



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, 9th February, 2023 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT

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

APOLOGIES

Peter French	Diocesan Deputy Director of Education, Dioceses of Peterborough
Jane Narey (Clerk)	Scrutiny Officer

STATUTORY CO-OPTED MEMBERS – EDUCATION REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT

Andreas Menzies	Roman Catholic Diocese
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**PORTFOLIO HOLDERS
PRESENT**

Councillor L Stephenson	Leader and Portfolio Holder for Policy, Strategy, Partnerships and Economy
Councillor S Harvey	Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Care

**OFFICERS
PRESENT**

Tom Delaney (Clerk)	Governance Manager
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ATTENDED

Councillor G Brown
Councillor W Cross
Councillor R Payne

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES RECEIVED

Apologies were received from Peter French, Co-Opted Member and Jane Narey, Scrutiny Officer.

2 RECORD OF MEETING

It was noted the minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2023 were not available by the publication of the agenda due to the change in meeting date. The minutes

would be presented to the next scheduled meeting of the Committee on 9 March 2023.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

No petitions, deputations or questions were received.

5 QUESTIONS WITH NOTICE FROM MEMBERS

No questions with notice with notice were received from Members.

6 NOTICES OF MOTION FROM MEMBERS

No notices of motion had been received.

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

No call-ins had been received.

8 PORTFOLIO HOLDERS' UPDATE

A presentation was received from Councillor S Harvey, Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Care (copy attached), regarding the latest progress towards implementation of the recommendations of the Primary Care Task and Finish Group. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The Rutland Memorial Hospital Feasibility Study had been completed and would be presented to the Rutland Health and Wellbeing Board on the 21st March 2023.
- The Estates Strategy for Rutland had also been completed but not to the standard requested by the Integrated Care Board so the process had been re-commissioned resulting in the estates strategy being delayed.
- The patient survey had been delayed slightly but would be progressed by the Rutland Health and Wellbeing Board after the county elections in May 2023.
- The Portfolio Holder confirmed that she would ask the Primary Care Network if patients were charged for the call whilst waiting on hold and would notify members of the response.

ACTION: Councillor Harvey

- The Portfolio Holder also agreed to ask the Primary Care Network about the possibility of the GP practices in the future pooling their individual phone services into one combined service and feedback the response to the committee members.

ACTION: Councillor Harvey

- It was noted that although there had been an increase in the number of appointments available across the four surgeries since before the COVID-19 pandemic, these included appointments other than those by doctors and that the demand for appointments had also risen.
- The use of online consultation and appointments was being promoted to patients by the Primary Care Network but it was suggested that the Integrated Care Board

should also communicate these matters to help increase public understanding of the issue facing the practices.

- It was queried if any change had resulted from the recommendation to find a mechanism where assets, if added through public funds, were retained on the public balance sheet. The Portfolio Holder confirmed that it was national policy for Section 106 or CIL funding for GP practices to be allocated through the Integrated Care Board but that she would raise the matter with the Board.

9 GROUP AND PANEL UPDATES

A) CULTURE / ASSET REVIEW TASK AND FINISH GROUP

A written update was received from Councillor A Walters, Chair of the Culture/Asset Review Task and Finish Group. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- Given the uncertain position with several directions of travel being assessed by officers, the committee was asked to advise on the Task and Finish Group as follows:
 1. Should the Task and Finish Group review stop pending further information and then restart after the elections in May with revised terms of reference?
 2. Should the Task and Finish Group continue under the same terms of reference but in the knowledge that circumstances have changed?
 3. Regardless of the above, should the delegated member (Councillor Baines) continue to seek advice from educational establishments as to how the culture offer could be of most benefit to students, and how they might become more involved?
- Councillor Baines confirmed that he would continue to seek information from educational establishments with the support of Governance, who would assist with the distribution and collation of the information so that it was stored in a central location.

ACTION: Councillor E Baines and Governance

RESOLVED

That the Committee:

- a) **AGREED** that the Culture/Asset Review Task and Finish Group should cease.
- b) **AGREED** 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.
- c) **AGREED** that, after the elections in May 2023, the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee 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.

B) CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE TASK AND FINISH GROUP

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

- Councillor Begy confirmed that he had resigned his membership of this and other groups due to personal circumstances.
- He proposed that the Customer Experience Task and Finish Group should be:
 1. Postponed until after the Council's transformation programme.
 2. Re-considered by the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee for re-commencing with updated Terms of Reference following the elections in May 2023.

RESOLVED

That the Committee:

- a) **AGREED** that the Customer Experience Task and Finish Group should cease.
- b) **AGREED** that, after the elections in May 2023, the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee should consider re-commencing the Customer Experience Task and Finish Group with updated Terms of Reference following the outcome of the Council's transformation programme.

C) ECONOMIC STRATEGY TASK AND FINISH GROUP

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

- A further meeting of the Economic Strategy Task and Finish Group had been arranged for Tuesday, 21st February 2023 at 5.30 p.m.
- The framework of the Council's Economic Strategy would be considered plus any emerging intervention and policy issues.
- A further update would be given at the next meeting.

D) HIGHWAYS AND SPEEDING

- Councillor P Browne was unable to attend the meeting so there was no update for the Committee.
- The Chair requested that updates should either be provided in writing or in-person at future Committee meetings.

E) HOMELESSNESS EVIDENCE PANEL

The final report from the Homelessness Evidence Panel was presented to the committee. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- Councillor Waller thanked members and officers for all their hard work in the production of the report as there had been a lot of information to research, collate and understand.

- It was confirmed that Table 1 showed the number of people who had been assessed as homeless over the period of time stated and not the actual number of homeless people in Rutland.
- Councillor Harvey informed members that the Council's Armed Forces Officer worked with all charities and outreach services to assist and support ex-military personnel as well as the families of current military personnel.
- The Portfolio Holder for Health, Wellbeing and Adult Care queried the wording in recommendation 6.2 and its implications regarding safeguarding as both adults and children could be classed as a victim of domestic abuse. Councillor Waller stated that the recommendation was for an overview of domestic abuse placements e.g. Were they placed quickly? Did services stay connected with them? If children were involved, had their education provision been sorted? It was agreed that Councillor Waller would meet with the Portfolio Holder to re-word the recommendation for discussion/approval at the meeting of the scrutiny committee on the 9th March 2023.

ACTION: Councillor Waller and Councillor Harvey

- It was noted that these were purely recommendations for Cabinet and that Cabinet could refuse and/or rephrase the recommendations.
 - Consideration was then given to the remaining recommendations of the report as follows:
- 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.
 - 6.3 That RCC explores with its registered social landlords the possibility of increasing the number of homes in Rutland available for temporary accommodation.
 - 6.4 That Cabinet, as part of the Council's Asset Review, explores the options for developing new temporary accommodation in Rutland to house those who have been made homeless.
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - 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 improving data collection on the private sector in Rutland.
 - 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.

RESOLVED

That the Committee:

- a) **ACCEPTED** the report of the Homeless Evidence Panel.
- b) **AGREED** that recommendation 6.2 of the report would be re-worded and submitted to the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 9th March 2023 for discussion/approval.
- c) **APPROVED** the remaining recommendations (6.1, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6.7, 6.8)

F) MINERALS AUTHORITY CONTRACT EVIDENCE PANEL

A scoping document for the Minerals Authority Contract Evidence Panel was received from Councillor N Begy. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- Councillor Begy informed the committee that the aim was to review the performance of the minerals authority contract after it had been in place for a year and that, 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.
- The report would cover the issues listed in the scoping document but members were invited to add any other issues for consideration.
- The Committee requested that Mark Chant, Head of Planning Services, Minerals and Waste from North Northamptonshire Council (NNC) should be invited to the April scrutiny meeting as he was the only member of staff at NNC who had dealt with the minerals authority contract from its inception.

10 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:

- Homelessness Evidence Panel: final report – 9th March 2023
Recommendation 6.2 of the report would be re-worded and submitted to the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the 9th March 2023 for discussion/approval.
- Minerals Authority Contract – 20th April 2023
An update report on the Minerals Authority Contract would be prepared for consideration at the meeting of the Committee on the 20th April 2023.
- Culture/Asset Review Task and Finish Group – 15th June 2023
After the elections in May 2023, the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee 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.
- Customer Experience Task and Finish Group – 15th June 2023
After the elections in May 2023, the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee should consider re-commencing the Customer Experience Task and Finish Group with updated Terms of Reference following the outcome of the Council's transformation programme.

11 ANY URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business for consideration.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 9 March 2023 at 7.00 p.m.

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The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.38 pm.

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SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

No.	Ref.	Action	Person
1.	8	The Portfolio Holder to ask the Primary Care Network if patients were charged for the call whilst waiting on hold and would notify members of the response.	Councillor Harvey
2.	8	The Portfolio Holder to ask the Primary Care Network about the possibility of the GP practices in the future pooling their individual phone services into one combined service and feedback the response to the committee members.	Councillor Harvey
3.	9A	CULTURE / ASSET REVIEW TASK AND FINISH GROUP Councillor E Baines, with the support of Governance, to 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.	Councillor E Baines and Governance
4.	9E	HOMELESSNESS EVIDENCE PANEL: FINAL REPORT Councillor Waller to meet with the Portfolio Holder to re-word recommendation 6.2 for discussion/ approval at the meeting of the scrutiny committee on the 9 th March 2023.	Councillor Waller and Councillor Harvey