

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (ECONOMY AND GROWTH) held in Civic Suite 0.1A, Pathfinder House, St Mary's Street, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE29 3TN on Thursday, 7th September 2017.

PRESENT: Councillor D B Dew – Chairman.
Councillors C E Bober, E R Butler,
Mrs S Conboy, I D Gardener, Mrs J Tavener
and K D Wainwright.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors R Harrison, B Hyland, D J Mead, T D Sanderson and D R Underwood.

16. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 18th July 2017 was approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

17. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were received.

18. NOTICE OF KEY EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The Panel received and noted the current Notice of Key Executive Decisions (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) which has been prepared by the Executive Leader for the period 1st September 2017 to 31st December 2017.

Members noted that the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Customers) is due to consider the Asset Disposals report. The Panel have requested to be involved in the scrutiny of the topic.

19. UPDATE ON THE REVIEW OF STREET MARKETS - HUNTINGDON AND ST IVES

The Head of Operations, Business Development Manager and Markets Officer were in attendance to present the Panel an update on the Review of Street Markets – Huntingdon and St Ives. Before the update was presented the Panel was reminded of the background to the Review of Street Markets.

The Huntingdon Street Market currently comprises of nine traders, the market was moved from Market Place to the High Street with the first market taking place on 6th September and the first Saturday market due to take place on 9th September. The Panel was informed that each pitch is priced based on where it is located on the High Street and that casual traders pay extra. A fire access test was carried out on 6th September.

Concerns were raised regarding cyclists and the manner of the cycling. The Panel was informed that the Council has offered to fund the correct signage in order to inform cyclists that they are not able to cycle down the High Street on a market day.

Members were updated on plans for St Ives Street Markets. It was noted that the Council were looking at moving the market in order to avoid implementing the road closure at the cost of £4k per year. It was hoped that in order to do this some stalls could be relocated to Bridge Street.

The Council consulted with retailers and market traders who were both negative towards the idea. A footfall survey, carried out in conjunction with students from St Ivo School, found that footfall is lower in Bridge Street. In addition, Cambridgeshire County Council Highways Department have stated that even if the market is moved it is still best practice to implement the road closure. It is therefore the recommendation that the planned relocation of the market does not go ahead.

A Member commended the Officers present for getting the students from St Ivo School involved. They added that they were not surprised with the footfall figures.

In response to a question regarding the road closure, Members were informed that the Council pays for an employee to stand with cones from 8am until 5.15pm every market day, however some consideration has been made to purchasing a lightweight fence which can be manoeuvred into place. The Council continue to work with St Ives Town Council to seek a solution.

The Panel was informed that the street markets are trading at a profit to the Council of £30k per year.

20. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PROGRESS

With the aid of a report by the Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book), the Panel reviewed all the Panels' work programmes since the last meeting.

The Panel stated they would like the relevant Portfolio Holders to attend a future Panel meeting to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding with the Local Enterprise Partnership as well as to provide an update on Devolution.

Members have indicated they would like to scrutinise the following topics: impact of neighbouring developments on the District's Market Towns, Infrastructure Projects and Bus Services. The Chairman and the Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) assess the topics and scope out the work.

Chairman