



Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee will be held at the The Jeffery Room, The Guildhall, Northampton on Tuesday 17 May 2022 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.	Minutes (Pages 5 - 10) To confirm the Minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 29 March 2022 (copy attached).
4.	Chairman's Announcements To receive communications from the Chairman.
5.	Communities and Opportunities Directorate The Committee to receive a presentation on the Communities and Opportunities Directorate and how Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee can input into the work of the Directorate 6.05pm – 6.50pm
6.	Libraries The Committee to receive a presentation on the Council's Policy regarding libraries. 6.50pm – 7.30pm

7.	<p>Review of Committee's Work Programme (Pages 11 - 18)</p> <p>To review and note the Committee Work Programme.</p> <p>7.30pm – 7.45pm</p>
8.	<p>Urgent Business</p> <p>The Chairman to advise whether they have agreed to any items of urgent business being admitted to the agenda.</p>
9.	<p>Exclusion of Press and Public</p> <p>In respect of the following items the Chair may move the resolution set out below, on the grounds that if the press and public were present it would be likely that exempt information (information regarded as private for the purposes of the 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 press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that, if the press and 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."</p>

Catherine Whitehead
Proper Officer
9 May 2022

Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee Members:

Councillor Dermot Bambridge (Chair) Councillor Jo Gilford (Vice-Chair)

Councillor Rufia Ashraf	Councillor Anthony S. Bagot-Webb
Councillor William Barter	Councillor Pinder Chauhan
Councillor Julie Davenport	Councillor Janice Duffy
Councillor Paul Dyball	Councillor Terrie Eales
Councillor Louisa Fowler	Councillor Enam Haque
Councillor Charles Morton	Councillor Kevin Parker
Councillor Richard Solesbury-Timms	

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.

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Queries Regarding this Agenda

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

Tel: 01604 837408

Email: democraticservices@westnorthants.gov.uk

Or by writing to:

West Northamptonshire Council
One Angel Square
Angel Street
Northampton
NN1 1ED

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Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee held at The Council Chamber, The Guildhall on Tuesday 29 March 2022 at 5.30 pm.

Present Councillor Dermot Bambridge (Chair)
 Councillor Jo Gilford (Vice-Chair)
 Councillor William Barter
 Councillor Pinder Chauhan
 Councillor Janice Duffy
 Councillor Louisa Fowler
 Councillor Enam Haque
 Councillor Charles Morton
 Councillor Kevin Parker

Also Present: Councillor Phil Larratt, Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport,
 Highways and Waste
 Councillor David Smith, Cabinet Member for Community Safety
 Engagement and Regulatory Services
 Councillor Nigel Hinch – observing
 Councillor Jonathan Harris
 Councillor Sally Beardsworth

Apologies for
 Absence: Councillor Anthony S. Bagot-Webb
 Councillor Terrie Eales
 Councillor Richard Solesbury-Timms

Officers Stuart Timmiss, Executive Director - Place and Economy
 Tracy Tiff, Deputy Democratic Services Manager
 Ruth Austen, Assistant Director - Regulatory Services
 Fiona Unett, Assistant Director - Highways and Waste

Public attendees:
 Mr Mellor of CA-WN
 Mr J Crick

46. **Declarations of Interest**

None advised.

47. **Minutes - 26 January 2022**

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 26th January 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.

48. **Minutes -31 January 2022**

Councillor Haque referred to the Masterplan item and advised that he was a member for Castle Ward, but had no interest to declare.

RESOLVED:

That subject to the amendment above, the Minutes of the meeting of the Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on 31st January 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.

49. Chairman's Announcements

The Chair advised that a Housing Strategy workshop would follow the conclusion of the Committee meeting.

At this point the Chair agreed to re order the agenda and confirmed that the Work Programme item would be considered first.

50. Review of Committee Work Plan

Mr Mellor of CA-WN addressed the meeting and stressed the urgent need for Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) with regards to sustainable and renewable energy. The Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee were requested to assess WNC's plans for such guidance. Councillors considered that such guidance should include industrial developments, as well as residential.

Mr Mellor was thanked for his address.

The Executive Director - Place and Economy advised that this was a national issue to be dealt with through legislation and building regulations, so as to ensure consistency he commented:

With regards to industrial units, the new Northampton Gateway would be net zero
With the current high energy costs, it was likely that solar energy and renewables would become more affordable in relative terms
The new Strategic Plan for West Northants was currently a priority
Although recognised that this was a national issue, current policies should be used to full effect to encourage sustainability
The challenge was to balance sustainability with the viability of any developments

The Chair introduced the report on the Place Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme.

- The Chair proposed that the Sustainability Strategy be added to the Committee's Work programme
- Libraries would be considered at the May meeting
- The Highways contract was scheduled for discussion at the September meeting
- A Sustainability Strategy should be considered by all Overview and Scrutiny Committees. Councillor Larratt agreed to raise the matter at Cabinet.

- The Executive Director - Place and Economy suggested that Cabinet could be provided with a presentation on the Sustainability Strategy
- The Chair offered to also raise the issue at the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- It was suggested that the waste disposal contract should be scrutinised well in advance of the contract renewal. The Assistant Director Highways & Waste, Environment, Development and Transport advised that an Oversight Group would be required in July to overlook numerous waste issues.

RESOLVED:

That the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- a) Agreed to the inclusion of the Sustainability Strategy in the Work Programme
- b) Libraries to be included in the agenda for the May meeting of the Committee

51. Presentation - Active Travel Strategy

Councillor Jonathan Harris addressed the Committee, and requested that once a Sustainability Oversight Group was set up, that all Committees should be able to feed into the process. With regards to active travel, any work should link in to the UN 2017 sustainability goals. Consideration should be given to the rural areas and villages, and not just be focussed on the town areas.

Mr John Crick, representing Living Streets Northampton addressed the Committee. The group worked to provide better walking and cycling infrastructure in Northampton. Active Travel England would be set up in the Autumn. The Billing Road Corridor Scheme should be re-started, and the cycling and walking plan re-published so as to avoid the loss of any Highways funding.

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste advised that the Billing Road Corridor scheme would have caused difficulties, particularly regarding access to the hospital and would therefore not be progressed. The Assistant Director Highways & Waste, Environment, Development and Transport advised that the Billing Road/Rushmere Road would be the subject of future consultation.

The Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste introduced the Active Travel item. The Assistant Director Highways & Waste, Environment, Development and Transport provided the Committee with a presentation on the Active Travel Strategy, outlining the health and environmental benefits:

- The new standard for travel – LTN1/20 was explained.
- Active Travel England would provide best practise and oversight, as well as be statutory consultees and assess funding applications.
- A Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) would be produced and the process was outlined
- Scrutiny input into the Plan would be required, via an Oversight Group with check in points at key milestones
- The Terms of Reference for the Active Travel Oversight Group were circulated at the meeting for the Committee's consideration and approval

- The Chair of the Group would be Councillor Anthony Bagot-Webb, who already had involvement in Brackley developments and HS2 issues
- Other Group members would be: Councillors Louisa Fowler, Janice Duffy, Kevin Parker, Charles Morton and Sally Beardsworth
- The Assistant Director Highways & Waste, Environment, Development and Transport considered that active travel needed to become a fundamental part of good urban design and connectivity
- The hope was to have a Strategy ready by the end of the calendar year
- Ongoing maintenance and funding of footpaths needed to be considered
- Councillors suggested that consideration be given to villages and suggested Brixworth as a case study
- Milton Keynes was highlighted as a good example of connectivity
- The prevalence and quality of bus services should be considered, particularly in more rural areas

RESOLVED:

- a) That members noted the presentation on the Active Travel Strategy
- b) That the Task Panel membership comprise of Councillors Anthony Bagot-Webb (Chair), Louisa Fowler, Janice Duffy, Kevin Parker, Charles Morton and Sally Beardsworth
- c) That the Terms of reference for the Active Travel Oversight Group are approved.

The Executive Director - Place and Economy left the meeting at 7pm to attend a prior engagement

52. Fly-tipping

Councillor Sally Beardsworth addressed the Committee and expressed disappointment that the draft Fly Tipping Policy contained no reference to the negative impact that fly tipping had on local wildlife. It would also be useful if the Policy contained a list of registered waste removal companies. Brent Council put skips in various locations on a regular basis to try to prevent fly tipping. It was suggested that Newham London Borough Council could be considered as they had experienced a large drop in fly tipping following the introduction of a people's panel.

The Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Engagement and Regulatory Services introduced the item on the draft Fly Tipping Policy.

The Committee received the report of the Assistant Director – Regulatory Services Protection on the draft Fly tipping Policy and heard:

- The scale and impact of fly tipping was outlined, along with the cost implication and damage to the environment and eco-system
- Education and enforcement would be used to improve the situation

- The Council would work with contractors and share information with colleagues
- Best practise would be taken into consideration
- Was it possible to include provisions to try to prevent a recurrence of the mass dumping of waste by travellers in some areas
- There was a difficulty in prosecuting when there was no name or address and evidence was very important. CCTV was usable in some situations under the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)
- Residents were encouraged to plant and maintain flower beds in the castle Ward in order to deter dumping, but the affect was temporary
- There should be zero tolerance for serious and repeat offenders. Stricter enforcement was required.
- The ease and speed of reporting needed to be as easy as possible
- Councillors should send any further comments to the Deputy Democratic Services Manager to collate and forward to the Assistant Director Regulatory Services

RESOLVED:

That the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- a) Provided comment into the proposed charter and action plan, taking into consideration the information provided at the meeting
- b) Agrees to receive an update on the progress of the actions outlined in the action plan in March 2023

53. Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

The meeting closed at 7.35 pm

Chair: _____

Date: _____

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Item suggested for inclusion on the Place Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme for the Committee's consideration

Topic	Proposed purpose	Proposed by	Cabinet Member and Executive Director	Proposed Task and Finish Group	Committee's comments
NPH/WNC - responsibility for environmental issues	The Committee to consider and provide scrutiny input into the issues with responsibility of grass cutting and rubbish clearing	People Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Leisure	TBC	

Topic	Proposed purpose	Date of meeting	Cabinet Member and Executive Director	Proposed Task and Finish Group	Committee's comments
Libraries	The Cabinet Member and Assistant Director to provide a briefing to the Committee on the Council's policy regarding libraries	date: 17 May 2022	Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment and Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Leisure	TBC	From the briefing the Committee will decide how it can undertake scrutiny activity into this topic
Communities and Opportunities Directorate	The Committee to receive a presentation regarding the Communities and Opportunities Directorate and how Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee can have an input into its work.	date: 17 May 2022	Director for Communities and Opportunities	TBC	
The Council's Tree Policy	To provide Scrutiny input into the Council's draft Tree Policy for West Northamptonshire Regular updates to be provided to the Committee by the Chair of the Task and Finish Group	31 August 2021 – A Task and Finish Group has been set up and will conclude its review in May 2022	Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste	Yes	Task and Finish Group set up and due to complete its review in June 2022 The Committee to provide Scrutiny input into the

		To report to the meeting of the Committee: 28 June 2022			Council's draft Tree Policy for West Northamptonshire. The Committee may want to hold a Scrutiny Inquiry "what Members/the public want from a tree policy' and feed this information into the draft Tree Policy.
Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/2022	The Committee to consider its Annual Report for 2021/2022 for submission to full Council	28 June 2022	The Chair of Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee	No	
Northampton Town Plan (planning and growth including other main town progress /Review		31 January 2022 (taken place) Update to the Committee at its meeting on 28 June 2022	Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste	The Committee to consider setting up a Task and Finish Group to undertake a review of congestion, including parking and incorporating consideration of air quality and options for sustainable transport / active travel	The Task and Finish Group could scope its Review at its inaugural meeting and present its Terms of Reference (scope) to the meeting of the Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 21 December 2021 for approval Update: An update on the progress of the Northampton Town Plan would be brought to the Committee in July 2022. (Meeting 28 June 2022)
Highways Contract to include economies of scale	To have an overview, within the constraints of the contract.	31 August 2021 (taken place) 12 September 2022 meeting	Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste	To be confirmed.	A workshop is being organised within the service area regarding the contract; potentially the Committee could be invited to attend the workshop.

WNC waste strategy	The Committee to set up an Oversight Group to look over various waste issues. The Group would begin to meet after September 2022 onwards.	date: 12 September 2022	Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste	Yes, an Oversight Group will be set up	
Active Travel	To provide scrutiny input to enable WNC to progress its plans for active travel	29 March 2022 (taken place) The Oversight Group will provide further information to the meetings of the Committee – to be scheduled	Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment	Yes, this work would take around 6- 12 months.	Information gathering to be provided to the Committee at its meeting on 29 March 2022 and a Task and Finish Group to be inaugurated. Councillor Bagott- Webb to Chair.
Crime and Disorder Scrutiny	The Committee to receive a performance report from the Chair of the Community Safety Partnership (CSP)	26 January 2022 (taken place) 13 February 2023	Chair of the Community Safety Partnership and Cabinet Member for Community Safety & Engagement, and Regulatory Services Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment		To receive a report from the Chair of the CSP each year.
Flood Risk Management	The Committee to undertake scrutiny of the Flood Risk Management Strategy	31 January 2022 (taken place) 13 February 2023	Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste		To include information how West Northamptonshire Council works with Homes England
Fly tipping	To provide scrutiny input into the draft fly-tipping policy that will aim to harmonise cleansing standards across WNC & boost enforcement action	29 March 2022 (taken place)	Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste	The Committee to receive the draft fly-tipping policy for scrutiny input.	The Committee could consider the reporting mechanisms, clearance and enforcement when providing input Completed 2/3/22

		18 April 2023 - The Committee to receive information on progress on actions outlined in the action Plan	Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment		18/4/23 The Committee to receive information on progress on actions outlined in the action Plan
Items to be scheduled					
Sustainability Strategy	To provide Scrutiny input into the Sustainability Strategy	To be confirmed	Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste	To be confirmed	
West Northamptonshire Travel/Infrastructure Strategy	To provide scrutiny input into the Strategy, including footpath and cycleways, timescales and funding	To be confirmed	Leader of the Council Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Town Centre Regeneration and Growth Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment	To be confirmed	
Assets Strategy	To provide scrutiny input into the Assets Strategy	To be confirmed	Leader of the Council – Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Built Environment & Rural Affairs Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment	To be confirmed	
Economic Strategy	The Committee to consider the Council's Economic Strategy	To be confirmed	Leader of the Council Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Town Centre Regeneration and Growth	To be confirmed	

			Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment		
The Council's Carbon Programme	The Committee to review the Council's Carbon Programme	To be confirmed	Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste	To be confirmed	It is Important that the Carbon programme does not conflict with air quality – low emissions approach favoured. The Committee may want to consider an 'internal' carbon review and separately an 'external' review The internal review would concentrate on buildings, fleet, WNC-own energy, procurement and (probably) ICT.
Performance Monitoring Report	The Committee to consider the Performance Monitoring Report to inform Performance Management Scrutiny	To be confirmed	Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment	No	Performance Monitoring Reports will be taken from the Cabinet agenda for Place Scrutiny to consider
Performance Management Scrutiny	The Committee to undertake Performance Management Scrutiny	To be confirmed	Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment and relevant Cabinet Members dependent upon the key performance indicator to be reviewed	No	
Broadband Contract	To monitor and review the broadband contract	To be confirmed	Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Built		

			Environment & Rural Affairs		
COMPLETED ITEMS					
St James Bus Lane	To scrutinise the decision to make the St James bus lane 24/7 enforcement with CCTV	Councillor Julie Davenport, Place Committee Member	Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment	No	COMPLETE. No further action – Committee agreed this item would not be included onto its Work Programme 2021/22
Proposed development – Northampton railway station car park	To provide scrutiny input into the proposed development - Northampton railway car park	Councillor Danielle Stone	Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment	No	COMPLETE No further action – The Committee agreed that this issue would be covered in an agenda item at the meeting on 31 January 2022 and Councillor Stone be invited to attend for this item.
North West Relief Road	To review the funding gap for the project. To monitor the current processes including quality and change	31 August 2021	Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment	No	COMPLETE
Work Programming Event	The Committee to confirm the date for its Work Programming event	31 August 2021	Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment Leader (and Cabinet Member for Strategy) Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Town Centre Regeneration and Growth	No	COMPLETE Work Programme for 2021/2022 finalised

			Cabinet Member for Housing, Culture and Leisure Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste Cabinet Member for Strategic Planning, Built Environment & Rural Affairs		
Farthinghoe Bypass	To receive an update on the Farthinghoe Bypass for Scrutiny input.	26 January 2022	Executive Director for Place, Economy and Environment Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Highways and Waste		COMPLETE

NB: Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee considered various motions from the predecessor Councillors around: Climate Change, Tree Policy and Strategy, Road Safety, Spatial Options, Recycling and Waste Contract and Social Value Contract as plans, and policies are developed/or included on the WNC 2021/2022 work programme and agreed that these motions are included in the work programme: [Agenda item - Carried Motions on Notice - Predecessor Councils - West Northamptonshire Council \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.moderngov.co.uk/2021/01/26/agenda-item-carried-motions-on-notice-predecessor-councils-west-northamptonshire-council/)

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