



Environment Development & Transport Scrutiny Committee
Minutes of the meeting held on 15th June 2016
The Council Chamber, County Hall
(Meeting held in public)

PRESENT:-

Councillor Liz Coombe (Chair)

Councillor Paul Bell (Deputy Chair)	Councillor Michael Tye (substitute for Cllr Allan Matthews)
Councillor Stan Heggs	Councillor Sarah Uldall
Councillor Alan Hills	Councillor Allen Walker
Councillor Derek Lawson	
Councillor Arthur McCutcheon (substitute for Cllr Gareth Eales)	

Also in attendance for all or part of the meeting

Councillor André Gonzalez De Savage	Deputy Leader & Cabinet Member for Public Protection
David Hedger	Trading Standards Manager
James Edmunds	Overview & Scrutiny Manager (Democratic Services)
Catherine Greenfield	Democracy Officer (Democratic Services)

One member of the public was present.

The meeting commenced at 10.00

Min ref:

10/16 Apologies for Non-Attendance

Apologies for non-attendance were received from

11/16 Notification of requests from members of the public to address the meeting

None received

12/16 Declarations of Members' Interests

There were none

13/16 Chair's Announcements

- The Chair thanked Councillor Malcolm Longley for all the work he had undertaken as Deputy Chair of the Environment, Development & Transport Committee and wished him well in his new role as Assistant Cabinet Member for Commercial Governance.
- This was the first meeting of the 2016-17 Children, Learning & Communities Scrutiny Committee.
- The former Director for Children, Families & Education, Alex Hopkins, had left the County Council and the Chair and Committee wished to thank him for his contribution to the Committee and for his achievements within Children's Services, notably the recent lifting of the Government direction notice as Children's Services had improved.
- Lesley Hagger had been appointed the new Director of Children's Services and would take up the post later this summer. Sharon Muldoon was the current acting Director of Children's Services.
- Darren Dovey had been appointed as the new Chief Fire Officer for Northamptonshire following an extensive and thorough interview process. The Committee wished to pass on its thanks to Adrian Davis, Interim Chief Fire Officer.
- The meeting was being webcast and councillors were reminded to use their microphones.

14/16 Minutes of the meeting of the Environment, Development & Transport Scrutiny Committee meeting on 9th March 2016

The Committee was advised that the incorrect minutes had been circulated with the meeting papers. The correct minutes were made available at the meeting and the Chair allowed time for the committee to read through them.

RESOLVED that; (a) the minutes of the Environment, Development & Transport Scrutiny Committee meeting held in public on 9th March 2016 be agreed; and (b) the off-agenda briefing paper on the possible extension of Rushden fire station requested by the Committee be circulated to relevant divisional councillors as well as to Committee members.

15/16 Election of the Deputy Chair to the Environment, Development & Transport Scrutiny Committee

Following the replacement on the committee of Councillor Malcolm Longley, former Deputy Chair of the EDT Scrutiny Committee, with Councillor Paul Bell, the Committee were invited to propose a new Deputy Chair.

Councillor Paul Bell was proposed by Councillor Michael Tye and seconded by Councillor Alan Hills.

RESOLVED that; Councillor Paul Bell be elected as Deputy Chair of the Environment, Development & Transport Scrutiny Committee for 2016/17.

16/16 Cabinet Member for Public Protection (verbal update)

The Chair invited the Cabinet Member for Public Protection to update the Committee on the Public Protection portfolio. The following points were highlighted;

- The Public Protection portfolio had two main areas of responsibility; the Fire and Rescue Service and Trading Standards.
- Trading Standards was engaged locally and on a national level.
- The Committee was thanked for its commitment to the Fire and Rescue Service.
- A new Chief Fire Officer had been appointed for Northamptonshire Darren Dovey, following an extensive selection process.
- The top level management structure of the Fire & Rescue Service was under review and would be announced in due course.
- The timing of the Integrated Risk Management Plan had been adjusted to run inline with the Council's budget and consultation would commence later in the year.
- The Cabinet Member had written to East Northamptonshire District Council regarding membership of the Countywide Traveller Unit, however a commitment had not yet been received. Nevertheless the Cabinet Member would continue to extend the invitation.

The Committee considered the update and raised the following points;

- Had the proposed scheme to develop and improve the Chown's Mill roundabout on the A45 slipped? A date of 2019/20 had been put forward some time ago, but no confirmation or further details had been received from the Highways England.
- The Rushden Lakes development would bring additional pressure on the Chown's Mill roundabout and this had not been considered at the time the initial improvements had been considered. Details of the proposed improvements were required.
- The A509 Wellingborough to Junction14 of the M1 was a busy narrow road which also required improvement.

The Cabinet Member for Public Protection responded to the points raised as follows;

- Highways England would be contacted again requesting details of the Chown's Mill roundabout and the A509. Both schemes were critical and a core priority. The response from Highways England would be fed back to the Committee.

RESOLVED that; (a) the Cabinet Member seeks confirmation from the government of their current plans for upgrading the Chowns Mill roundabout and dualling the A45, given the impact of development in the area, and advises the Committee of the response; and

(b) the Cabinet Member would relay to Northamptonshire Highways concerns referred to at the meeting regarding the surface of roads in Daventry being used as part of Stage 5 of the Women's Tour; and

(c) the Committee notes the current position of the Public Protection portfolio.

17/16 Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA)

The Chair invited the Trading Standards Manager to introduce the report. The following points were highlighted;

- The Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act (RIPA) provided a lawful means for public authorities to breach the right to privacy contained within the European Convention on Human Rights.
- RIPA provided Northamptonshire County Council with a means of preventing and detecting crime.
- Trading Standards used both overt and covert methods of surveillance when it was deemed necessary and proportionate to do so. Covert methods included the acquisition of communications data, but not the content of emails or calls, the use of informers, as well as watching, listening and following people.
- Trading Standards has, since November 2012, sought 12 approvals from a Justice of the Peace for the acquisition of communications data. No approvals had been sought within the past 12 months.

The Committee considered the report and raised the following points;

- Of the 12 approvals which had been obtained for the acquisition of communications data, how many had resulted in a prosecution and/or recovery of costs?
- Did RIPA have any connection to the Freedom of Information Act or with cybercrime?
- Could RIPA be used to help in speeding the establishment of no cold calling zones?
- The Committee wished to thank Trading Standards for the work they did on behalf of the people of Northamptonshire.

The Trading Standards Manager responded to the points raised as follows;

- It was difficult to ascertain a direct prosecution rate resulting from the acquisition of communications data because many other methods were also used in the detection of crime.
- RIPA did have an impact where it was necessary to trace phone calls or emails, however cybercrime was more of a Police matter and they had greater powers under the Act.
- RIPA did not apply to the creation of cold calling zones. The zones were not legally enforced but they did work.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

18/16 Environment, Development & Transport Scrutiny Committee Work Programme 2016/17

The Chair invited the Assistant Manager Democratic Services to present the report. The Committee were advised that Appendix 1 of the report listed some potential topics for inclusion in the 2016/17 Work Programme, but the Committee could consider whether or not to include them in the programme together with any other topics the Committee may wish to include.

The Chair suggested that the Committee might wish to focus on the following four areas;

- The Fire & Rescue Services Review.
- The adoption of unadopted roads.
- Waste reduction and recycling.
- The Northampton to Bedford rail link.

The Committee considered the 2016/17 Work Programme and raised the following points;

- The Fire & Rescue Service Review as ongoing.
- The newly appointed Chief Fire Officer should be invited to attend a future meeting of the Committee
- Waste reduction should include how waste recycling sites operated, including opening times and fly tipping.
- A scrutiny review had been undertaken into the adoption of unadopted roads several years ago.

RESOLVED that; (a) the Environment, Development & Transport Scrutiny Committee includes the following areas in its 2016/17 Work Programme;

- **Fire & Rescue Service Review, to be dealt with using the working group based approach commenced in 2015/16.**
- **The adoption of unadopted roads**
- **Waste reduction, to include the current operation of household waste recycling centres in Northamptonshire**
- **The Northampton - Bedford rail link; and**

(b) Committee members confirm which area they would be interested in contributing to following the current meeting; and

(c) Committee members attend an initial meeting on 12th July 2016 to consider the scope for scrutiny work on identified areas, to consist of a meeting of the group for the adoption of unadopted roads at 13.00, the group for waste reduction at 13.20, and the group for the Northampton - Bedford rail link at 13.40; and

(d) the new Chief Fire Officer be invited to attend the Committee meeting on 14th September 2016; and

(e) the Executive Officer of the Northamptonshire Waste Partnership and the Council's Head of Waste be invited to attend the Committee meeting on 14th September 2016; and

(f) the Committee receives an update on progress with Project Angel and the sale of buildings in the scope of the project at its meeting on 16th November 2016; and

(g) the Committee seeks to scrutinise the Highways Strategy for Northamptonshire at a meeting during 2016/17.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 11.40am

This information can be made available in other formats upon request. Please contact Catherine Greenfield, Democracy Officer, Democracy Team, tel. (01604) 366084 or *E-mail:* cgreenfield@northamptonshire.gov.uk

