED</b> that, after the elections in May 2023, the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee should consider recommending the Customer Experience Task and Finish Group with updated Terms of Reference following the outcome of the Council's transformation programme.</li> </ul>
	Minerals Authority Contract Evidence Panel: Scope	Requested that an update on the Minerals Authority Contract should be prepared for

# Scrutiny Annual Report 2022-23



DATE	REPORT TITLE	<b>RESOLVED</b> - That the Committee:
	Homelessness Evidence Panel: Report	consideration at the meeting of the Committee on the 20th April 2023. a) <b>ACCEPTED</b> the report of the Homeless Evidence Panel. b) <b>AGREED</b> that recommendation 6.2 of the report would be re-worded and submitted to the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2023 for discussion/approval. c) <b>APPROVED</b> the remaining recommendations (6.1, 6.3,6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6.7, 6.8)
<b>March 2023</b>	LLR CCGs Performance Data	Report For Information Only
	Portfolio Holder Update: Visions Children Centre, Childcare Sufficiency Statement & Child Care Review	Noted the verbal update from the Portfolio Holder for Education and Children’s Services.
	Economic Strategy Task and Finish Group: Update	Noted the verbal update from Councillor A Brown.
	Levelling Up Fund Round 2 - Acceptance of Grant Funding	a) <b>NOTED</b> that a report would be presented to Council on 27 March 2023 with these proposed draft recommendations:  A) Approves the Memorandum of Understanding for the Rutland and Melton ‘Rural Innovation in Place’ Levelling Up Funding (LUF) grant from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and delegates authority to the Chief Executive and Director of Resources in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Policy, Strategy, Partnerships and Economy and Portfolio Holder for Resources to sign the agreement on behalf of Rutland County Council.  B) Approves that Rutland County Council acts as the grant administrator (Accountable Body) for the Levelling Up Fund capital grant and delegates authority to the Director of Resources (s151 Officer)

DATE	REPORT TITLE	<b>RESOLVED</b> - That the Committee:
		<p>to manage the Accountable Body function.</p> <p>C) Delegates authority to the Chief Executive and Director of Places in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Policy, Strategy, Partnerships and Economy to finalise and enter into a grant agreement between Rutland County Council (as Accountable Body) and Melton Borough Council (as grant recipient) to apportion responsibility for delivering the requirements of the Levelling Up Fund Memorandum of Understanding.</p> <p>D) Approves the use of Developer Contributions to provide £1.2 million match funding to contribute to the Rutland element of the Levelling Up Fund proposition as identified in the indicative allocations previously agreed by Cabinet.</p> <p>E) Delegates to the Director of Resources (Section 151 Officer) and Director of Places the administration and implementation (including project delivery) of the Levelling Up Fund grant requirements and monitoring returns.</p> <p>b) <b>ADVISED</b> of any additional issues or areas of concerns that Council may need to consider in making an informed decision about the acceptance of the Levelling Up Fund capital grant and Rutland County Council acting as Accountable Body.</p> <p>The Committee <b>AGREED</b> the following recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That clarity be provided to members at Council on Monday evening around the transformation project and the potential</li> </ol>

DATE	REPORT TITLE	<b>RESOLVED</b> - That the Committee:
		<p>change in services resulting in the investment of the LUF and that benefits will be brought forward accordingly.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. That the Economic Strategy Task and Finish Group be involved in reviewing the new Baseline calculations, timelines and the GO/NO-GO gateways potentially involving Cabinet decisions.</li> <li>3. That the Transformation Governance Meeting involving Group Leaders be tasked with reviewing the savings achieved by the capital expenditure under 1 above.</li> <li>4. That clarity be provided to members at Council on Monday evening of the potential of extending the scope of the LUF to provide wider and deeper health provision in Oakham.</li> <li>5. That Scrutiny Committee consider the LUF Project Board Terms of Reference when it comes to Cabinet later this year in order to consider the implications of whether it should be considered as a 'Very High Risk' project requiring Council approval rather than a 'High Risk' project.</li> <li>6. That a member visit be considered to a Medi-Hub, similar in style to that proposed, to understand the concept and the opportunities.</li> </ol>
	Highways and Speeding	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>AGREED</b> that the Highways and Speeding Task and Finish Group should cease.</li> <li>b) <b>AGREED</b> that, after the elections in May 2023, the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee should consider re-commencing the Highways and Speeding Task and Finish Group.</li> </ol>
	Homelessness Evidence Panel: Recommendation 6.2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) <b>AGREED</b> that the phrase 'domestic violence' be amended to 'domestic abuse'.</li> <li>b) <b>APPROVED</b> recommendation 6.2 of the Homelessness Evidence Panel to read as follows:  'That Cabinet, as part of its performance</li> </ol>

DATE	REPORT TITLE	<b>RESOLVED</b> - That the Committee:
		monitoring, review data on rehousing victims of domestic abuse to provide reassurance that the housing provided is suitable for the needs and safety of this cohort of homeless people.'
April 2023	CQC Inspection Framework	Noted the presentation and verbal update from Adult Social Care Principal Social Worker and Quality Lead.
	Minerals Authority Contract: Update Report	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>CONSIDERED</b> the report on the first year of the contract with North Northamptonshire Council for the provision of minerals and waste planning advice to the County Council.</li> <li>2. <b>RECOMMENDED</b> to the Leader that minerals waste was explicitly identified within a portfolio and that the Portfolio Holder and Members received a quarterly overview report regarding the progress of the minerals waste contract and the monitoring visits and that the details of the monitoring visits should be shared with the Rutland Quarry Forum.</li> <li>3. <b>RECOMMENDED</b> that Cabinet considered the SMART objectives within the Minerals Waste Contract and developed them to be SMART i.e. more robust.</li> <li>4. <b>RECOMMENDED</b> to Cabinet that the minimum planning conditions as detailed in the Greetham Quarry contract should be adopted as the standard for future quarrying contracts by Rutland County Council.</li> <li>5. <b>RECOMMENDED</b> that Cabinet should undertake to investigate a plan to increase minerals monitoring and enforcement skills/resource and review potential funding through the Local Plan funds, monitoring visits and planning fees.</li> </ol>
	MiCARE CQC Inspection: Outcome	Noted the presentation and verbal update from the Head of Community Care Services.



### **Chair's Review (Councillor G Waller)**

The Municipal Year 2022-23 saw the new Overview and Scrutiny Committee come into being. It replaced a pattern of three scrutiny committees; Children's, Adults and Health and Growth, Infrastructure and Resources. Any new system takes a while to become embedded and reducing activity to one committee will inevitably cause some grumbles as not every area of interest will be scrutinised. However, having one committee does focus thinking and encourage prioritisation. This did happen and enabled the Committee to be proactive; for example in reviewing homelessness and the minerals contract. Inevitably, though, events happen which require the Committee to be able to react. For example, one dental practice's decision to hand back their NHS contract at the end of June 2022 led to the loss of a quarter of the NHS dentistry provision in Rutland. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee reacted and insisted that the NHS commissioners met with the Committee to outline their plans for meeting this deficit.

Relations between the Committee and the Council's Cabinet were positive with Cabinet members attending scrutiny to talk about specific aspects of their portfolios and sharing with the Chair and Vice-Chair issues which were likely to benefit from the Committee's attention. However, not all of the Committee's views were conveyed to Cabinet and I hope that, as the Committee becomes better established, a formal process of conveying both views and recommendations to Cabinet is established with Cabinet, in turn, having a process to report back to the Committee.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee and its various working groups worked best when members were committed to the topic being considered and thus spent time preparing for meetings and doing research.

### **Vice Chair's Review (Councillor N Begy)**

This was the first year moving to one scrutiny committee and it was a year with challenges.

With this having been the final year before elections, for whatever reason engagement was low from panel members in many cases and it was difficult to get some breakout groups off the ground.

It was a year of learning and the decision has been made to trial this system for a further year and, with new members, we hope for higher engagement.

Scrutiny is key to running a successful council and member engagement is key to strong scrutiny. I hope with new leadership we will see a productive year.



## Groups and Panels Summary

Name	Membership and Chair/Lead Member	Purpose	Recommendations	Status as of May 2023
Homelessness Evidence Panel	Led by Councillor Waller with Councillors Burrows, Lambert, Payne and Toseland.	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>6.1 That the Leader of the Council designates one 'Portfolio Holder' to take the lead on housing and for that person to actively engage with his/her colleagues, as appropriate, on housing matters.</p> <p>6.2 That Cabinet, as part of its performance monitoring, review data on rehousing victims of domestic abuse to provide reassurance that the housing provided is suitable for the needs and safety of this cohort of homeless people.</p> <p>6.3 That RCC explores with its registered social landlords the possibility of increasing the number of homes in Rutland available for temporary accommodation.</p> <p>6.4 That Cabinet, as part of the Council's Asset Review, explores the options for developing new temporary</p>	<b>FINISHED</b> Recommendations approved by the Scrutiny Committee on 23 <sup>rd</sup> March 2023.

Name	Membership and Chair/Lead Member	Purpose	Recommendations	Status as of May 2023
			<p>accommodation in Rutland to house those who have been made homeless.</p> <p>6.5 That RCC reconsiders the development of a 'Choice Based Lettings Policy,' using learning from other councils' policies and in consultation with registered social landlords, to better meet current needs.</p> <p>6.6 That the Housing Allocations Policy be reviewed so that it is transparent and easy for applicants to use, with a user-friendly 'Customer Guide' and that it takes into consideration aspects highlighted in this report e.g. 'Means Testing' and the needs of the over 60's in the context of an increasing elderly population in Rutland and the type of accommodation they could be considered for.</p> <p>6.7 That Cabinet review the contract with Peterborough City Council for the provision of services in relation to private landlords with a view to</p>	

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Name	Membership and Chair/Lead Member	Purpose	Recommendations	Status as of May 2023
			<p>improving data collection on the private sector in Rutland.</p> <p>6.8 That Cabinet review the 'Housing Services Review— Strategy and Operations Group' ensuring that it, or any successor group, has clear terms of reference and appropriate membership.</p>	
Minerals Authority Contract Evidence Panel	Led by Councillor Begy with Councillor G Brown.	<p>With the growing level of quarrying activity within Rutland it is important that these operations are carefully monitored and within the terms of the contract.</p> <p>Understand any current or future constraints to the contract and its operation such as specialist staffing.</p>	<p>Following a discussion with the Strategic Director of Places, it had been agreed that a working group would not be the best way forward but that an update report would be more appropriate.</p>	<p><b>CEASED</b></p> <p>Update report from the Strategic Director of Places to be presented to Scrutiny Committee: 20th April 2023</p>
Economic Strategy Task and Finish Group	Led by Councillor A Brown with Councillors Ainsley, Baines, Begy and Waller.	<p>The aim of this review is to analyse available data and experiences of other authorities to recommend key focus areas to be considered in the production of an economic development strategy. This strategy needs to align with other plans within Rutland such as the Local Plan, Local Transport Plan and Health and</p>	<p>Engagement continues with officers with further meetings of the group planned in the Spring of 2023.</p>	<p><b>ONGOING</b></p>

## Scrutiny Annual Report 2022-23



Name	Membership and Chair/Lead Member	Purpose	Recommendations	Status as of May 2023
		Wellbeing Strategy so we can effectively deliver the communities 'Future Rutland' vision we have endorsed as a council.		
Culture/Asset Review Task and Finish Group	Led by Councillor A Walters with Councillors Baines, Begy, Fox and Waller.	<p>On the 5th October 2022, Scrutiny Committee:</p> <p>AGREED to move forward in principle with the Culture/Asset Review.</p> <p>AGREED to seek the advice of the Director of Places regarding reviewing culture as a whole or breaking it down in different phases.</p>	<p>On the 9th February 2023, Scrutiny Committee:</p> <p>AGREED that the Culture/Asset Review Task and Finish Group should cease.</p> <p>AGREED that Councillor E Baines would, with the support of Democratic Services, continue to seek information from educational establishments as to how the culture offer would be of most benefit to students and how they might become more involved.</p> <p>AGREED that, after the elections in May 2023, the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 15th June 2023 should consider re-commencing the Culture/Asset Review Task and Finish Group with updated Terms of Reference following the outcome of the Council's transformation programme.</p>	<b>CEASED</b>

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Name	Membership and Chair/Lead Member	Purpose	Recommendations	Status as of May 2023
Customer Experience Task and Finish Group	Led by Councillor Begy with Councillor K Bool		<p>On the 9th February 2023, Scrutiny Committee:</p> <p>AGREED that the Customer Experience Task and Finish Group should cease.</p> <p>AGREED that, after the elections in May 2023, the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee should on the 15th June 2023 consider re-commencing the Customer Experience Task and Finish Group with updated Terms of Reference following the outcome of the Council's transformation programme.</p>	<b>CEASED</b>
Highways and Speeding Group	Led by Councillor P Browne with Councillor Bool	Scoping document to be produced and work to be carried out in conjunction with Parish Councils.	<p>On the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023, Scrutiny Committee:</p> <p>AGREED that the Highways and Speeding Task and Finish Group should cease.</p> <p>AGREED that, after the elections in May 2023, the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee should on the 15th June 2023 consider re-commencing the Highways and Speeding Task and Finish Group.</p>	<b>CEASED</b>

# Scrutiny Annual Report 2022-23



Name	Membership and Chair/Lead Member	Purpose	Recommendations	Status as of May 2023
Public Transport Group	None identified	To provide evidence based advice to Cabinet and Council to help shape the future commissioning of bus services within Rutland.	On the 5 <sup>th</sup> October 2022, Scrutiny Committee:  AGREED not to continue with the review of the public transport service. REQUESTED to review the report on the Public Bus Transport Review, following its presentation to Cabinet on the 12th January 2023 for input regarding the proposed business plans prior to a final decision being made towards the end of 2023.	<b>CEASED</b> (An update was instead provided directly to the Committee)
SEND Group	Led by Councillor Ainsley with Councillors Baines, Begy, P Browne, Payne and Webb.	Meeting held on the 15 <sup>th</sup> July 2022: SEND Group to decide if they would like to be involved in the SEND Peer Review or wait until 2023 when the new SEND guidance had been finalised and implemented.	On the 5 <sup>th</sup> October 2022, Scrutiny Committee:  RECOMMENDED better communication and engagement between Strategic Director of Children and Families and Councillors.	<b>CEASED</b>

## Scrutiny Review

On 11 April 2022, the Council agreed to change its operational Overview and Scrutiny function, moving from three committees broadly based on directorates, to a single Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

This followed a review in the 2021-22 municipal year which identified a strong need for change to provide better value and outcomes from Scrutiny.

Some of the objectives in establishing a single Committee included:

- Establishing more informal methods of Scrutiny to facilitate greater involvement from Members beyond those appointed to the Committee.
- Ensuring better communication between Scrutiny and the Executive including informal discussions on potential items for review.
- Better focused Scrutiny undertaking detailed examination of certain items.
- Enabling Scrutiny to become more strategic and better able to examine cross-directorate themes based on those of the Corporate Strategy.
- Delivering work of genuine value and relevance to the work of the wider Council and not stuck in unnecessary bureaucracy and meetings.

As part of the resolution, it was agreed that there would be a review done within the first year on the effectiveness of the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee in delivering its set objectives.

The review consisted of:

1. A whole membership consultation and involvement process by way of an online survey.
2. A questionnaire seeking the views from other stakeholders including senior officers, officers who had supported or reported to the Committee and external partners who had been involved with Overview and Scrutiny at Rutland.
3. A report to the Constitution Commission on the 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023.
4. A report to [Council](#) on the 27<sup>th</sup> March 2023, with proposed amendments to take effect from May 2023.

The findings from the work done for the review helped identify if some of the Committee's key responsibilities had been met during the Municipal year:

<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Finding</b>
Review and/or scrutinise decisions made, or actions taken in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions.	A number of updates on various Council areas have been received by the Committee.

## Scrutiny Annual Report 2022-23



Responsibility	Finding
Review, develop or propose policies in connection with the discharge of any of the Council's functions.	The only agreed direct recommendations concerning Council policy have come from the Homelessness Evidence Panel and on Waste management early in the municipal year.
Conduct research, community and other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options.	<p>Wider community consultation has not taken place with regard to the work of the Committee and its groups, although the opportunity to do was available with several groups that did not proceed.</p> <p>The Committee and its groups have not undertaken community or other consultation in this year. Several proposed groups that did not proceed may have involved community consultation.</p>
Consider and implement mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options.	As above this has not taken place.
Question members of the Cabinet and/or Committees and senior officers about their views on issues and proposals affecting Rutland.	All members of the Cabinet have attended and taken questions from the Committee on at least one occasion.
Liaise, review and scrutinise the performance of other public bodies in the area and invite reports from them by requesting them to address the Scrutiny Committee and local people about their activities and performance; and	This has been undertaken with regard to dentistry and certain services via the Homelessness Evidence Panel only.
Review and scrutinise the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;	The Committee has received a performance report but only one recommendation regarding collection of one indicator was suggested.



## **Looking Ahead**

During the review, concerns were raised by members and officers over the effectiveness of the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee. As a result, Council agreed the following recommendations for implementation after the elections in May 2023:

1. That the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee develop and implement an improvement plan addressing areas of concern early in the new municipal year.
2. That as part of the 2023 Member Induction, all Councillors, regardless of role, be mandated to attend relevant training events on the role of scrutiny and the skills required.
3. That the membership of the Committee remained at nine elected Members, with effect from Annual Council in May 2023.

It is planned that these recommendations will provide an opportunity to address those concerns and improve the effectiveness of the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee in the next municipal year.

## **Further Information**

If you would like further information about Overview and Scrutiny, please use the contact details below:

Democratic Services  
Rutland County Council  
Catmose  
Oakham  
Rutland LE15 6HP

Tel: 01572 755277

Email: [democraticservices@rutland.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@rutland.gov.uk)

Website: <https://www.rutland.gov.uk/council-councillors/council-meetings/overview-scrutiny>

**A large print version of this document is available on request.**



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## **Rutland County Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

### **Economic Strategy Task and Finish Group Scoping Document – AMENDED 15 June 2023**

#### **1. Topic**

- 1.1 Economic Development, levelling up and devolution. These issues are inextricably linked but the scope of this review will be economic development.

#### **2. Purpose**

- 2.1 The aim of this review is to analyse available data and experiences of other authorities to recommend key focus areas to be considered in the production of an economic development strategy.
- 2.2 This strategy needs to align with other plans within Rutland such as the Local Plan, Local Transport Plan and Health and Wellbeing Strategy so we can effectively deliver the communities 'Future Rutland' vision we have endorsed as a council.

#### **3. Members**

Councillor A Brown – Chair  
Councillor N Begy  
VACANT  
VACANT  
VACANT

#### **4. Portfolio Holder**

- 4.1 Councillor Gale Waller

#### **5. Officers**

- Penny Sharp – Director – Places
- Ingrid Hooley – Head of Sustainable Economy and Place

#### **6. Rationale**

- 6.1 The Government's Levelling Up agenda is predicated on improving economic prosperity. In order to capitalise and benefit from Levelling Up investment and opportunities Rutland needs to have a clear economic development strategy. Economic development is a critical component for the future of Rutland. It drives economic prosperity in the area, creating new job opportunities and most importantly facilitating an improved quality of life, which includes increased access to opportunities for existing and future residents.
- 6.2 The main objective of the review, therefore, will be to recommend key focus areas that will be considered in the production of an economic development strategy.
- 6.3 We will all have opinions on what the economy in Rutland should look like and what issues developing our economy might address. However we need to ensure

the economic development strategy is built on a strong evidence base, as this might suggest a different approach on matters such as business sector development, skills and employment support, transport or housing. We need to understand what the data is telling us, identify key areas that the strategy development can explore and ultimately provide actions to address. This will ensure we develop targeted policies which not only deliver what our current residents want, but also what future residents may need.

6.4 The opportunity this review offers is to 'join-up' key policies.

## 7. Background

7.1 Our role as a council is to develop programmes, policies or targeted interventions that seek to improve the economic well-being for *all* of our community. Economic development priorities vary, economic development strategies often aim for common, positive results, such as increasing economic productivity and prosperity or quality of life (especially for distinct groups), getting more skilled workers living in our community, retaining businesses, and attracting or growing new ones.

7.2 The new strategy will be replacing the Economic Growth Strategy 2014-21. A new Economic Strategy was due to be developed during 2020, however, it was decided to put this on hold due to the pandemic.

7.3 Much has happened since the Economic Strategy was originally published. A new Government in 2019 set new priorities and the global pandemic and rising fuel prices has impacted on businesses however large or small. It is essential therefore that a new strategy is developed to take into account this changed landscape.

7.4 The increased pressure for local authorities to join together as combined authorities, and the Government's levelling up agenda means that if RCC is to receive benefits from these initiatives the Council needs to be clear what benefits it might want and developing a data driven economic strategy will aid this. The strategy should also provide the platform to inform which partners the Council should proactively engage with to achieve the identified outcomes e.g. Local Enterprise Partnerships.

7.5 It is important that current employers, and interest groups of employers such as Discover Rutland inform the strategy as well as local and regional educational institutions who are nurturing future employees and residents more widely.

## 8. Timetable

8.1 The initial data review will be concluded by **[DATE]**

8.2 To be completed by **[DATE]**

## 9. Methodology/Approach

9.1 The initial work will be a desk top review of data and consideration of economic development policies adopted by authorities similar to Rutland and the impact these have had. Discussion with officers will also form part of this process as will consideration of research already undertaken, for example by the LGA [Rural recognition, recovery, resilience and revitalisation | Local Government Association](#)

9.2 As the work progresses this group might undertake interviews with key stakeholders but as the primary purpose is to identify potential options it would be at the stage of choosing options that such discussions would be most useful.

## **10. Evidence Sources**

- 10.1 Independent research articles and papers
- 10.2 Data provided by RCC

## **11. Witnesses**

11.1 This will be considered once the desk based work is nearing completion.

## **12. Other Considerations**

12.1 None at this stage.

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