

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (PERFORMANCE AND GROWTH) held in the Civic Suite, Pathfinder House, St Marys Street, Huntingdon PE29 3TN on Wednesday, 7 July 2021

PRESENT: Councillor S J Corney – Chairman.

Councillors E R Butler, D B Dew, M S Grice, M Haines, J P Morris, A Roberts and T D Sanderson.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors B S Chapman, Dr P L R Gaskin, S Wakeford and D J Wells.

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors R Fuller and J Neish

13 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd June 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

14 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

15 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 July 2021 to 31st October 2021.

16 LOCAL CYCLING AND WALKING INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN CONSULTATION

By means of a report by the Strategic Growth Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the consultation on the Draft Cambridgeshire Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan was presented to the Panel.

The Panel noted that the report related to Huntingdonshire District Council's response to Cambridgeshire County Council's consultation on the Plan and that both Councillors and residents were encouraged to submit their own responses to the consultation online.

Whilst there was overall support for the plan, concern was expressed specifically about the lack of inclusion of Ramsey within the Plan. Although it was understood that Ramsey currently classifies as a smaller town within the County, the current and proposed development for the area will significantly increase its size. The Panel heard that Cambridgeshire County Council are being urged to

revisit this decision and to further develop the plan in the future to reflect on such changes.

The Panel heard representation from Mr Campbell who spoke on behalf of the Huntingdonshire Walking and Cycling Group. The Panel heard that the group has over 1,400 members and covers a broad spectrum of residents. The Group welcomes the plan in general but there are concerns that there are more opportunities than those proposed within the plan.

Councillor Corney welcomed that the lack of provision for Ramsey had been highlighted by the report and confirmed that Cambridgeshire County Councillors for the area would also be supporting this sentiment.

Councillor Morris expressed disappointment that whilst he welcomed the strategy in general, he felt that it was not ambitious enough. He proposed that additional recommendations be added to the response, however it was advised that these points were already covered by the proposed response.

Further concern was expressed by Councillors Dew and Morris regarding routes marked as complete on the supporting documentation. Anecdotal evidence suggested that not all of these routes are in fact complete and should be reviewed to ensure their suitability, with the specific example being given of the Huntingdon to St Ives route.

The Panel thereupon

RESOLVED

that the Cabinet be encouraged to endorse the recommendations within the report.

17 REVIEW OF PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCY BOUNDARIES

With the aid of a report by the Elections and Democratic Services Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Review of Parliamentary Constituency Boundaries was presented to the Panel.

Concern was expressed by Councillors Roberts and Sanderson that the proposals would split the District between three parliamentary constituencies. The creation of a new proposed constituency of St Neots caused further concern due to the geographical boundaries of the proposal, specifically the inclusion of the District Ward of Fenstanton and St Neots Wards with specific wards within South Cambridgeshire district. It was felt that Huntingdonshire residents located within these wards of this proposed constituency would have no affinity with the other residents located across the District boundary.

Having commented on the report, the Panel

RESOLVED

that the Cabinet consider the recommendations within the report.

18 CORPORATE PLAN REFRESH 2020/21

By means of a report by the Business Intelligence and Performance Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Corporate Plan Refresh 2021/22 was presented to the Panel.

The Panel heard that this report presented the annual and final refresh of the current Corporate Plan, with a new four year plan being due in 2021.

Following a question by Councillor Roberts, Councillors were advised that decarbonisation would form a part of the next Corporate Plan.

It was agreed that as a light touch refresh of the current plan, it was very comprehensive and fully supported the plan.

The Panel therefore

RESOLVED

that the Cabinet endorse the recommendations contained within the report.

19 3C LEGAL, ICT AND BUILDING CONTROL SHARED SERVICES ANNUAL REPORTS 2020/21

By means of a report by the Corporate Director (People) (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the 3C Legal, ICT & Building Control Shared Services Annual Reports 2020/21 were presented to the Panel.

The Panel heard that the report covered performance and progress by the Shared Services over the previous year in terms of their financial and service performance.

Members had no comments to make on the report and it was thereupon

RESOLVED

that the Cabinet endorse the recommendations contained within the report.

20 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.

Following the recent Overview and Scrutiny away day, Members were invited to comment on the proposed work programmes, to be reported back at the next meeting.

Chairman

