

South Northamptonshire Council

Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held as a Remote meeting on Wednesday 14 October 2020 at 5.00 pm.

Present Councillor Sandra Barnes MBE (Chairman)

Councillor Fiona Baker
Councillor John Budden
Councillor Richard Dallyn
Councillor Valerie Furniss
Councillor David Harries BEM
Councillor Gregor Hopkins
Councillor Dennis Loveland
Councillor Charles Manners
Councillor Abigail Medina
Councillor Ken Pritchard
Councillor Lisa Samiotis
Councillor Allen Walker
Councillor Elaine Wiltshire

Also Present: Ian Achurch, Head of External Funding and Partnerships,
Northamptonshire County Council
Sally Reynolds, Chief Executive for the Silverstone Experience
Darren Beddard, Finance Director for the Silverstone Experience

Officers: Martin Henry, Executive Director: Finance (Section 151 Officer)
Andrew Hunkin, Executive Director: Resources (Monitoring Officer)
Jo Barrett, Assistant Director: Wellbeing
Jim Newton, Assistant Director: Planning & Economy
Felicity Parker, Environmental Projects
Jacqueline Brooks, Housing Services Manager
Lesley Farrell, Democratic and Elections Officer
Diana Davies, Democratic Services Officer
Natasha Clark, Governance and Elections Manager

2 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3 Appointment of Vice Chairman

Resolved

(1) That Councillor Elaine Wiltshire be appointed Vice-Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee for the municipal year 2020-21.

4 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2020 and 16 September 2020 were confirmed as a correct record and would be signed by the Chairman in due course.

5 **Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

6 **Chairman's Announcements**

There were no Chairman's announcements.

7 **Superfast Broadband**

The Head of External Funding and Partnerships Northamptonshire County Council delivered a presentation about Superfast Northamptonshire which encompassed the national policy in context, local targets and progress, the coverage in South Northamptonshire, target projects, timescales and the plan for future development

In response to Councillors specific area related questions the Head of External Funding and Partnerships Northamptonshire County Council agreed to address these with Members after the meeting.

Resolved

(1) That the presentation be noted.

8 **Climate Change Working Group**

The Climate Change Officer presented the progress report on the Climate Change Action Plan and recommended next steps.

In response to the Committee's question regarding tree planting in the area the Climate Change Officer advised a response was expected from Woodlands Trust by the end of October

The Committee noted that the audit of buildings had been carried out and the Climate Change Officer reported that actions could be expected prior to unitary vesting day. Funding had recently become available and bidding for larger items would be made. The Climate Change Officer further advised that the bidding process could become a collaborative project with Daventry and Northampton Borough.

In responding to councillors' queries regarding the continuation of the climate change work once the West Northamptonshire Unitary is in place, the Climate Change Officer

reported that during a meeting with her counterparts at Northampton Borough Council and Daventry District Council, a joint decarbonisation plan for 2021 was being made and it was anticipated that climate change would be a priority for the Unitary.

Resolved

- (1) That the progress made, and the challenges identified be noted
- (2) That the proposed next steps be endorsed

9 Housing Strategy

The Housing Services Manager gave a presentation on the Progress of the Housing Strategy 2019-2022 Action Plan and the key priorities identified.

In responding to the Committee's question regarding a hospital outreach worker for Northamptonshire and whether a reciprocal arrangement with the Horton General Hospital had been made, the Housing Services Manager agreed to contact Cherwell District Council and Oxfordshire Clinical Care Group and update Members outside of the meeting.

In response to concerns raised by the committee that the outreach work would not continue once West Northamptonshire Unitary was established, the Housing Services Manager advised that the outreach worker worked across SNC, Daventry District Council and Northampton Borough Council and would continue to cover this area.

The Housing Services Manager agreed to circulate information regarding the validation of the body that provided training for the 'Trusted Assessor' outside of the meeting.

Resolved

- (1) That the presentation be noted.

10 Conclusions of the Section 106 Transport Working Group

The Assistant Director: Planning and Economy updated the committee on the work undertaken by the Section 106 Transport Working Group and its conclusions.

In considering the report, the Committee discussed the requirement for a travel plan co-ordinator and agreed that the conclusions of the report should be submitted to Full Council with an additional recommendation that the West Northamptonshire Unitary Council consider appointing the merits of appointing a travel plan co-ordinator.

Resolved

- (1) That the work and conclusions of the Section 106 Transport Working Group be noted, and the final report be accepted.
- (2) That Full Council be requested to recommend to the West Northamptonshire Unitary Council to consider the merits of appointing a travel plan coordinator'.

11 **Review of Committee Work Plan**

The Committee considered its work plan.

The Committee agreed that given the importance of Primary Care Services in Northamptonshire, a special scrutiny meeting should be arranged in November for the Chief Executive of the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to attend.

The Assistant Director: Wellbeing advised that she had been invited to join the Primary Care Working Group around Towcester provision which would assist to develop links to the wellbeing team and with adult social care.

The Assistant Director: Planning and Economy advised the committee that it was anticipated that the Business Strategy would be submitted to the January 2021 meeting for consideration.

The Committee agreed to add two additional items to the work programme, updates on the Link Road and the Saracen's Junction. The Democratic Services Officer advised that the items would be scheduled at the appropriate time.

Resolved

- (1) That, subject to the following amendments, the work programme be noted:
 - addition of a special meeting of the committee in November to receive the Chief Executive of the Clinical Commissioning Group
 - Move Business Strategy from items to be allocated to January 2021
 - Add updates on the Link Road and Saracen's Junction to be considered at the appropriate time

12 **Exclusion of Press and Public**

Resolved

That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that, if the public and press were present, it would be likely that exempt information falling under the provisions of Schedule 12A, Part I, Paragraph 3 would be disclosed to them, and that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

13 **Presentation from the Chief Executive of The Silverstone Experience'**

The Chief Executive of Silverstone Heritage presented an update to the Committee.

The Committee asked detailed questions which were duly answered.

The Committee requested that the Chief Executive of Silverstone Heritage provide a further update in 2021.

Resolved

- (1) That the exempt presentation be noted.
- (2) That the Chief Executive of the Silverstone Experience be invited to attend a meeting of the Committee in the New Year to give a further update

The meeting closed at 7.33 pm

Chairman:

Date: