

**MINUTES OF THE GROWTH, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
MEETING
HELD AT 6.00PM, ON
TUESDAY, 16 JULY 2024
BOURGES/VIERSEN ROOM, TOWN HALL, PETERBOROUGH**

Committee Members Present: Asif Shaheed (Chair), Ormston (Vice-Chair), Ayres, Farid, JR Fox, Hemraj, Hogg and Ray.

Co-opted Members: Parish Councillors Brennan and Warne.

Youth Councillors: Kelly Jesus

Officers Present:

Charlotte Cameron, Senior Democratic Services Officer
Rob Hill, Service Director Housing and Communities
Matt Oliver, Head of Housing & Stronger Communities
Clair George, Head of Safer Communities
Emma Riding, Service Director Financial Management (Deputy Section 151 Officer)

10. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Strangward and Independent Co-opted Member Sandford.

11. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

12. MINUTES OF THE GROWTH, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITIES' SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 JULY 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on 16 July 2024 were agreed as a true and accurate record.

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

There were no call-ins received.

14. 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.

- Members queried whether the Cabinet Member allocated to Culture and Leisure Contract - Indexation - KEY/17JUNE24/01 was correct and were advised that it would be updated to align with the portfolio for Housing and Communities.

AGREED ACTIONS:

The Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee considered the current Forward Plan of Executive Decisions included at Appendix 1 and identified any relevant items for inclusion within their work programme or requested further information.

15. SAFER PETERBOROUGH PARTNERSHIP PLAN – 2024 – 2027

The Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee received a report to introduce the draft Safer Peterborough Partnership (SPP) Plan 2024 – 2027.

The report sought views and comments on the Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan 2024 – 2027. Councillors were asked to review the plan and provide comments, before recommending it to Cabinet for approval.

The Service Director for Housing and Communities introduced the report and key points raised included:

- The report detailed the proposed SPP plan which set out the priorities of the partnership for the next 3 years.
- It was a combination of effort from key agencies across the sector that included the Council, Police, Fire and Health Services.
- It was a requirement in law to develop a plan as a partnership and Officers were present to present the priorities to the committee.

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

- Members referred to the lack of reference to CCTV and were advised that this was a high-level strategic document and specific action plans had not been included in the document.
- Members queried how you would be able to measure success as there was a lack of targets or key performance indicators in the document.
- Officers advised that work around the night-time economy had been addressed and there was now a committed partnership group focused on addressing concerns.
- Members noted that the SPP priorities had not been on the website and were advised that following approval, this plan would be published.
- Members noted that the priority lists were different on page 2 and page 5. Officers advised that they were not listed by importance but agreed that consistency throughout the plan would have been better and the ordering would be updated.
- Members queried whether the plan was deliverable and were advised that the aim of the plan was to reduce the issues and level of impact on residents. It gave a high-level view of the 3-year plan for the partnership to focus on.
- Members queried what consultation had been undertaken with the licensing team and were pleased to hear that Jacqui Harvey had been instrumental around the work of the night-time economy sub-group.
- Member sought clarification on the use of the data from 2020-2023 due to the pandemic influencing safety in the night-time economy. Officers advised that there were no counter-factual pieces of data to refer to for when the pandemic happened, and any other pieces of data would be half a decade old.

- Members were assured that the date would be skewed for everyone, and reporting of issues would have been different during the pandemic.
- Members requested a briefing note on the SPP sub-groups that detailed what they had worked on.
- Members asked that Officers review the language used in conjunction with the youth support service so that it was made young people friendly.
- Members sought clarification on the Tier 1 and Tier 2 on the Contextual Safeguarding Framework and were advised that Tier 1 was the child and Tier 2 was the spaces, networks and peer groups.
- Members requested a briefing note on the serious violence duty.
- The plan had been framed as a continuation of workstreams rather than the introduction of new ones.
- Members noted that the document needed to be tidied up and asked Officers to make the amendments prior to its submission to Cabinet for approval.

AGREED ACTIONS:

The Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee reviewed and commented on the draft Safer Peterborough Partnership Plan 2024-2027 and recommended the draft Plan to Cabinet for approval, subject to the relevant amendments.

The Committee also requested that Officers:

- Include the problem-solving groups contact details in the plan.
- Review the listed priorities on page 2 so that they align throughout the document.
- Provide a briefing note on the SPP sub-groups that includes who leads on them and what they do.
- Review the language so that children and young people would understand it.
- Engage with the Youth Council on the suitability of the document for young people.
- Provide a briefing note on the Serious Violence Duty.
- Include an explanation of what Tier 1 and Tier 2 are in the Contextual Safeguarding Framework.
- Include within the document how things are being addressed.
- Share an updated document with the Committee prior to it being submitted to Cabinet.

16. FINANCE AND BUDGET UPDATE

The Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee received a report in relating to a progress update on the Councils Financial Position.

The Service Director Financial Management (Deputy Section 151 Officer) introduced the report and key points raised included:

- The report detailed the latest financial position of the Council and expressed the increase in demand for key services.
- There were some financial concerns as the increased demand for services in Children's and Adults had put some strain on the in-year budget.

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

- Members referred to the rise in homelessness and sought clarification on whether the impact of winter weather had been considered. Officers advised that work had

been ongoing to reduce the number of presentations. This was a national problem, and the teams would continue to fulfil their statutory duty.

- There were a number of debts where repayments were to increase in the next 5 years and borrowing had been kept to a minimum to tackle this.
- There had also been an asset review to ensure that the Council estate was functioning in the best way it could.
- There was now a fully staffed HR team that had reviewed recruitment packages to reduce the level of agency spend.
- Members referred to the advertising board contract and were advised that the relevant teams were involved to ensure the Council got the best deal.
- The Council were making arrangements for the staff pay award and had ringfenced some money for the potential offer.
- Members referred to the recruitment fees and expressed concerns that the workload may force staff to use agency. Officers advised that all posts were reviewed.
- Page 57 referred to the illustrative financial challenge and Members were advised that this was reviewed weekly.
- There had been good financial management across the organisation but there was more to do.
- Members noted that the Council would not be in a position to meet the overspend with reserves in 2025-26.
- Members asked that Officers communicate effectively with the public that reflected the reality of the situation.
- There had been legitimate delays in the contractual arrangement for the Peterborough Limited subsidiary, Peterborough Culture Heritage Learning and Leisure (PCHLL).

AGREED ACTIONS:

The Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee:

1. Noted the latest financial position and projections as set out in the report.
2. Noted the direction of travel and next steps as set out in the report.

17. WORK PROGRAMME 2024-2025

The Senior Democratic Services Officer introduced the report which looked at the work programme for the municipal year 2024-2025 to determine the Committees priorities. Members were invited to make comments and suggestions.

- Members noted the duplication of the finance report and agreed to remove it from the November meeting.
- The Skills Strategy had originally been deferred and Members requested it be brought to the November meeting.
- Members noted that this committee had designated responsibility as the Crime and Disorder Committee in accordance with Sections 19 of the Police and Justice Act 2006.

ACTIONS AGREED

The Growth, Resources and Communities Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to note the work programme.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The date of the next meeting was noted as being 13 November 2024.

CHAIR

Meeting started at 6.00pm and finished at 7.24pm

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