



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 on Thursday, 23rd November, 2023 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor R Ross (Chair)
Councillor T Carr
Councillor M Chatfield
Councillor K Corby
Councillor H Edwards
Councillor S Lambert
Councillor K Payne
Councillor R Powell

APOLOGIES

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

PORTFOLIO HOLDERS PRESENT

Councillor A Johnson Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for
Resources
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)
Kim Sorsky Strategic Director of Adult Services and
Health
Kirsty Nutton Strategic Director of Resources (S151
Officer)
Mike Sandys Director of Public Health for Leicestershire &
Rutland
Debra Mitchell Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Leicester,
Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care
Board (LLR ICB)
Kevin Quinn Head of Corporate Services
Jane Narey (Clerk) Scrutiny Officer

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES RECEIVED

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

2 RECORD OF MEETING

The minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on the 21st September 2023 were approved as an accurate record.

3 ACTIONS ARISING

There were no actions arising from the previous meeting.

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

Details of the recommendation regarding the Transport Network Review Business Case & Post 16 Travel Options made and the response from Cabinet were noted.

10 PLAN OF HEALTH RESPONSIBILITIES AND KEY DECISIONS

A presentation was received from Councillor Diane Ellison, Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Health, Kim Sorsky, Strategic Director of Adult Services and Health, Debra Mitchell, Deputy Chief Operating Officer, Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Integrated Care Board (LLR ICB) and Mike Sandys, Director of Public Health for Leicestershire & Rutland. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Health thanked Scrutiny Members for their questions and reported that a copy of the questions plus responses would be distributed with the minutes.
- The Strategic Director of Adult Services and Health introduced 4 additional slides to the committee which identified the good practice currently happening in Rutland – copy attached.
- The Rutland Health and Wellbeing Board had updated their Terms of Reference to include the World Health Organisation's definition of health – 'A state of complete

physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.’

- The Deputy Chief Operating Officer, LLR ICB informed attendees that an additional sub-group of the Health and Wellbeing Board had been established to improve the quality and distribution of communications to members of the public.
- The role of the Health & Care Infrastructure Group was to look at the planned areas of housing/population growth within Rutland, review the implications on all health services including primary care e.g. GP practices and then align services to support the planned growth but, with limited capital funding and decreasing public funding, this was challenging.
- Rutland currently had a sufficient number of GP’s and GP appointments to support its population but there was a national issue regarding the management of the public’s expectations on accessing primary care.
- Primary care services had changed with the provision of other medical professionals e.g. Advanced Nurse Practitioners, Nurses, Pharmacists, etc so that the public could access health services without the need for a GP appointment.
- The LLR ICB Communications Officer and Rutland County Council’s Communications Team would be working in the future with GP practices within Rutland to help them improve their communications with residents regarding the different services available.

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Councillor Diane Ellison, Kim Sorsky, Debra Mitchell and Mike Sandys left the meeting at 7.47 p.m.

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11 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE - MID YEAR REPORT

Report No. 170/2023 was received from Councillor Andrew Johnson, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Resources, Angela Wakefield, Strategic Director of Law and Governance and Kevin Quinn, Head of Corporate Services. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Resources thanked Scrutiny Members for their questions and reported that a copy of the questions plus responses would be distributed with the minutes.
- The report demonstrated how realistic and transparent Rutland County Council was regarding its own performance.
- Some Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) were not currently available but would be as data recording improved but the overall aim was to provide a better service at a lower cost.
- More affordable housing was needed in Rutland and the Council’s Housing Services team was investigating the possibility of renovating empty houses into habitable and affordable housing for Rutland residents.
- There continued to be recruitment issues within the care services and other skilled or technical roles, but this was nationwide.
- All services were being provided to Rutland residents but where understaffed this was impacting on the welfare of the workforce.

RESOLVED

That the Committee:

- a) **NOTED** the contents of the performance report and the progress in delivering the strategic aims within the Corporate Strategy 2022-2027 as set out in Report No. 167/2023.

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Kevin Quinn left the meeting at 8.17 p.m.

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12 2023/24 QUARTER 2 - REVENUE AND CAPITAL FORECAST REPORT

Report No. 171/2023 was received from Councillor Andrew Johnson, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Resources, Kirsty Nutton, Strategic Director of Resources and Andrew Merry, Finance Manager. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- The Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Resources thanked Scrutiny Members for their questions and reported that a copy of the questions plus responses would be distributed with the minutes.
 - The deficit balance on the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) continued to be a national issue. Mark Andrews, Chief Executive confirmed that the Council had to cover the deficit in 2025-26, as central government would not be providing additional funding and that work was ongoing with the Delivering Better Value in SEND programme to decrease this deficit.
 - The Strategic Director of Resources informed attendees that approximately £300k was expected in business rates from the creation of the Mallard Pass Solar Farm though the solar power industry was reviewing a standard approach to community benefit payments.
 - The Chief Executive confirmed that he would provide a progress update on the transformation initiatives in the next Members' Briefing.
- ACTION: Mark Andrews**
- It was confirmed that the risk of increased external audit fees had been included within the budget.
 - The Strategic Director of Resources stated that cash limits had been set for all managers, with the challenge of changing services for the better whilst decreasing costs so ensuring the sustainability of Rutland County Council.

RESOLVED

That the Committee:

- a) **NOTED** the contents of the 2023-2024 Quarter 2 Revenue and Capital Forecast report as set out in Report No. 168/2023.

13 REVIEW OF THE WORK PLAN

The work plan and the list of proposed items were reviewed. During the discussion, the following points were noted:

- a) Asset Review
The Chief Executive informed attendees that the report on the Asset Review Business Cases had been delayed as up-to-date figures were being collated and the business cases reviewed. The data was expected in January 2024 when the report would be finalised and then presented to Cabinet. It was agreed that Councillor Rosemary Powell, Chair of the Asset Review Task and Finish Group

would arrange a meeting for the Chief Executive to update the Task and Finish Group on the current situation and possibly identify any actions for the group moving forward.

ACTION: Councillor Rosemary Powell

b) Levelling Up Fund (LUF)

The Chief Executive confirmed that the process for the LUF was on track and that he would ask Councillor Gale Waller, Leader of the Council to send an update briefing to all Councillors.

ACTION: Mark Andrews

14 ANY URGENT BUSINESS

There was no urgent business.

15 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, 25th January 2024 at 7.00 p.m.

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The Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.53 p.m.

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SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

No.	Ref.	Action	Person
1.	12	2023/24 QUARTER 2 - REVENUE AND CAPITAL FORECAST REPORT The Chief Executive confirmed that he would provide a progress update on the transformation initiatives in the next Members' Briefing.	Mark Andrews
2.	13 a)	<u>Asset Review</u> Councillor Rosemary Powell, Chair of the Asset Review Task and Finish Group to arrange a meeting for the Chief Executive to update the Task and Finish Group on the current situation and possibly identify any actions for the group moving forward.	Councillor Rosemary Powell
3.	13 b)	<u>Levelling Up Fund (LUF)</u> The Chief Executive confirmed that the process for the LUF was on track and that he would ask Councillor Gale Waller, Leader of the Council to send an update briefing to all Councillors.	Mark Andrews