



Rutland County Council

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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 and via Zoom on Thursday, 13th July, 2023 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor R Ross (Chair)
Councillor N Begy
Councillor T Carr
Councillor M Chatfield
Councillor H Edwards
Councillor S Lambert
Councillor K Payne
Councillor R Powell
Councillor D Wilby (representative)

APOLOGIES

Councillor L Stephenson (Vice Chair)
Councillor A Brown
Mr Andreas Menzies Roman Catholic Diocese
Mr Peter French Diocesan Deputy Director of
Education, Dioceses of Peterborough

PORTFOLIO HOLDERS PRESENT

Councillor G Waller Leader of the Council
Councillor A Johnson Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for
Resources
Councillor P Browne Portfolio Holder for Planning and Property
Councillor D Ellison Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Health

OFFICERS PRESENT

Mark Andrews Chief Executive
Angela Wakefield Strategic Director of Law and Governance
(Monitoring Officer)
Kirsty Nutton Strategic Director of Resources (S151
Officer)
Kevin Quinn Head of Corporate Services
Andrew Merry Head of Finance (DS151)
Tom Delaney Democratic Services Manager
Jane Narey (Clerk) Scrutiny Officer

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES RECEIVED

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were noted from Councillor L Stephenson, Councillor A Brown, Mr Andreas Menzies and Mr Peter French.

2 RECORD OF MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 15th June 2023 were approved as an accurate record.

3 ACTIONS ARISING

Action 1

Councillor Ross to speak with Councillors Begy and Lambert regarding their assistance in developing the scrutiny improvement plan due to their membership on last year's scrutiny committee.

Councillor Ross informed the committee that he had spoken with Councillors Begy and Lambert and that they were happy with the proposed scrutiny improvement plan.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5 PETITIONS, DEPUTATIONS AND QUESTIONS

No petitions, deputations or questions were received.

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 from Members.

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

No call-ins were received.

9 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS/OUTCOMES

- Members were informed that a new process had been established for the reporting of recommendations from the scrutiny committee and the resulting outcomes.
- The table included in the agenda pack detailed the recommendations made and the resulting outcome(s).
- This document would be updated and presented to the scrutiny committee as and when recommendations were made.

10 REVIEW OF THE WORK PLAN

- The draft work plan and the pending items list were discussed and updated accordingly – copies attached.
- It was noted that the quarterly financial outturn reports would be added to the work plan once publication dates had been confirmed.
- The Scrutiny Committee proposed holding an additional meeting before the Cabinet meeting being held on the 15th August 2023 so that they could review Part

1 of the Leisure Procurement Process. The Chief Executive informed the committee that dates/timings would need to be checked before a meeting was arranged to ensure that the information the committee required for its meeting would be available.

11 ELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES

- The Chair confirmed that the Scrutiny Committee required a substitute representative to attend meetings of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Joint Health Scrutiny Committee held three times a year in Leicester.
- The substitute member would only be required to attend if either the Chair (Councillor Ross) or the Vice Chair (Councillor Stephenson) were unable to attend.
- The next meeting of the LLR Joint Health Scrutiny Committee would be held on Monday, 18th September, 2.00 – 5.00 p.m. at County Hall.
- Councillor R Powell nominated Councillor T Carr as the substitute representative and this was seconded by Councillor K Payne.

RESOLVED

That the Committee:

- a) **APPROVED** Councillor T Carr as the substitute member to the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Joint Health Scrutiny Committee for 2023-2024.

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Councillor A Johnson joined the meeting at 7.37 p.m.

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The Chair proposed to take Agenda Item 14 before Agenda Items 12 & 13 and this was agreed by the Scrutiny Committee.

14 GROUP AND PANEL UPDATES

A. ECONOMIC STRATEGY TASK AND FINISH GROUP

The notes from the meeting of the Economic Strategy Task and Finish Group held on the 26th June 2023 were reviewed. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The 'summary' in the notes detailed the Task and Finish Group's recommended amendments to the final Economic Development Strategy.
- A further meeting of the Task and Finish Group had been proposed after the 24th July to review further information.
- It was stated that the Task and Finish Group had done a comprehensive job and that this had been an excellent example of partnership working between the Portfolio Holders, Officers and Members for the Scrutiny Committee to add value to Council services.

RESOLVED

That the Committee:

- a) **APPROVED** that the summary of the recommended amendments to the Economic Development Strategy, as detailed in the notes from the meeting of the Economic

Strategy Task and Finish Group held on the 26th June 2023, be sent to Cabinet for their consideration

- b) **APPROVED** that any further comments from a future meeting of the Task and Finish Group should be sent directly to Cabinet for their consideration.

B. ASSET REVIEW TASK AND FINISH GROUP

The draft Terms of Reference for the proposed Asset Review Task and Finish Group were reviewed. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The date for the Task and Finish Group to receive the relevant papers should be included in the proposed timescales.
- The Chief Executive stated that an All Members' Briefing would be held to present a background overview of the Asset Review and that the proposed timescales for the Task and Finish Group would be amended.
- Following the All Members' Briefing, the Scrutiny Committee would then identify how it could add value to the asset review process and confirm the methodology and timelines.
- The recommendations of the Scrutiny Committee could then be made to Cabinet before a final decision would be made by full Council.
- Councillor K Payne nominated Councillor R Powell as the Chair of the Asset Review Task and Finish Group and this was seconded by Councillor S Lambert.
- Councillor D Wilby nominated Councillor K Payne as the Vice Chair of the Asset Review Task and Finish Group and this was seconded by Councillor T Carr.
- The Chair informed the committee that Councillor S Harvey had confirmed that she would like to be a member of the Task and Finish Group.

RESOLVED

That the Committee:

- a) **APPROVED** Councillor S Powell as the Chair of the Asset Review Task and Finish Group.
- b) **APPROVED** Councillor K Payne as the Vice Chair of the Asset Review Task and Finish Group.
- c) **APPROVED** Councillors S Harvey, N Begy and S Lambert as members of the Asset Review Task and Finish Group.

12 **CORPORATE PERFORMANCE: ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT 2022-2023**

Report No. 106/2023 was received from Councillor Andrew Johnson, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Resources. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- Councillor Johnson confirmed that he had received questions/comments from the Scrutiny Committee prior to the meeting and details of these, along with the relevant responses, would be published with the minutes.
- The report detailed the performance for the first year of the new Corporate Strategy but 'trends' would be shown in future reports.
- Members would also continue to receive the Quarterly Performance Reports which would identify trends on a quarterly position.
- The Chief Executive informed members that a lot of positives were identified within the report and agreed with Members that recognition and better communication

with the public was needed regarding the Council's successes with equal emphasis on the service receivers as well as the service deliverers.

RESOLVED

That the Committee:

- a) **NOTED** the contents of the annual report and the performance of the Council over the last year as set out in Report No. 87/2023

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Kevin Quinn left the meeting at 8.24 p.m.

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13 FINANCIAL OUTTURN POSITION 2022-2023

Report No. 107/2023 was received from Councillor Andrew Johnson, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Resources and was presented by Kirsty Nutton, Strategic Director for Resources (s.151 Officer). During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- Members of the Scrutiny Committee had submitted comments and queries to Councillor A Johnson prior to the meeting and details of these, along with the relevant responses, would be published with the minutes.
- Councillor K Payne queried how the Council would evidence that it was delivering against the Financial Sustainability Strategy.
- The Strategic Director of Resources informed members that the report detailed the impact on the medium term financial strategy (Section 3.11).
- It was noted that there was still uncertainty regarding central governance funding but that the Quarterly Financial Outturn Reports would contain narrative information as well as data.
- An enhanced budget setting process was in place to ensure the Council and its services remained sustainable.

RESOLVED

That the Committee:

- a) **NOTED** the contents of the 2022/2023 revenue and capital outturn report as set out in Report No. 104/2023.

15 SCRUTINY IMPROVEMENT PLAN: DRAFT

- The Scrutiny Improvement Plan, drafted by the Scrutiny Officer, was received and reviewed by the Committee.
- There were no questions or comments from members of the Scrutiny Committee.
- The Chair confirmed that he, with the support of the Scrutiny Officer, would produce a final version of the Scrutiny Improvement Plan for approval at a meeting of the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

16 ANY URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

17 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 21st September 2023 at 7.00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

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The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.48 pm.

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