



Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held at the The Jeffrey Room - The Guildhall, Northampton, NN1 1DE on Monday 4 December 2023 at 6.00 pm

Agenda

1.	Apologies for Absence and Notification of Substitute Members
2.	Declarations of Interest Members are asked to declare any interest and the nature of that interest which they may have in any of the items under consideration at this meeting.
3.	Chairman's Announcements To receive communications from the Chairman.
4.	Task and Finish Group - Scrutiny review of the VOI Scooters Trial (Pages 5 - 10) To agree the scope (terms of reference) for the scrutiny review
5.	Urgent Business The Chairman to advise whether they have agreed to any items of urgent business being admitted to the agenda.
6.	Exclusion of Press and Public Exempt Items In respect of the following items the Chairman may move the resolution set out below, on the grounds that if the public were present it would be likely that exempt information (information regarded as private for the purposes of the Local Government Act 1972) would be disclosed to them: The Committee is requested to resolve: "That under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be

excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that if the public were present it would be likely that exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act of the descriptions against each item would be disclosed to them”

Catherine Whitehead
Proper Officer
24 November 2023

Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members:

Councillor André González De Savage Councillor Alison Eastwood (Vice-Chair)
(Chair)

Councillor Anthony S. Bagot-Webb

Councillor William Barter

Councillor Paul Joyce

Councillor Terrie Eales

Councillor Terry Gilford

Councillor James Hill

Councillor Kevin Parker

Councillor Sue Sharps

Councillor Jake Roberts

Information about this Agenda

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence and the appointment of substitute Members should be notified to democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk prior to the start of the meeting.

Declarations of Interest

Members are asked to declare interests at item 2 on the agenda or if arriving after the start of the meeting, at the start of the relevant agenda item

Local Government and Finance Act 1992 – Budget Setting, Contracts & Supplementary Estimates

Members are reminded that any member who is two months in arrears with Council Tax must declare that fact and may speak but not vote on any decision which involves budget setting, extending or agreeing contracts or incurring expenditure not provided for in the agreed budget for a given year and could affect calculations on the level of Council Tax.

Evacuation Procedure

If a continuous fire alarm sounds you must evacuate the building via the nearest available fire exit. Members and visitors should proceed to the assembly area as directed by Democratic Services staff and await further instructions.

Access to Meetings

If you have any special requirements (such as a large print version of these papers or special access facilities) please contact the officer named below, giving as much notice as possible before the meeting.

Mobile Phones

Please ensure that any device is switched to silent operation or switched off.

Queries Regarding this Agenda

If you have any queries about this agenda please contact Tracy Tiff/ Marina Watkins, Democratic Services via the following:

Tel: 01604 837408

Email: democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk

Or by writing to:

West Northamptonshire Council
The Guildhall
St Giles Street
Northampton
NN1 1DE

This page is intentionally left blank

Scrutiny Review Plan – Form B

This form should be completed by the overview and scrutiny committee after the Scrutiny Review Proposal has been completed and the topic has been included in the work programme of that committee.

<p>Topic title</p>	<p><i>Review of the VOI E-Scooter Trial in West Northamptonshire</i></p>
	<p>The scrutiny review will consider the effectiveness of VOI E-Scooter Trial in West Northamptonshire, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that the current trial meets the requirements introduced by the Department for Transport in April 2022 • An evaluation of the mis-use of E-scooters operating under the trial (including underage usage, issues of drink-driver usage, poor parking), the impact this has on the safety of all road users, the complaints procedure relating to the mis-use of E-Scooters and enforcement where appropriate. • An evaluation of the suitability of Northampton’s infrastructure to accommodate E-scooters. • An evaluation of the benefits that E-Scooters bring to West Northamptonshire as part of the options for sustainable transport. <p>The scrutiny review will enable the Committee to produce a report which makes recommendations to Cabinet regarding the evaluation of the VOI scooter trial</p>
<p>Link to the Council’s Corporate Priorities (from Form A)</p>	<p>E-scooters offer increased accessibility in the town centre, major employment locations as well as access to local services including health care and leisure.</p> <p>The provision of E-scooters may encourage modal shift from car use for short trips, improving air quality and reducing emissions.</p> <p>The use of E-scooters and E-bikes links to the following corporate priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean & Green • Improved life chances • Connected Communities • Thriving Villages and Towns • Economic Development

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robust Resource Management
Key objectives and measures of effectiveness (from Form A)	The scrutiny review will seek to understand where the VOI scooter trial has worked well and where there are areas for improvement. It will consider all of the evidence received to make informed recommendations to Cabinet regarding the VOI scooter Trial in West Northamptonshire, and which will be also be provided to VOI.
Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOE)	<p><i>The Key Lines of Enquiry of this Review:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that the current trial meets the requirements introduced by the Department for Transport in April 2022 • An evaluation of the mis-use of E-scooters operating under the trial (including underage usage, issues of drink-driver usage, poor parking), the impact this has on the safety of all road users, the complaints procedure relating to the mis-use of E-Scooters and enforcement where appropriate. • An evaluation of the suitability of Northampton’s infrastructure to accommodate E-scooters. • An evaluation of the benefits that E-Scooters bring to West Northamptonshire as part of the options for sustainable transport and the economy.
Outlining stakeholders	<p>The Committee will ask for evidence and information from the following expert advisors to inform its Review:</p> <p>Internal Expert Advisors</p> <p>Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste</p> <p>Assistant Director – Highways and Transport</p> <p>Head of Economic Growth & Sustainability – Highways and Transport (North Northants Council)</p> <p>External Expert advisors</p> <p>Senior Officers - VOI</p> <p>Officers – Northamptonshire Police</p> <p>Representative of Employers from Northampton where their employees use the E-scooters eg.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brackmills BID

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northampton General Hospital • University of Northampton <p>Parish and Town Councils</p> <p>Chief Executive of NCALC</p> <p>VOI scooter users</p>
<p>Outlining evidence</p>	<p>VOI scooter contract</p> <p>Government Guidance - Powered Transporters</p> <p>Statistical data from the Trial included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Safety measures ➤ Scooter usage data, including Km travelled ➤ Health and wellbeing data ➤ Parking of the VOI scooters ➤ Complaints data ➤ Governance data ➤ Action plan - VOI <p>Background information to the Trial – including what constitutes a legal E-Scooter, where they can be ridden and by whom; “no ride” zones</p> <p>Compliments and complaints procedure</p>
<p>Outlining Briefings and/or site visits</p>	<p>VOI has offered a visit to their establishment in Northampton for Councillors to understand their operation more fully and its impact.</p> <p>It is important that any recommendations are deliverable therefore it may be necessary to provide context or research from other schemes delivering similar services.</p>
<p>Risks</p>	<p>The subject matter of this Review is relatively wide and could involve evidence from a large number of groups, therefore a number of meetings may be required which may make a report to January 2024 cabinet (as per the proposal form) difficult to achieve.</p> <p>Risks will be mitigated by agreeing in advance of the commencement of the Review a series of dates for meetings with focussed agendas allowing for the correct experts/witnesses to be available to respond to the line of questioning at each meeting.</p>

Membership	A Task and Finish Group to be convened. Membership to comprise all Members of Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Councillors E Roberts and Z Smith invited to join the Task and Finish Group.
Timeframe	<p>The review will commence in December 2023, concluding in January 2024. The Chair of the Committee will present the report of Place OSC to Cabinet at its January 2024 meeting:</p> <p>Meeting dates:</p> <p>4 December 2023 - to formally approve the scope of the Review.</p> <p>Task and Finish Group meetings:</p> <p>4 December 2023</p> <p>Receive evidence from:</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste</p> <p>Assistant Director – Highways and Transport</p> <p>Head of Economic Growth & Sustainability– Highways and Transport (North Northants Council)</p> <p>Representative(s) from Northamptonshire Police</p> <p>Head of Economic Growth & Sustainability– Highways and Transport (North Northants Council)</p> <p>18 December 2023 - Task and Finish Group meeting</p> <p>Evidence gathering:</p> <p>Senior officers - VOI</p> <p>Representative of Employers from Northampton where their employees use the E-scooters eg.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brackmills BID • Northampton General Hospital • University of Northampton <p>Parish and Town Councils</p> <p>Chief Executive of NCALC</p> <p>VOI scooter users</p>

	<p>4 January 2024 - To consider the evidence received and develop potential conclusions and recommendations for the final report</p> <p>15 January 2024 – The Chair to present the final report to the meeting of Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p>12 March 2024 - Report of Place Overview Scrutiny (Review of the VOI scooters) to be presented to Cabinet</p>
--	---

This page is intentionally left blank