



**West
Northamptonshire
Council**

Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Group

Minutes of a meeting of the Co-ordinating Overview and Scrutiny Group held virtually via Zoom - Live on YouTube on Monday 18 July 2022 at 6.00pm
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCDyc2cNcl19OvcGOCuZDTBQ>

Present Councillor Andrew Grant (Chair)
 Councillor Dermot Bambridge
 Councillor Jo Gilford
 Councillor Rosie Herring
 Councillor Ian McCord

Apologies for
Absence: Councillor Karen Cooper

Officers Paul Everard, Planning Policy & Heritage Manager
 Tracy Tiff, Deputy Democratic Services Manager
 James Edmunds, Assistant Manager Democratic Services
 Maisie McInnes, Democratic Services Officer

8. Declarations of Interest

There were none.

9. Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 25 May 2022 were agreed as a true record of the meeting.

10. Chair's Announcements

There were none.

11. Waste Management Contract - Joint Scrutiny

At the Chair's invitation, Councillor McCord introduced the item and explained that the Waste Management Contract had been added to the work programme at the recent meeting of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee following concerns around the current waste contract and the need to provide value for money for residents.

Members felt that South Northants provided a prestigious service, Daventry had issues with different collection days and there were issues with waste collection in Northampton. Members expressed concerns regarding litter and fly tipping which were on the increase in West Northants. Members discussed the differences between the urban and rural villages and felt there should be a process of harmonising metrics as there needed to be new expectations set as in villages

collection times would take longer, as it would include travelling to the village rather than street to street collection.

Members hoped that in the period before the new waste contract, scrutiny and officers could use the opportunity to get ahead and see what harmonisation would look like and understand what recycling will look like in the future; the cost of delivering services and how to make services more efficient; the effectiveness of the 123 system and alternate week system; and consider the use of electric plant vehicles.

It was felt that this could be a joint Scrutiny review and Place OSC, would at its next meeting consider a request from Corporate OSC to undertake joint scrutiny with Corporate OSC of the Waste Management Contract.

12. **Highways and Transport Contract**

At the Chair's invitation the Deputy Democratic Services Manager introduced the item and explained that the Highways and Transport Contract would be a joint scrutiny exercise between Place and Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committees led by Councillor Bambridge and Councillor McCord. They were currently trying to get 5 members from each committee to join the task and finish group and once members were in place, this would be scoped to give the task and finish group its focus and objectives.

Members discussed the interest from members at each committee and the need to give the task and finish group to look at specific areas such as pothole carriageway repairs, gulleys and flooding, winter gritting service. Members felt that the task and finish group needed to involve parish councils and members of the public and solve issues relating to potholes. Members felt that with the future of electric vehicles, road infrastructure needed to be investigated with EV charging points needed for electric vehicles.

The Chair concluded that this would be a great opportunity for scrutiny to review and present their case. The Chair thanked the Deputy Democratic Services Manager who would arrange the Highways and Transport contract task and finish group and take things forward.

13. **Review of OSC Committee Work Plans**

The Chair of Corporate Overview & Scrutiny provided an update on the committee work programme. He explained that the Annual report and People Strategy had been done, and he was looking forward to the Children's Trust Budget as it was an interesting topic, and Councillor Herring would pick up the Care aspect of the Children's Trust. In the Autumn, Corporate OSC would begin reviewing the 2023/2024 budget. There would also be work on Asset Management and Social Values.

The Chair of People Overview and Scrutiny presented the People work programme and summarised that with the new directorate Communities and Opportunities, there would be an opportunity to review contracts and delivery plans. Another item on the

work programme linked with the Children's Trust, at the last committee meeting there was a review of the Children's Trust and members were concerned that the service was steady, but they were not making significant improvements. One example of this was that only 43% of children taken into care received a health check within a month, members were concerned that their health should be assessed quicker, and this percentage should be higher. Topics of upcoming scrutiny on the People work programme included integrated care systems, schools, sports and leisure needs, anti-poverty strategy and homeless strategy.

The Assistant Manager Democratic Services added that People Overview and Scrutiny had reviewed a draft housing strategy back in March and the committee were keen to do pre-decision scrutiny on this topic in the future when it had the capacity to do so. People Scrutiny were also looking to do a workshop style session in August to fit in with the timescale of the development of the strategy, as well as a site visit for the Vulcan hub on 9 August.

The Chair of Place Overview and Scrutiny presented the Place work programme and summarised that Highways and Transport was an upcoming topic as discussed at the meeting earlier, and the levelling up fund had been called in at the last committee meeting. He explained that the tree policy task and finish group had concluded, and their draft report was being reviewed and would be published shortly and the final report would be brought to the next committee meeting. The Northampton town plan and waste strategy would also be discussed at the next meeting. There was also an active travel oversight group that was underway, and the committee would receive reports on crime and disorder, flooding, fly tipping and libraries next year.

At the Chair's invitation, the Deputy Democratic Services Manager then invited the Planning Policy and Heritage Manager to provide an update to members on the Northampton Local Plan part 2 consultation. He explained that the plan had been submitted to the inspector and planning would consult with the public and report back to scrutiny before inspectors write their final report. He explained that as detailed in the constitution, there was a requirement that the Chairs of scrutiny were informed so they could provide input during the process. The Planning Policy and Heritage Manager had circulated an email to members outside of the meeting with links to the reports provided to the Planning Policy sub-committee in June.

Members discussed the Northampton Local Plan and felt that they would be best placed to review the feedback at the end of the consultation and then they can scrutinise the revised version. Members felt there was no place at present for scrutiny to add value as the decision was ultimately in the hands of the inspectors who would deliberate the plan and form their own view which would be fed back to the Council. Members asked the Planning Policy and Heritage Manager for a timescale. The Planning Policy and Heritage Manager explained that a report would be brought to Planning Policy in October with the view that it would go to Full Council in November, however this was on the condition that the inspectors had finalised their report in time.

The Chair thanked members and officers for their contributions and concluded the meeting.

14. **Urgent Business**

The meeting closed at 7.20 pm

Chair: _____

Date: _____