

North Northamptonshire Shadow Executive Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held at 7:00 pm on Thursday 11th June 2020
Held as a virtual meeting via Zoom

Present:-

Shadow Members

Councillor R Roberts (Leader of the Shadow Authority and Chair)	Councillor M Griffiths (Deputy Leader of the Shadow Authority and Vice Chair)
Councillor I Jelley	Councillor T Beattie
Councillor T Partridge-Underwood	Councillor S North
Councillor J Smithers	Councillor W Brackenbury
Councillor D Jenney	Councillor J Addison

Officers

L Elliott – Interim Head of Paid Service	B Gill – Interim Monitoring Officer
T Grant – Strategic Delivery Director	G Hammons – Interim Chief Finance Officer
B Smith – North Northamptonshire Democratic Services	K Denton – Borough Council of Wellingborough
P Goult – North Northamptonshire Democratic Services	J Rawlings – Future Northants Programme
A Hunkin – Enabling Lead for Legal and Democratic	M Devlin-Hogg – Enabling Lead for Human Resources

Also in attendance

Councillor C Stanbra
Councillor J Hakewill

1 Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received.

2 Notifications of requests to address the meeting

Two requests had been received under the approved Public Participation Procedure to address the Shadow Executive Committee. Under Agenda Item 5 “The Joint Implementation Executive – Terms of Reference”, both Councillor Chris Stanbra and Councillor Jim Hakewill had requested to speak.

3 Members’ Declaration of Interest

Councillors were invited to declare any matters of interest on items to be discussed during the meeting. No declarations were made.

4 Announcements

There were no announcements.

5 The Joint Implementation Executive – Terms of Reference

Mr Andrew Hunkin (Enabling Lead for Legal and Democratic) introduced the report. The purpose of the report was to seek approval for the North Northamptonshire Shadow Executive Committee to participate in, and ratify the Terms of Reference of, the Joint Implementation Executive (JIE).

Membership of the Joint Implementation Executive would consist of the elected members of both the North and West Shadow Executive Committees, supported by interim statutory officers, officers from sovereign councils and members of the Programme Implementation Board (PIB).

The purpose of the Joint Implementation Executive would be to provide overall strategic direction for the timely delivery of the current Future Northants Programme. The Joint Implementation Executive would maintain an oversight of the activity and strategy of the Programme, and would ensure that key recommendations were made for each stage of the Programme for determination by respective Shadow Authority Executive Committees.

Appendix 1 accompanying the report, provided further details of the key objectives and responsibilities of the Joint Implementation Executive. It was noted that meetings would not be held in public, with items requiring greater public awareness being escalated through the respective Shadow Executive Committee.

It was being proposed, that the Joint Implementation Board would meet monthly, with items requiring formal elected member determination being directed to subsequent Shadow Executive Committee meetings.

The recommendation was MOVED by Councillor M Griffiths and SECONDED by Councillor I Jelley.

The Chair invited Councillor J Hakewill to address the Committee. Councillor Hakewill had submitted a number of questions, the first of which would be put direct to Committee, the remainder to be responded to in writing.

Councillor Hakewill asked *“In the interests of openness and transparency, what provision will be incorporated within the Shadow Executive Committee’s decision (on Thursday 11th June) enabling any member of the Shadow Authority to attend virtually, or when permissible in person, any of the Authority’s Task and Finish Panel meetings, including private and confidential items?”*

In response, the Chair informed Councillor Hakewill that he had submitted a similar written question to officers of the Shadow Authority the previous week; the answer provided by officers was unaltered.

The Chair invited Councillor C Stanbra to address the Committee. Councillor Stanbra raised concerns that meetings of the proposed Joint Executive Committee were to be held in private. Councillor Stanbra was concerned that there would be a lack of scrutiny by press, public and non-executive Members. Councillor Stanbra also noted that the Members on the Joint Implementation Executive and those on the Shadow Executive Committee were the same, so the chance of challenge at the point of formal determination of any recommendations was unlikely.

In response, the Chair thanked Councillor Stanbra for his comments; these were noted.

The Chair invited any other Shadow Executive Committee Member to comment. There were no further comments.

The recommendation having been MOVED and SECONDED was put to an electronic vote. There were 8 votes FOR, no votes AGAINST, and no ABSTENTIONS.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) Appendix 1 – The Joint Implementation Executive Terms of Reference and roles and responsibilities be approved.

(Councillor Steven North joined the meeting at this point)

6 North Northamptonshire Shadow Authority Task and Finish Groups – Terms of Reference

Mr Andrew Hunkin (Enabling Lead for Legal and Democratic) introduced the report. The purpose of the report was to establish a series of Task and Finish Groups covering key topics to assist with the formulation of proposals, for consideration by the Shadow Executive Committee prior to Vesting Day.

Details of the proposed Task and Finish Groups, their respective membership and Terms of Reference were included in the report before Members.

It was proposed that each Task and Finish Group be chaired by a Shadow Executive Committee Member, whilst the remaining membership of each Group be drawn from the wider Shadow Authority.

It was noted, that the proposed membership for the Civic Functions and the Equalities groups were identical. The Committee were informed that in an earlier proposal, these two subject areas were combined, however the final proposal was that they would be treated separately, albeit with the same chair and membership arrangements.

The recommendations were MOVED by Councillor I Jelley and SECONDED by Councillor M Griffiths.

The Chair invited any other Shadow Executive Committee Member to comment. There were no further comments.

Councillor T Beattie queried why Civic Functions and Equalities had been separated. It was noted that these two areas each needed specialist officer support and would each require specific consideration. It was felt that better outcomes would be achieved by establishing two separate groups.

Councillors J Smithers and I Jelley spoke in support of the establishment of the groups and hoped to see constructive progress made over the coming months.

The recommendation having been MOVED and SECONDED was put to an electronic vote. There were 10 votes FOR, no votes AGAINST, and no ABSTENTIONS.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) The setting up of the following Task and Finish Groups be approved:
 - a. Council Governance
 - b. Council Tax Harmonisation
 - c. Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP)
 - d. Senior Appointments
 - e. Vision and Culture
 - f. Transformation
 - g. Civic Functions
 - h. Equalities
 - i. Disaggregation
 - j. Communications and Engagement
 - k. Day One Accommodation; and
- (ii) The terms of reference for the North Northamptonshire Shadow Authority Task and Finish Groups (Appendix 1-11) be approved.

7 Update on Recruitment of Senior Officers

Ms Marie Devlin-Hogg (Enabling Lead for Human Resources) presented the report to Members. The report indicated the current level of recruitment being undertaken, seeking to appoint the senior members of staff for the new unitary authority. Ms Devlin-Hogg briefly indicated the key points of the current national recruitment campaign being undertaken.

Included within the report, was an indicative timeline of recruitment, culminating in full Shadow Authority ratification of preferred candidates in early Autumn 2020.

The recommendation was MOVED by Councillor W Brackenbury and SECONDED by Councillor J Smithers.

The Chair invited any other Shadow Executive Committee Member to comment. There were no further comments.

Councillor T Beattie sought clarification on the respective roles of the newly established Senior Appointments Task and Finish Group and the Senior Appointments Committee. Members were informed that both the chairing arrangements and membership of the Group and the Committee were the same. This would ensure consistency of approach through the process up to final appointment of successful candidates by the Shadow Authority.

The recommendation having been MOVED and SECONDED was put to an electronic vote. There were 10 votes FOR, no votes AGAINST, and no ABSTENTIONS.

RESOLVED that:-

- (i) The progress made and next steps with recruitment to the permanent roles be noted.

8 Exempt Items

The Chair informed the meeting that there were no exempt items to be determined on this occasion.

9 Urgent Items

The Chair informed the meeting that there were no urgent items to be determined on this occasion.

10 Close of Meeting

The Chair declared the meeting closed at 7:22 pm.

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