

A meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS)** will be held in the **CIVIC SUITE, PATHFINDER HOUSE, ST MARY'S STREET, HUNTINGDON PE29 3TN** on **THURSDAY, 6 JULY 2023** at **7:20 PM (OR ON THE RISING OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY JOINT PANEL WHICHEVER IS THE LATER)** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

AGENDA

APOLOGIES

1. MINUTES (Pages 5 - 10)

To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Environment, Communities and Partnerships) meeting held on 8th June 2023.

Contact Officer: B Buddle
01480 388008

2. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS (Pages 11 - 12)

To note the responses received to questions asked at previous meetings.

Contact Officer: B Buddle
01480 388008

3. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

To receive from Members declarations as to disclosable pecuniary and other interests in relation to any Agenda item.

Contact Officer: B Buddle
01480 388008

4. NOTICE OF KEY EXECUTIVE DECISIONS (Pages 13 - 18)

A copy of the current Notice of Key Executive Decisions is attached. Members are invited to note the Plan and to comment as appropriate on any items contained therein.

**Contact Officer: R Leighton
01480 388169**

5. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 19 - 22)

- a) The Panel are to receive the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme
- b) Members to discuss future planning of items for the Work Programme

**Contact Officer: B Buddle
01480 388008**

28 day of June 2023

Oliver Morley

Head of Paid Service

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and other Registerable and Non-Registerable Interests.

Further information on [Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and other Registerable and Non-Registerable Interests is available in the Council's Constitution](#)

Filming, Photography and Recording (including Live Streaming) at Council Meetings

This meeting will be filmed for live and/or subsequent broadcast on the Council's YouTube site. The whole of the meeting will be filmed, except where there are confidential or exempt items. If you make a representation to the meeting you will be deemed to have consented to being filmed. By entering the meeting you are also consenting to being filmed and to the possible use of those images and sound recordings for webcasting and/or training purposes. If you have any queries regarding the streaming of Council meetings, please contact Democratic Services on 01480 388169.

The District Council also permits filming, recording and the taking of photographs at its meetings that are open to the public. Arrangements for these activities should operate in accordance with [guidelines](#) agreed by the Council.

Please contact Mrs Beccy Buddle, Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny), Tel No: 01480 388008/e-mail Beccy.Buddle@huntingdonshire.gov.uk if you have a general query on any Agenda Item, wish to tender your apologies for absence from the meeting, or would like information on any decision taken by the Committee/Panel.

Specific enquiries with regard to items on the Agenda should be directed towards the Contact Officer.

Members of the public are welcome to attend this meeting as observers except during consideration of confidential or exempt items of business.

Agenda and enclosures can be viewed on the [District Council's website](#).

Emergency Procedure

In the event of the fire alarm being sounded and on the instruction of the Meeting Administrator, all attendees are requested to vacate the building via the closest emergency exit.

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HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (ENVIRONMENT, COMMUNITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS) held in Civic Suite, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon PE29 3TN on Thursday, 8 June 2023.

PRESENT: Councillor J E Kerr – Chair.

Councillors T Alban, M J Burke, S Bywater, J E Harvey, M Kadewere, C Lowe, S R McAdam and D J Shaw.

APOLOGYIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors S Cawley, S J Criswell and N J Hunt.

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors S J Conboy, L Davenport-Ray and Councillor S L Taylor.

4. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8th June 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

5. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor Harvey declared a Non-Registerable Interest under Minute 23/7 as a non-playing member of Huntingdon Cricket Club.

6. NOTICE OF KEY EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The Panel received and noted the current Notice of Key Executive Decisions (a copy of which has been appended in the Minute Book) which has been prepared by the Executive Leader for the period 1st June 2023 to 30th September 2023.

The Panel were advised that a joint meeting of both Overview and Scrutiny Panels would be convened on 6th July 2023 to discuss the Green Bins report.

7. INDOOR AND BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY AND PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

By means of a report by the Sports Development Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Indoor and Built Sports Facilities Strategy and Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy was presented to the Panel.

Following a question from Councillor Alban, the Panel heard that in house assessments had been undertaken in recent years and were available on the Council's website. The Panel were also advised that the work undertaken on the assessment being considered had cost in the region of £37,000, however this assessment has been endorsed

by Sport England and will help the Council make informed decisions across many of its services such as Planning. By creating the independent and verified report, ensured a robust report which would support these decisions.

In response to a question from Councillor Bywater, the Panel were advised that independent sports clubs and external partners could use the report to apply for available funding across the leisure sector. In particular it was mentioned that the Leisure team were in contact with the operators of the Sawtry swimming pool and would support them with their funding bid to Sport England.

The Panel also heard, following a further question from Councillor Bywater, that Outdoor Gyms would be added to the Action Plan which would be developed following the approval of the report. Councillor Lowe added an observation that, in her experience, some Parish Councils had purchased outdoor gym equipment and located this within the park facilities that they maintain.

The Panel were advised that a future review of the One Leisure swimming pools would be undertaken and that this would include the supporting operational plan for energy efficiency purposes. This review will aim to align with the Council's Climate Strategy.

Councillor Shaw observed that the report made mention of facilities outside of the district within a 30 minute radius, and enquired where the 30 minutes was measured from. The Panel were advised that this detail would be sought and reported back at a future date.

Councillor Alban expressed concern surrounding the discrepancies that the Panel had observed within the report considering the cost. The Panel were advised that the consultants had been very supportive and would feed this back to them.

Councillor Shaw drew attention to what appeared to be conflicting information surrounding the number of Badminton courts at Hinchingsbrooke, the Panel were advised that this would be checked and the findings reported back to the Panel.

The Panel heard, following an enquiry from Councillor Alban, that the Athletics track at the One Leisure St Ives Outdoor Centre once again had England Athletics accreditation. The officer advised that the industry had recognised national issues within these type of facilities and had revised their accreditation criteria accordingly. The Panel were also advised that although the infield space within the track was used for athletics, it can also be used for mini soccer outside of the athletics season.

In response to concerns from Councillor Alban relating to the promotion of the Courts For Kids scheme at One Leisure centres, the Panel were advised that the scheme was still available and that the promotional schedule would be communicated to Councillors.

The Panel were advised that running clubs were consulted during the formation of the report, however the officers would check how non track based running clubs had been referenced in the report with the consultants.

In response to a further question from Councillor Shaw, the Panel were advised that whilst a full audit had been undertaken of parish, community and village halls, further input would be sought from those facilities to ensure that availability details be included, allowing for other groups to get the full benefit of the report and therefore utilise the report to subsequently apply for their own funding if required.

It was thereupon

RESOLVED

that the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel be passed to Cabinet for their consideration when making a decision upon the recommendations contained within the report.

8. OXFORD TO CAMBRIDGE PAN_REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

By means of a report by the Interim Managing Director (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Oxford to Cambridge Pan-Regional Partnership Report was presented to the Panel.

Councillor Kerr enquired on the differences between the proposal and the previous OxCamb Arc, following which, the Panel heard the previous group was no longer in existence. The Panel were reassured that the new proposal was a lot leaner, which a much clearer focus on the environmental benefits for the area.

In response to a question from Councillor Alban, the Panel heard that whilst the Council did not expect to have representatives on every board, the opportunity for Hunts to have a strong voice would remain. The Panel were assured that recent concerns expressed by Bedfordshire residents were linked to an East-West Rail project, and not linked with this proposal which would seek strong community engagement.

Councillor Shaw observed a £10,000 commitment for the coming year and enquired what this would look like in the future. The Panel heard that whilst this was still unknown, the Council would be able to monitor the benefits of the Partnership and an exit strategy would be in place without financial penalty should it be required.

Following a query from Councillor Kerr about what benefits Council involvement in the Partnership would bring, the Panel heard that this would be monitored in relation to the twin priorities of economic growth and environmental benefit, involvement within the Partnership would allow the Council to be part of the conversation, and thus allow for input and influence as part of that.

In response to an enquiry from Councillor Bywater regarding anticipated timescales, the Panel heard that draft versions were in development with the expectation of being concluded by the Autumn. As part of the action planning and progress forward, the Panel would be kept updated.

It was thereupon

RESOLVED

that the comments of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel be passed to Cabinet for their consideration when making a decision upon the recommendations contained within the report.

9. ALTERNATIVE LAND MANAGEMENT

By means of a presentation by the Operations Manager Environmental Services (a copy of which was appended in the Minute Book) Alternative Land Management was presented to the Panel.

The Panel were given detailed presentation and background to the scheme by the Executive Councillor for Climate and Environment.

Following a question from Councillor Shaw, the Panel heard that the scheme would be constantly reviewed to see where improvements could be made but that the Council aspired to having 25% of the land it manages within the scheme by 2027.

Councillor Bywater commented that whilst he was in support of biodiversity throughout the district, but several concerns have arisen from residents which could have been managed with better communications. He expressed further concerns on how this scheme would work within urban areas and also gave examples of issues which had already arisen within his own ward. The Panel were assured that the team would continually monitor areas to ensure that residents and nature can exist in harmony, it was also expressed that by trialling the scheme now, assessments can be made later in the year about where this has been successful and where it has not. The Panel were further assured that if they were aware of specific issues, to pass those to the team so that they could be managed and resolved.

In response to a question from Councillor McAdam who expressed concerns over the scheme leading to an increase in fly tipping, the Panel heard that the Street Cleansing team do an excellent job across the district to manage this issue. They will continue to act on any reports of this activity and this will be reviewed at the end of the season to ascertain its impact.

Councillor Alban expressed concern that some parishes seemed more informed on the scheme than others and observed that this relationship needed to be developed to ensure open and two way communication links, however he also praised the forward and alternative thinking which had led to the schemes implementation.

Following a further concern from Councillor Alban, the Panel heard that the team collaborate with National Highways to ensure management of litter picking alongside roadside maintenance and mowing, however the safety of the team is paramount. In response to a further question on littering from Councillor Lowe, the Panel heard that the team regularly work with both volunteers and national campaigns to keep the district tidy and that the Waste Minimisation team undertake educational work.

The Panel heard, following a question from Councillor Shaw, that on

balance the majority of feedback received so far has been positive along with constructive criticism.

10. CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH COMMITTEE

The appointment of Councillor McAdam as a non-voting co-opted Member to the Cambridgeshire County Council Health Committee and Councillor Kerr as substitute was unanimously agreed.

11. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

With the aid of a report by the Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme was presented to the Panel.

Chair

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Overview and Scrutiny (Environment, Communities and Partnerships) Panel – Questions requiring a response.

Minute No.	Item	Councillor	Question	Answer
23/7	Indoor and Built Sports Facilities Strategy	Cllr Shaw	Query over where the drivetime to gymnastics facilities is measured from.	Section 8.3 of the Built facility Strategy Needs assessment states that 'All residents in Huntingdonshire reside within a 30 minute drive of a dedicated gymnastics facility'. So highlights that wherever you live in the district you are in acceptable reach of a Gymnastics facility.
23/7	Indoor and Built Sports Facilities Strategy	Cllr Shaw	Query over number of sports halls at Hinchbrooke.	Table 4.1 (page 27 of the June report) of the Built Facility Strategy Needs Assessment details that Hinchbrooke has two halls. One of 4 courts and one with 1 court. For assessment Sport England work on 3 plus court sports halls.
23/7	Indoor and Built Sports Facilities Strategy	Cllr Alban	Lack of acknowledgement of running clubs who do not use sports facilities.	The recommendations within the Playing Pitch Strategy and Action Plan under Athletics (p57) includes 'Support clubs, running groups, events and England Athletics initiatives such as Park Run and pursue increased participation, where possible'. So does acknowledge that support is needed for all running clubs across the district.

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NOTICE OF EXECUTIVE KEY DECISIONS INCLUDING THOSE TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE

Prepared by: Councillor Sarah Conboy, Executive Leader of the Council
Date of Publication: 19 June 2023
For Period: 1 July 2023 to 31 October 2023

Membership of the Cabinet is as follows:-

Councillor Details		Councillor Contact Details
Councillor S J Conboy	Executive Leader of the Council and Executive Councillor for Place	Cloudberry Cottage 9 Earning Street Godmanchester Huntingdon PE29 2JD Tel: 01480 414900 / 07831 807208 E-mail: Sarah.Conboy@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor L Davenport-Ray	Executive Councillor for Climate & Environment	73 Hogsden Leys St Neots Cambridgeshire PE19 6AD E-mail: Lara.Davenport-Ray@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor S Ferguson	Executive Councillor for Customer Services	9 Anderson Close St Neots Cambridgeshire PE19 6DN Tel: 07525 987460 E-mail: Stephen.Ferguson@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

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Agenda Item 4

Councillor M Hassall	Executive Councillor for Corporate & Shared Services	Care of Huntingdonshire District Council St Mary's Street Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 3TN Tel: 07825 193572 E-mail: Martin.Hassall@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor B Mickelburgh	Executive Councillor for Finance & Resources	2 Grainger Avenue Godmanchester Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 2JT Tel: 07441 392492 E-mail: Brett.Mickelburgh@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor B Pitt	Executive Councillor for Community & Health	17 Day Close St Neots Cambridgeshire PE19 6DF Tel: 07703 169273 E-mail: Ben.Pitt@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor T Sanderson	Deputy Executive Leader and Executive Councillor for Planning	29 Burmoor Close Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE29 6GE Tel: 01480 436822 E-mail: Tom.Sanderson@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Councillor S Taylor	Executive Councillor for Leisure, Waste & Street Scene	66 Wren Walk Eynesbury St Neots Cambridgeshire PE19 2GE Tel: 07858 032076 E-mail: Simone.Taylor@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor S Wakeford	Executive Councillor for Jobs, Economy and Housing	4 Croft Close Brampton Huntingdon Cambridgeshire PE28 4TJ Tel: 07762 109210 E-mail: Sam.Wakeford@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

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Notice is hereby given of:

- Key decisions that will be taken by the Cabinet (or other decision maker)
- Confidential or exempt executive decisions that will be taken in a meeting from which the public will be excluded (for whole or part).

Notice/agenda together with reports and supporting documents for each meeting will be published at least five working days before the date of the meeting. In order to enquire about the availability of documents and subject to any restrictions on their disclosure, copies may be requested by contacting the Democratic Services Team on 01480 388169 or E-mail Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk.

Agendas may be accessed electronically at the [District Council's website](#).

Formal notice is hereby given under The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 that, where indicated part of the meetings listed in this notice will be held in private because the agenda and reports for the meeting will contain confidential or exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it. See the relevant paragraphs below.

Any person who wishes to make representations to the decision maker about a decision which is to be made or wishes to object to an item being considered in private may do so by emailing Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk or by contacting the Democratic Services Team. If representations are received at least eight working days before the date of the meeting, they will be published with the agenda together with a statement of the District Council's response. Any representations received after this time will be verbally reported and considered at the meeting.

Paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) (Reason for the report to be considered in private)

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the Financial and Business Affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information)
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations or contemplated consultations or negotiations in connection with any labour relations that are arising between the Authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of or office holders under the Authority
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings
6. Information which reveals that the Authority proposes:-
 - (a) To give under any announcement a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
 - (b) To make an Order or Direction under any enactment
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

Huntingdonshire District Council
Pathfinder House
St Mary's Street
Huntingdon PE29 3TN.

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- Notes:-
- (i) Additions changes from the previous Forward Plan are annotated ***
 - (ii) Part II confidential items which will be considered in private are annotated ## and shown in italic.

Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private (paragraph no.)	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Community Chest Grant Aid Awards 2023/24	Grants Panel	19 July, 16 August, 20 September & 18 October 2023		Claudia Deeth, Community Resilience Manager Tel No: 01480 388233 or email: Claudia.Deeth@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		B Pitt & M Hassall	Environment, Communities & Partnerships
Garden Waste Subscription Service	Cabinet	18 Jul 2023		Andrew Rogan, Waste Operations Manager Tel No: 01480 388082 or email: Andrew.Rogan@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		M Hassall	Environment, Communities & Partnerships
Tenancy Strategy	Cabinet	18 Jul 2023		Pamela Scott, Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager Tel No: 07874 887465 or email: Pamela.Scott@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		S Wakeford / S Ferguson	Performance & Growth

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Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private (paragraph no.)	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Market Towns Programme - Autumn Update	Cabinet	19 Sep 2023		Pamela Scott, Housing Strategy and Delivery Manager Tel No: 01480 388486 or email: Pamela.Scott@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		S Wakeford	Performance & Growth
Page 18 of 22 Redesign of Council Tax support scheme	Cabinet	14 Nov 2023		Katie Kelly, Revenue and Benefits Manager Tel No: 01480 388388 or email: Katie.Kelly@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		S Ferguson	Environment, Communities & Partnerships
Electric Vehicle Charge Strategy***	Cabinet	14 Nov 2023		George McDowell, Parking Services Officer Tel No: 01480 388386 or email: George.McDowell@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		L Davenport-Ray	Environment, Communities & Partnerships

Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2023/24

Performance and Growth

In Progress

Topic	Membership & Scope	Lead Officer	Progress
Review of External Appointments to Outside Organisations	Cllrs S Cawley, S J Corney, I D Gardener and S A Howell	TBC	<p>Summer 2022: Terms of Reference have been established. Questionnaire has been sent to all relevant boards and organisations. Regular meetings are established from September.</p> <p>September 2022: Evidence and information gathering underway.</p> <p>November 2022: Information gathering completed.</p> <p>February 2023: Report presented to O&S Panel and Cabinet</p> <p>March 2023: Cabinet response to the report received by the Panel.</p> <p>July 2023: Communication to be sent to all Councillors who are representatives on outside organisations to advise the new reporting progress.</p> <p>Next steps: Plan regular review to monitor implementation of recommendations.</p>

Market Towns Programme	TBC	TBC	February 2023: DSO to ascertain viability for a working group to be established in line with the existing project or as a standalone.
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Environment, Communities and Partnerships

In Progress

Topic	Membership & Scope	Lead Officer	Progress
Climate	Councillor T D Alban Councillor J Kerr Councillor C Lowe Councillor D Shaw	Neil Sloper	November 2022: Initial Meetings held to establish Terms of Reference for the group. April 2023: Regular meetings established. Evidence and information gathering to be progressed. Group to be involved in the Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy Development. June 2023: Ongoing dialogue with the team to review a proposed work plan for the current municipal year for the group.
Climate Subgroup Electric Vehicle Charging Strategy Development	Councillor T D Alban Councillor J Kerr Councillor C Lowe Councillor D Shaw	George McDowell	February 2022: Initial meeting held May 2023: Regular meetings established. Residents survey agreed.

			July 2023: meeting planned to review the outcome of the survey.
Flooding	n/a	Oliver Morley	Autumn 2022: The Panel requested an update on how effective the measures which were put in place in July 2021 following a Flooding Task and Finish Report have been. Autumn 2023: An update will be presented to the Panel.
Roman's Edge Lettings Plan	n/a		TBC: An update will be presented to the Panel.

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