

# HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (CUSTOMERS AND PARTNERSHIPS) held in the Burgess Hall, Westwood Road, St Ives PE27 6WU on Thursday, 8 July 2021

PRESENT: Councillor D M Tysoe – Chairman.

Councillors T D Alban, B S Banks, S J Criswell,  
Mrs M Kadewere, C Smith and Mrs S R Wilson.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors Miss R D'Souza, I D Gardener, D A Giles, H V Masson and Mrs S Smith.

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors R Fuller, J Neish and Mrs A Dickinson.

## 11 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 3rd June 2021 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## 12 MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations were received.

## 13 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.

Following a question, it was confirmed that the Digital Strategy will follow the completion of the Core Service Strategy.

## 14 HOMELESSNESS REVIEW AND STRATEGY

By means of a report by the Housing Needs and Resources Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Review & Strategy was presented to the Panel.

Members were advised that the strategy had previously been approved in February 2020 but that due to the global pandemic, formal consultation with wider partners and stakeholders had been postponed. The 2021 strategy has been updated to reflect changes brought about by the pandemic.

Following a question from Councillor Criswell regarding whether an increase in homelessness applications was expected due to the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, the Panel were reassured that the Council continues to work with other agencies and the County Council as the main provider of domestic abuse support services

to ensure that these are available to all those in need. The Council will continue to help, including offering emergency accommodation where appropriate, to people fleeing a domestic abuse situation.

The Panel heard that a significant number of households are rehoused as both relief and prevention duty cases. Councillors were advised that on occasion contact is lost with homeless individuals, this can be due to the transient nature of their lifestyles or a refusal to engage with services, however Members were reassured that Huntingdonshire District Council is committed to supporting all those in need.

It was thereupon

RESOLVED

that the Cabinet endorse the recommendations contained within the report.

## **15 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY FLOODING TASK AND FINISH STUDY**

By means of a report by the Corporate Director (People) (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) the Overview and Scrutiny Flooding Task and Finish Study was presented to the Panel.

The Chairman welcomed the report and thanked officers for their hard work.

Councillors Alban and Criswell emphasised the importance of residents' personal responsibility to their neighbours and communities and that the whole of the district had been considered during the study.

The Panel noted the complex issues which resulted in the flood issues experienced and that whilst preventative measures can be made for the future, self-management of preparations plays an important role for residents and communities.

It was noted that whilst Huntingdonshire District Council have limited powers in flood management, there had been good co-operation between the agencies involved and a lot of work has been done to co-ordinate resident signposting allowing swift access to help and support.

The Panel welcomed the report and thanked officers for their hard work and diligence.

Whereupon it was

RESOLVED

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

## **16 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.

## **17 CAMBRIDGESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL HEALTH COMMITTEE**

It was agreed to approach Councillor S Smith to continue her role as non-voting co-opted substitute Member to the Cambridgeshire County Council Health Committee.

Chairman

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