

**MINUTES OF THE GROWTH, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD AT 6.45PM, ON
TUESDAY 19 MARCH 2024
BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOMS, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

Committee Members Present: Councillors Wiggin (Chair), Casey, JA Fox, Iqbal, Knight, Rush, Thulbourn, Warren, Coles, Sainsbury and Cole and Independent Co-opted Members Parish Councillors Ormston and Young.

Officers Present: Charlotte Cameron, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Cecilie Booth, Executive Director of Corporate Services and S151 Officer
James Collingridge, Head of Highways and Transport
Adesuwa Omoregie, Interim Director of Legal and Governance
Vickie Crompton, DASV Partnership Manager
Adrian Chapman, Director for Place and Economy
Nick Carter, Service Director Growth and Regeneration

49. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jamil, S Allen and Ayres. Councillors Cole, Coles and Sainsbury were in attendance as substitute.

50. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AND WHIPPING DECLARATIONS

Parish Councillor Ormston declared that he would be candidate for Eye, Thorney and Newborough in the May election.

51. MINUTES OF GROWTH, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE HELD ON 22 JANUARY 2024 AND 30 JANUARY 2024

The minutes of the meetings held on 22 January 2024 and 30 January 2024 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

52. CALL IN OF ANY CABINET, CABINET MEMBER OR KEY OFFICER DECISION

No call ins were received.

53. FORWARD PLAN OF EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The Chair introduced the report which included the latest version of the Council's Forward Plan of Executive Decisions containing decisions that the Leader of the Council, the Cabinet or individual Cabinet Members would make during 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.

- There were no comments.

AGREED ACTIONS

The Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee considered the current Forward Plan of Executive Decisions and **RESOLVED** to note the report.

54. DOMESTIC ABUSE GUIDANCE FOR PETERBOROUGH CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee received a report in relation to the Domestic Abuse Guidance for Peterborough City Council Members.

The DASV Partnership Manager introduced the report and key points raised included:

Thanks was given to Cllr Trust who had put forward a motion to council on 1 November 2023. The document would support the training delivered so that cases could be dealt with in the right way.

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

- Members queried what the scope was to support schools and were advised that each school has a domestic abuse lead and that they would work with parents on site.
- There were various data collection points and an outreach service who could also support.
- The officer emphasised that it would always be someone's choice to approach the service.

AGREED ACTIONS

It is recommended that the Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee review and comment on the proposed Domestic Abuse Guidance for Peterborough City Council Members.

55. CABINET PORTFOLIO UPDATE FOR THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR CORPORATE GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE

The Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee received a report in relation to the progress against the portfolio for the Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Finance.

The Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Finance accompanied by the Executive Director of Corporate Services and the Interim Director Legal and Governance introduced the report and key points raised included:

The Cabinet Member thanked the officers for their support, highlighted key areas within and went to questions.

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

- Members acknowledged the ongoing budget gap and gave credit to the Audit Committee for their work.
- Members praised the work of the bereavement service where the cremation service had received 462/470 and achieved an outstanding certification.
- There had been a difficult legacy with academisation and managing education capital would be critical.

- There were plans to generate additional funding from changes to commercial enterprise.

AGREED ACTIONS

It is recommended that Growth, Resources and Communities Committee note the progress outlined within the report, which covers the Key service areas within the portfolio of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Finance.

56. PORTFOLIO UPDATE FOR THE CABINET MEMBER FOR INFRASTRUCTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee received a report in relation to the progress against the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change.

The Cabinet Member, supported by key Officers introduced the report and key points raised included:

The Cabinet Member acknowledge that he had not been in post for the entire year and thanked Councillor Simons for his work against the portfolio.

He detailed the achievements of the service area and major projects which had been successful and moved onto questions.

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

- Members were advised that due to the increased levels of rainfall, the Officers were looking at options for improved pumps in the underpasses.
- Members asked Officers to ensure that when there are developments and planning applications, that proximity to underpasses is considered.
- Officers advised that the legislation had been tightened so that drainage considerations were more important.
- There was a grant from the Department for Transport allocated to maintain road and cycle networks which were inspected on a regular basis. The funding would be prioritised against the worst areas.

AGREED ACTIONS

It is recommended that Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee considers and scrutinises this report and endorses the approach being taken under the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure, Environment and Climate Change.

57. PORTFOLIO UPDATE FOR THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING, GROWTH AND REGENERATION

The Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee received a report in relation to the progress against the portfolio of the Cabinet Member for Housing, Growth and Regeneration.

The Cabinet Member was supported by key officers in the service area and was happy to move straight to questions.

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

- Members raised concerns about the preferred sites on the local plan and were advised that the first step for consultation would be presented to the August Cabinet meeting.
- Members noted the statutory requirement for a local plan to end at 2041 and queried why the PCC plan was to 2044. Members were advised that Officers has worked to population trajectories and were driven by migration.
- Employment land had been allocated but would be refreshed to ensure that there are enough sites.
- Whilst there would be focus on city centre intensification, there would still be growth outside of the city centre.
- Members praised the investment prospectus and hoped it would attract developers.
- Members were advised that there were lots of parking provisions in the city and any disposals were considered comprehensively, with the projected need for car parking considered.
- The Council had secured some funding from the CPCA to look at movement and car parking.
- The city had a fantastic parkway system and traffic levels can be different. Active Travel options were considered and would be included in the plan.
- Members acknowledge that the city was one of the fastest growing cities in the UK but emphasised that growth for growth's sake is not the best way forward.
- Where new housing estates had been proposed, Officers would ensure that bus routes were planned within them. Members were advised that infrastructure to support the growth would be considered first.

The following recommendation was proposed by Councillor Thulbourn and seconded by Councillor Cole that the Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee recommend that disposable income in real terms is considered in the economic development strategy. A vote was taken on the recommendation and was **UNANIMOUSLY** agreed.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee recommended that disposable income in real terms is considered in the economic development strategy.

AGREED ACTIONS

It is recommended that Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee note and provide scrutiny of the update report of the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Housing Growth and Regeneration.

58. MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS REPORT

The Senior Democratic Services Officer introduced the report which enabled the committee to monitor and track the progress of recommendations made to the Executive or Officers at previous meetings.

- There were no comments.

AGREED ACTIONS

It is recommended that the Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee considers the responses from Cabinet Members and Officers to recommendations made at previous meetings as attached in Appendix 1 to the

report and provides feedback including whether further monitoring of each recommendation is required.

CHAIR

Meeting began at 6:48pm and ended at 8:53pm.