

**MINUTES OF THE GROWTH, ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD AT 7PM ON  
WEDNESDAY 1 NOVEMBER 2017  
BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOMS, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

**Committee Members Present:** Councillors Aitken, Brown, Cereste, Ellis, Ferris, J A Fox, Harper, King, Peach (Chairman), Sandford, Sylvester, Parish Councillor  
Co-opted Members Lievesley and R Clarke

**Officers Present:** Simon Machen, Corporate Director, Growth and Regeneration  
Richard Kay, Head of Sustainable Growth Strategy  
Peter Carpenter, Director of Financial Services  
Mark Sandhu, Head of Customer and Transactional Services  
Lisa Roberts, Head of Culture and Leisure

**Also Present:** Steve Bowyer, CEO Opportunity Peterborough  
Councillor Steve Allen, Cabinet Advisor to the Leader

**24. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor Nawaz and Councillor Sylvester was in attendance as substitute.

The Chairman advised the Committee that he had received a request to change the order of item 7 Serco Annual Report and item 8 Sport Strategy on the agenda. The officer presenting item 7 had to attend another meeting and would arrive late. The Committee unanimously agreed to this change.

**25. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING DECLARATIONS**

Item 5. Peterborough Local Plan Proposed Submission

Councillor Harper declared an interest in that he was the Chairman of the Planning and Environment Committee and would therefore be reserved in his comments on the Local Plan item.

**26. MINUTES OF THE GROWTH, ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 29 AUGUST 2017 AND 20 SEPTEMBER 2017**

The minutes of the Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 29 August 2017 and 20 September 2017 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

**27. CALL IN OF ANY CABINET, CABINET MEMBER OR KEY OFFICER DECISIONS**

There were no requests for call-in to consider.

**28. PETERBOROUGH LOCAL PLAN PROPOSED SUBMISSION**

The Head of Sustainable Growth Strategy introduced the report which provided the Committee with the updated version of the proposed submission of the Local Plan (LP) for recommendation for approval at Cabinet for public consultation. The Local Plan had previously been presented to the Committee on 20 September 2017 where a late recommendation had been presented which proposed that the Local Plan be deferred for a period of 2-3 months, to enable officers to (a) fully appraise the new method for calculating housing need, and (b) bring back to Members a revised housing target and a subsequent revised set of proposed allocations. The Committee were informed of the key changes to the Local Plan since previously presented which included the reduction in the number of houses now required.

The Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- Members sought assurance that due diligence had been conducted around housing need and were informed that the methodology for recalculating housing need had been a straight forward process and had not required a huge amount of work.
- Policy LP8: Development proposals of 15 or more dwellings should through negotiation provide 30% affordable housing. This policy would stop developers from splitting sites into smaller sites to avoid providing affordable housing.
- The Local Plan was a tool to assist planners with regard to future developments and therefore did not include specific transport schemes.
- Policy LP40: Tanholt Farm, Eye had been designed to ensure the necessary infrastructure would be put in place for any new development.
- Members were advised of the process for the allocation of sites which included a small percentage of growth in the villages of only 4 to 5%. Growth in villages was based on hierarchy of the villages and which villages could take the growth.
- Concern was raised regarding the withdrawal of the Castor and Ailsworth site as this would now mean more pressure on other villages to expand. The Officer provided a detailed explanation of how the decision was made to withdraw the Castor and Ailsworth development. The methodology had remained the same as that applied to the previous version of the Local Plan submitted in September, the only difference being that the government figure had changed.
- The Corporate Director for Growth and Regeneration advised the Committee that the land north of Castor and Ailsworth had to be of a certain size to make it deliverable and viable in terms of housing and therefore could not be reduced in size.
- The Local Plan was a 20 year plan and recognised that the district centres would continuously regenerate. The plan therefore encouraged developers to put forward homes in the district centres and they then may wish to invest in and regenerate the district centre.
- The formal agreement between Fenland, Peterborough and East Cambridgeshire endorsing the adjustment to reduce the need for homes in Peterborough by 625 had been agreed as of 1 November 2017 and would be published as part of the Local Plan.
- Members commented that the Vision for Peterborough set out in section 3.1 of the Local Plan did not seem to be SMART objectives and wanted to know what could be done to make them smarter. Members were informed that they were aspirational targets and they were not reliant solely on Peterborough City Council to make them happen.

## **AGREED ACTIONS**

The Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to endorse the Proposed Submission ('Publication Draft') Local Plan as attached at Appendix 1 of the report to Cabinet for recommendation to Full Council .

## **29. OPPORTUNITY PETERBOROUGH BUSINESS PLAN 2017-18 AND ANNUAL REVIEW 2016-17**

The report was introduced by the CEO of Opportunity Peterborough (OP) and provided the Committee with an annual review of the company's performance for 2016/2017 and Business Plan for 2017-2018.

The Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- Having a University in Peterborough was very important. The Annual Business Survey conducted by OP this year had highlighted that the number one priority from local businesses was the requirement for a higher skilled work force. A University would be fundamental to bringing a higher skilled work force to Peterborough. It would also bring research and development opportunities and bring a huge boost to the local economy with ancillary businesses that spin off from having a University.
- Members commented that there was a mass transit of people going into Cambridge every day and wanted to know what was being done to attract businesses to Peterborough and the surrounding districts. Members were informed that overall there was a net in-commute and strong inward investment performance, but that if the University was developed this would attract more businesses to Peterborough because of the higher skilled workforce. The increase in Research and Development areas would also attract more businesses.
- A range of courses which would include higher end courses would be offered at the University and the curriculum would be wide ranging. Higher apprenticeships would also be offered. Consideration was also being given as to how the courses would be delivered and if some could be delivered as compressed courses over two years instead of three. Engagement with the business community was important at this stage to ensure the right courses were provided.
- The University was already open as the University Centre Peterborough where around 800 students were currently being taught. The Government had recently put out a white paper giving clear directions of how to get to the next stage of becoming a University. There was a clear plan to have the University of Peterborough in place by 2021.
- The LEADER Programme had proved successful, an example of which was the expansion of the White Hart at Ufford. £130,000 had already been awarded from the programme for projects with a current pipeline of £350,000 for further projects out a total pot of 1.2M Euros. March 2019 was the deadline for spending the remaining funds. The remaining funds cover any business or organisation within rural Peterborough and Rutland. It was important to get the message out to rural businesses and organisations that the money was there to be used.
- Businesses considering moving to the area would ask the following questions: can I operate my business, (taking into consideration the infrastructure and supply chain), can I grow my business, (looking at the local business opportunities) and can I recruit the right people. After those three had been considered then businesses would look at what cultural and social life there was to offer. When people move to Peterborough they like what it has to offer but there was more that could be done and OP continually engaged with Vivacity and other partners in the city to grow the wider cultural and leisure scene in the city.
- Members sought clarification as to what type of jobs were available in the city. Members were informed that there had been an increase in higher level skilled jobs on offer and

could provide the information after the meeting. Members could also look at the OP website which included the Business Spot Light book which had information on the types of businesses that were in Peterborough.

- Members requested that future reports provide more information with regard to trends over a period of 5 years rather than just one year and that the monthly intelligence report also be included in the Annual Review report.

### **AGREED ACTIONS**

1. The Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to accept and endorse the Opportunity Peterborough Business Plan 2017-18 and Annual Review 2016-17.
2. The Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee requested that the CEO of Opportunity Peterborough provide in future reports more information with regard to trends over a period of 5 years rather than just one year and that the monthly intelligence report also be included in the Annual Review report; and
3. That the CEO provide the Committee with a state of the economy report and information on the different types of companies and jobs available in Peterborough.

## **30 SPORT STRATEGY**

The report was introduced by the Head of Culture and Leisure accompanied by the Cabinet Advisor to the Leader. The Committee were updated as to the progress of the refresh of the current Sports Strategy and advised that an evidence base had been completed and this would inform the development of the refreshed strategy.

The Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

- Members sought assurance that the strategy would include links to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and that consideration was being given to any barriers whether physical or cultural to accessing sport, and also the quality and diversity of the provision. Members were assured that the Steering Group were working extremely closely with the Health and Wellbeing Board and were consulted with when the Health and Wellbeing Strategy targets were set. The Sport Strategy would help to deliver the Health and Wellbeing targets such as those concerning obesity, childhood obesity and coronary heart disease. The main thrust of the strategy would be about everyday participation in whatever that participation may be, whether that be walking briskly, joining activities in the park or organised activities. The Steering Group would give good guidance on how to take the strategy forward and be all inclusive.
- It was noted that the strategy appeared to be more urban focussed. Members were informed that one of the priorities within the strategy would be active travel which would cover walking and cycling and encouraging the use of walking and cycling networks around the rural areas.
- The strategy had been put together with a consortium approach as the City Council could not afford to deliver every single aspect of the strategy. The strategy would be endorsed by the City Council but owned by the Consortium who would deliver the action plan behind the strategy. The Council would still have responsibilities like the aging leisure stock and the Health and Wellbeing principles which would need to be delivered.

- Football was being co-ordinated through the Peterborough Football District League and they would be working with Hunts FA to put together a tool kit to assist football clubs and provide a holistic approach.
- Members commented that it was important to engage with different types of sports and ensure smaller clubs could be supported.
- There will be a central calendar function on the website which would allow people to check what physical activities were available on any one day and this would also be linked to a cultural and leisure activity calendar. There would also be a voucher scheme for people to try a physical activity free of charge to see if they liked it.
- Vivacity were a partner and on the Steering Group to ensure they fulfilled their part in providing culture and leisure activities.
- Members sought clarification as to whether there had been any progress made to build an Olympic size swimming pool in the city. Members were advised that from the assessment of the current leisure stock evidence had suggested that the city did not require a 50mtr pool as the current water space was adequate. Any additional water space would be recommended for the north of the city where participation levels required additional water space.
- Members commented that having a 50mtr pool in the city would attract more interest in Peterborough through advertising and marketing of the facility.
- The Committee stated that they were keen to see an Olympic size swimming pool in the city centre as it was felt it would bring additional facilities to Peterborough and could be combined with the University.

## **AGREED ACTIONS**

The Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to note the progress on the Sports Strategy.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee **RECOMMEND** that the Leader of the Council and Member of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority look at providing the city of Peterborough with a 50m Olympic size swimming pool.

The Committee feel that with the new University being built it would be an appropriate time to reconsider building an Olympic size pool. An Olympic pool would attract more participation in the sport and inward investment through galas and events and attract more interest in Peterborough through advertising and marketing of the facility. A possible location to consider would be behind the existing Lido which would provide economies of scale with regard to staffing and management costs and would be a central location for use by the public, local schools and a future University. Consideration could also be given to providing heat and power from the nearby Councils Energy from Waste facility.

## **31 SERCO ANNUAL REPORT 2016-17**

The report was introduced by the Service Director, Financial Services accompanied by the Head of Customer and Transactional Services. The report provided the Committee with an update on the performance of the Peterborough Serco Strategic Partnership (PSSP) which included the following services:-

- Shared Transactional Services (e.g. Council Tax, Business Rates, Benefits, Accounts Payable and Receivable, Payroll and Back-Office Parking Administration);
- Customer Services;

- Procurement;
- Business Transformation and Service Improvement;
- Business Support; and
- Financial Systems Support.

The Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee debated the report and in summary, key points raised and responses to questions included:

8.21pm – Councillor Sandford joined the meeting.

- Some Members commented that whilst the service provided by the Serco ICT department was good the security system appeared to be very complex and requested that additional assistance and guidance be provided to Councillors regarding the security system and that if possible it should be simplified. It was also suggested that a text be sent to Councillors in advance of any IT changes with clear instructions of what they may need to do in advance of any changes. The Service Director, Financial Services noted the request and would take the request back to the ICT department.
- There were approximately 180 staff in Customer Services and Transactional Services of which approximately 9 were temporary. The only members of staff who were paid below the Living Wage were apprentices but this would be confirmed. The Head of Customer and Transactional Services to provide the Committee with the exact figures of permanent and temporary staff and how many were paid below the Living Wage.
- Members requested an update with regard to page 192, paragraph 4.3 of the report: *“In relation to Business Support, the target was missed due to system issues and the ability to report on outputs. Options for a replacement system are currently being reviewed”*. Members were informed that there was no new business support system in the plan so the system issues may have been resolved but confirmation of this would be provided.
- Members sought clarification as to whether customers suffered in regard to the Business Support target that was missed due to system issues and the ability to report on outputs. Members were advised that a customer satisfaction survey was undertaken twice a year and the results that came out in September this year had shown a 97% satisfaction rate out of 500 customers. The indicator that failed was the number of calls that were answered which was lower than the expected target. The feedback from customers was that they were happy to wait a little longer as long as when the call was answered their enquiry would be dealt with.
- Members commented that when calling the council call centre the information and options provided appeared to be getting longer. Members were informed that some of the information provided was a legal requirement and other information was about advising the customer that there were alternative ways of contacting the council and connecting with a particular service e.g. making a payment. The messages were continually reviewed.
- There had been a relatively small increase in people paying by direct debit following the promotion to encourage council tax payment by direct debit which had cost a £1000.

## **AGREED ACTIONS**

The Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to note the performance of the Peterborough Serco Strategic Partnership (PSSP) and requested the following information:

1. The Head of Customer and Transactional Services to provide the Committee with the exact figures of permanent and temporary staff and if any staff were paid below the Living Wage.

2. The Service Director, Financial Services to confirm that the issues with the business support system had been resolved and that a new system was now not required.
3. The Service Director, Financial Services to follow up on the request with regard to the ICT security system and simplifying the process for Councillors.

## **32 MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Senior Democratic Services Officer introduced the report which provided the Committee with a record of recommendations made at the previous meeting and the outcome of those recommendations to consider if further monitoring was required.

### **AGREED ACTIONS**

The Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to consider the response from Cabinet Members and Officers to the recommendations made at the previous meeting, as attached in Appendix 1 of the report and agreed that no further monitoring of the recommendations was required.

## **33. FORWARD PLAN OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS**

The Committee received the latest version of the Council's Forward Plan of Executive Decisions containing key decisions that the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Members would make during the course of the forthcoming month. Members were invited to comment on the Plan and where appropriate, identify any relevant areas for inclusion in the Committee's Work Programme.

The Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to note the latest version of the Forward Plan.

### **AGREED ACTIONS**

The Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to note the Forward Plan of Executive Decisions and requested further information on the following Executive Decisions:

- Real Time Passenger Information – KEY/15MAY17/02
- Enterprise Managed Services Contract – KEY/15MAY17/06 – The Corporate Director, Growth and Regeneration advised the Committee that an options appraisal was currently being undertaken and there was no further information at this time.
- Approval of Sharing Officers between Peterborough City Council & Cambridgeshire County Council – KEY/10JUL17/01 – Members were informed that a briefing note had been sent out to the Committee following a request at the last meeting.

## **34. WORK PROGRAMME**

The Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee considered the Committee's Work Programme for 2016/17 and discussed possible items for inclusion.

The Senior Democratic Services Officer advised that there had been a request for five Supplementary Planning Documents to be presented at the next meeting of the Committee. The Committee requested that an executive summary be provided and an informal policy briefing session be held prior to the formal meeting on 10 January to ensure Members were fully briefed as to the content of the policies.

## **AGREED ACTIONS**

The Growth, Environment and Resources Scrutiny Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to note the latest version of the Work Programme 2017/18.

## **35. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

- 29 November 2017 – Joint Scrutiny of the Budget

CHAIRMAN  
7.00pm – 8.46 pm