



Rutland County Council

Catmose Oakham Rutland LE15 6HP

Telephone 01572 722577 Email: governance@rutland.gov.uk

Minutes of the **MEETING of the GROWTH, INFRASTRUCTURE AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE** held via Zoom on Thursday, 16th September, 2021 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT:

Councillor J Fox (Chair)
Councillor M Oxley (Vice Chair)
Councillor P Ainsley
Councillor N Begy
Councillor G Brown
Councillor M Jones
Councillor G Waller

**PORTFOLIO
HOLDERS
PRESENT**

Councillor O Hemsley	Leader and Portfolio Holder for Policy, Strategy, Partnerships, Economy and Infrastructure
Councillor L Stephenson	Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Communities, Environment and Climate Change
Councillor K Payne	Portfolio Holder for Finance, Governance and Performance, Change and Transformation
Councillor A Walters	Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Care

**OFFICERS
PRESENT:**

Penny Sharp	Strategic Director of Places
Saverio Della Rocca	Strategic Director of Resources and S151 Officer
Robert Clayton	Head of Culture and Registration
Martin Jones	Interim Principal Environmental Services Manager
Jane Narey	Interim Senior Governance Officer

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Councillor Fox welcomed everyone to the meeting. No apologies were received.

2 RECORD OF MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on the 10th June 2021 were approved as an accurate record.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest

4 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

There were no petitions, deputations or questions.

5 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS

There were no questions with notice from members

6 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS

There were no notices of motion from members

7 CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTER REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE FOR A DECISION IN RELATION TO CALL IN OF A DECISION

There were no items of call-in

8 LEISURE CONTRACT: BUSINESS CASE

Report No. 110/2021 was presented by Councillor Walters and Penny Sharp. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- Councillor Walters informed attendees that a presentation would be shown but if attendees wished to see or discuss financial figures then the meeting would have to be moved into 'exempt' status.
- The Clerk confirmed that no exempt Zoom session had been created for the meeting.
- The Chair stated that the Leisure Contract could not be discussed without members knowing the financial details.
- Penny Sharp reported she was unaware that the Committee had requested information regarding specific costings. She confirmed that the financial details were commercially confidential so specific figures could not be discussed in a public session.
- Councillors Brown and Ainsley asked if the financial details could be emailed to attendees and the agenda item be deferred to later in the meeting.
- It was unanimously agreed that the agenda item be deferred to the end of the meeting.

9 MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT AND STREETSCENE STRATEGY 2021-2035

Report No. 109/2021 was received from Penny Sharp. The report was presented by Councillor Lucy Stephenson. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- This was the updated strategy following public consultation with 675 Rutland residents and the Future Rutland conversation.
- The waste contract was due to expire and the new contract was planned to not only align with the current financial restraints but also the Environmental Bill, which was due for legislation in 2023.
- The aim of the strategy was to reduce waste and increase recycling within Rutland.
- Councillor Stephenson stated that there was a robust evidence base throughout the new strategy to ensure that it was financially deliverable.

- Penny Sharp confirmed that the Waste Strategy stated the high-level principles and processes that the council wished to follow regarding future waste collection and recycling.
- Councillor Waller requested clarification regarding 'fW' in the report. Penny Sharp informed the committee that it referred to energy from waste.
- Councillor Brown stated that the document did not appear to reflect the current financial situation. He also stated that the report should have included SMART objectives, a clear financial plan, best estimates, required resources and details of the people responsible for the delivery of the strategy.
- Councillor Stephenson reminded Councillor Brown that the Scrutiny Committee had been asked to endorse to Cabinet/Council the vision for future waste management and that every Councillor was fully aware of the Council's financial position.
- Penny Sharp reported that the Environmental Bill had not been approved and that certain services were not detailed within the Bill as 'mandatory', but it was foreseen that in the future these services, such as food waste, would become mandatory services supplied by the local authority.
- The Chair requested that the Scrutiny Committee pre-meets were arranged approximately one week before the actual Scrutiny Committee meeting.
- Councillor Jones stated that a lot of communication and education would be required with residents regarding the strategy but that the Climate Action Group and Parish Council could undertake most of this work.
- Councillor Begy asked what our rural neighbours were doing and Penny Sharp stated that discussions had been held with Melton Borough Council regarding re-procurement, the structure of resources and economies of scale. Conversations had also taken place with Lincolnshire County Council, Leicestershire County Council and Peterborough City Council regarding the potential for the provision of joint services but this was not deemed to be cost effective.
- Councillor Stephenson confirmed that the Committee had received all the project and bid papers but it had not clearly stated that it wanted all the background information that had fed into the strategy.
- Councillor Waller stated that no analysis of data and costs had been included in the report, that some items were out of date and there was no evaluation.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the Committee would NOT ENDORSE the Waste Strategy document and accompanying action plan.
- b) That the Committee requested Governance to re-arrange the Scrutiny Committee pre-meets to approximately one week before the actual Scrutiny Committee meeting.

10 WASTE OPTIONS APPRAISAL

Report No. 108/2021 was received from Councillor Lucy Stephenson and a presentation was given by Penny Sharp. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- A copy of the presentation would be distributed with the minutes.
- Penny Sharp stated that the re-procurement deadlines were tight and did not align with the meeting dates of the Scrutiny Committee but that information was shared with Members as and when it was available.

- One of the objectives of the re-procurement was to ensure a 10% cost saving. However, the original contract was procured in 2008 so the costs associated to that contract were over 10 years old.
- Contract would go live on the 1st April 2024. This date could not be extended.
- It was expected that the collection of food waste would become mandatory in the future.
- Three main approaches had been investigated:
 1. Option 1 (a, b & c) was the system currently used in Rutland for waste collections whereby the household did not separate the waste and recycling. This option did not meet the minimum legislative requirements.
 2. Option 2 (a, b & c) would require the household to separate the cardboard/paper from the recycling and waste. This would be the most cost-effective option.
 3. Option 3 (a, b & c) would require the household to separate all waste into individual streams e.g. cardboard/paper, glass, plastic, food waste etc. This option would not be operationally feasible and did not meet the cost objective.
- Option 2b was the preferred option for Rutland County Council.
- Households would have two containers; one for cardboard/paper and one for all other recycling, which would be collected on an alternate fortnightly basis. There would also be a weekly food waste collection.
- Glass and plastics would continue to be collected and recycled.
- Green waste would continue to be a separate tendered service.
- Cost details regarding adding the food waste collection on to the contract later were requested by Councillor Begy for comparison.
- Penny Sharp confirmed that Biffa owned the bins so the Council was investigating the most cost-effective options i.e. bins, boxes or bags.
- Councillors Brown and Ainsley asked why there were no details of the cost implications for each of the different options and why the information (including Appendix A and the presentation) had not been shared earlier with the Scrutiny Committee. Councillor Oxley also stated that it would have been beneficial to have seen the presentation before the meeting.
- Penny Sharp reported that information was provided to the Committee as soon as it had been collated and was available for distribution.
- Penny Sharp also stated that she had explained the situation regarding the tight procurement and information deadlines with the Chair and Vice Chair in the agenda setting meeting and that it had been agreed by them that a verbal update in the Scrutiny Committee meeting, would suffice.
- Councillor Waller stated that the main aim of the strategy should be to save money. She also asked if the size of the black bin would be reduced once the food waste collection had been instigated and requested that the separated cardboard/paper be stored in a bin rather than a sack/bag or box.
- Councillor Ainsley thanked Penny Sharp and officers for all the hard work in producing the reports and strategy.
- Councillor Stephenson informed the Committee that as the Portfolio Holder, she had received and read all the relevant information and had, following agreement with the Director, put forward the best option for the Committee to endorse. She also informed attendees that 674 Rutland residents had responded as part of the public consultation and 86.4% of those believed that the strategy would deliver a green, clean and sustainable county.

11 CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK GROUP: PROGRESS TO DATE

A verbal update was received from Councillor Stepheson. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- A climate crisis was declared in January 2021.
- Councillor Stephenson, as Portfolio Holder, established a Members' Climate Action Group.
- First meeting was held at the end of January 2021 and a further seven meetings have been held since then.
- A Climate Summit Meeting was held in May 2021, which included 12 guest speakers covering many topics.
- The summit meeting resulted in the creation of the Climate Action Network Group, which involved representation from 20+ villages and towns.
- Councillor Stephenson also confirmed that all Parishes and Parish Councils were given regular climate update briefings.
- Councillor Burrows had managed to secure funding from the National Lottery for the creation of the webpage rutlandclimateaction.org, which would go live on the 17th September 2021.
- A Community Action Plan had also been drafted.
- The Great Big Green Week would run from the 18th to the 26th September 2021 and would entail thousands of events to celebrate how communities were taking action to tackle climate change with the aim of raising awareness.
- 11 action points from the Biodiversity Task and Finish Group had also been viewed and included where appropriate into the Community Action Plan.
- The Sustainable Land Trust would run two pilot schemes with Parishes to review how community data was collected.
- Councillor Stephenson confirmed that the Rutland Climate Action website would contain full details regarding each village's involvement.
- Councillor Oxley requested that the Biodiversity Task and Finish Group be re-convened for a final meeting so that Councillor Stephenson could report in full. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Fox.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the Committee requested Governance to convene a final meeting of the Biodiversity Task and Finish Group.

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Councillor Fox proposed that the Leisure Contract be deferred to the Special Growth, Infrastructure and Resources Scrutiny Committee meeting on the 7th October 2021 at 7.00 p.m. and this was agreed by the Committee, Penny Sharp and the Portfolio Holder.

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12 PARKING STRATEGY: UPDATE

A verbal update was received from Councillor Stepheson. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- Written headlines from Councillor Stephenson were distributed to attendees – copy attached.

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Councillor Waller proposed an extension until 22:00, this was seconded by Councillor Oxley and was unanimously agreed at 21:27

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- Councillor Waller requested that parking hotspots be listed e.g. outside schools etc. and areas where there were no pavements.
- Councillor Oxley asked if an update about the need for resident parking permits would be carried out. Councillor Stephenson confirmed that she would check with the Parking Manager.
- Councillor Stephenson reported that the draft parking strategy would be discussed at Cabinet in December and it was agreed that the draft strategy should be presented to the Scrutiny Committee prior to the Cabinet meeting.

RESOLVED:

- a) That the Committee requested Governance to update the work plan to include the draft parking strategy for discussion at the Growth, Infrastructure and Resources Scrutiny Committee meeting on the 18th November 2021.

13 REVIEW OF FORWARD PLAN AND ANNUAL WORK PLAN

Councillor Waller requested that a final report and recommendations from the Biodiversity Task and Finish Group be added to the agenda for the November meeting.

14 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business

15 DATE AND PREVIEW OF NEXT MEETING

7 October 2021 at 7.00 p.m. via Zoom

Special Agenda

- Leisure Contract – Business Case

18 November 2021 at 7.00 p.m.

Agenda

- Finance Update
- Developer Contributions: Analysis of S106 and CIL money
- Biodiversity Network: national and regional assessment framework
- Revised Parking Policy: draft
- Biodiversity Task and Finish Group: final report and recommendations

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Chairman closed the meeting at 9.35 pm.

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