

SCRUTINY PANEL

7 July 2016

POLICY TERMS OF REFERENCE AND SCOPING

Report of the Director for Places (Development & Economy)

Strategic Aim:	All	
Exempt Information	No	
Cabinet Member(s) Responsible:	<p>Mr T C King, Leader and Portfolio Holder for Finance and Development</p> <p>Mr T Mathias, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Places (Highways, Environment, Transport and Community Safety) and Market Towns</p> <p>Mr O Hemsley, Portfolio Holder for Resources (excluding Finance), Culture, Sport & Recreation, Tourism and Housing</p>	
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Ward Councillors	All	

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Panel:

1. Considers the terms of reference and scope of a neighbourhood plan policy, refugee housing policy and a fairness in localism policy and how these policies should be developed.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To consider how the Places Scrutiny Panel should engage in the development of policies for neighbourhood plans, refugee housing and fairness in localism.

2 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLANS

- 2.1 It is evident from the first set of neighbourhood plans that there are mixed expectations in the community and that these have drifted from the initial Government intention of neighbourhood plans facilitating growth and expansion alongside the community.

2.2 Therefore we need specific policies that clearly articulate Governance and structure as well as prioritisation and support levels for these plans so there is a clear hierarchy and a transparent expectation of delivery for all parties.

3 REFUGEE HOUSING

3.1 As an Authority we have engaged in the Syrian Vulnerable People Relocation (SVPR) Scheme and will be taking our first families in the near future. There are numerous other schemes that we do not engage with such as Asylum Dispersal due mainly to the nature of our housing stock.

3.2 This is an opportunity for Scrutiny to formulate policy on housing SVPR migrants and any potential future engagement and also consider how we accommodate the potential relocation of unaccompanied asylum seeking children through the emerging multiple UASC schemes.

4 FAIRNESS IN LOCALISM

4.1 There are a number of services that are delivered by RCC or parish/town councils where there are inconsistent service levels across the County and/or inconsistencies in which organisation delivers the service.

4.2 The proposed objective of a policy for localism would be to ensure a fair and consistent approach to service delivery in all parishes/towns across the County. Additional benefits of localism include the potential for improved service delivery, empowerment of local communities and strengthening accountability to local people.

4.3 The proposed services that could be within the scope of the policy include:

- a) grass cutting;
- b) car parking;
- c) public open spaces; and
- d) street cleaning.

4.4 The terms of reference will need to consider how town and parish councils will be consulted on any proposed changes and how any changes can be timed to allow appropriate adjustments to parish precepts.

5 BACKGROUND PAPERS

5.1 There are no additional background papers to the report.

6 APPENDICES

6.1 None

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