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**North
Northamptonshire
Council**

Meeting: Scrutiny Commission
Date: Tuesday 24th August, 2021
Time: 7.00 pm
Venue: Council Chamber, Corby Cube, George Street, Corby, NN17 1QG

To members of the Scrutiny Commission

Councillors Wendy Brackenbury (Chair), Kevin Watt (Vice Chair), Matt Binley, Robin Carter, John Currall, Mark Dearing, Jim Hakewill, Philip Irwin, John McGhee, Elliot Prentice, Simon Rielly, Geoff Shacklock and Lee Wilkes

Substitutes:
Councillors Lyn Buckingham, Peter McEwan and Sarah Tubbs

AGENDA SUPPLEMENT

The following additional report has now been published which were not available at the time the agenda was published.

This supplementary agenda has been published by Democratic Services.
Contact: democraticservices@northnorthants.gov.uk

Item	Subject	Page no.
06	Update on Work Planning	3 - 8

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SCRUTINY COMMISSION 24 August 2021

Report Title	Update on Work Planning
Report Author	adele.wylie@northnorthamptonshire.gov.uk

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Outside Bodies Scrutiny Panel Terms of Reference

1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 For Scrutiny members to receive an update on the Scrutiny Conference which will facilitate the drafting of a workplan and to receive updates on Scrutiny Panels convened/to be convened by the Scrutiny Commission.

2 Executive Summary

- 2.1 Scrutiny members of both the Scrutiny Commission and Finance and Resources Scrutiny Committee agreed that work-planning was key to an effective scrutiny function and agreed that a Scrutiny Conference be organised to facilitate the drafting of a workplan. This report provides an update on organisation of the Conference and relevant details.
- 2.2 At Council in May 2021, members agreed to undertake a review of Outside Bodies to ensure that they were adding value to the new Council and that proper governance was in place to support the appointments. A review has been undertaken to understand the Outside Bodies appointed to by the predecessor councils. It is proposed that a Scrutiny Panel is established to undertake further review work so that appointments can be made by Council in September 2021.

3 Recommendations

It is recommended that the Scrutiny Commission:

- 3.1 Approve the establishment of a Scrutiny Panel to undertake a review of Outside Bodies
- 3.2. Approve the Terms of Reference for the Scrutiny Panel attached at Appendix A.

4 Report Background

Scrutiny Conference

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Commission agreed to adopt a two-stage approach to work planning for 2021/22. This would consist of information gathering and discovery followed by a prioritisation exercise.
- 4.2 It was agreed that this would be undertaken at a Scrutiny Conference which would be facilitated by the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CfGS).
- 4.3 Since the last Committee, a date of Saturday 9 October has been agreed to hold the Conference and the CfGS has been engaged in developing an agenda and prioritisation tool. In addition, a Communications Plan has been developed to ensure that the public, stakeholders, members and officers are able to provide their suggestions on topics which may be considered by Scrutiny in the coming year and to ensure an inclusive approach to work-planning.
- 4.4 Although, it was envisaged that the Conference would take place during August/September, it was moved to allow attendance by as many members as possible. Since the last meeting, two items have been proposed to be included on the scrutiny workplan and the Finance and Resources Scrutiny Committee will also be focussing on the budget process in the coming months. Therefore, the delay in the Conference will not impact upon the important work of scrutiny for this year and if agreed these pieces of work will be commenced before the Conference.

Levelling Up

- 4.5 Members will note that the agenda includes a Scoping Document for the creation of a Scrutiny Panel in relation to this matter. If approved, the Panel will be convened quickly so that that scrutiny can start to undertake work.

Outside Bodies

- 4.6 Elected Members are appointed to serve on a range of Outside Bodies. An “Outside Body” covers organisations such as;
- Trusts
 - Voluntary Bodies
 - Charities
 - Community Associations
 - Companies
- 4.7 It was agreed by members at Council in May 2021 that a review would be commenced into Outside Bodies and appointments made to them on behalf of the Council. Work has been undertaken since then to understand the Outside Bodies previously appointed to by the Predecessor Councils and the nature of the appointments to them.
- 4.8 It is proposed that a politically balanced standing Scrutiny Panel is established by the Scrutiny Commission which will review the list of Outside Bodies that

have been collated and will determine whether the Council should make/continue to make an appointment to those bodies. It is proposed that determination will be based on one or more of the following criteria being met:

- the proposed appointment is a statutory requirement;
- the proposed appointment would be consistent with the Council's policy or strategic objectives; and/or
- the proposed appointment would add value to the Council's activities.

- 4.9 The Scrutiny Panel shall categorise the Outside Bodies which it decides the Council should appoint to into the following categories of;

Key Strategic Partnerships

Participation contributes to the Council's strategic functions, priorities and community leadership role.

Community Partnerships

Participation is not necessary to fulfil strategic or key partnership role but, nonetheless, beneficial in terms of leading, engaging and supporting the community from North Northamptonshire perspective

Area/Ward Partnerships

Beneficial in terms of leading, engaging and supporting the community from a ward perspective

- 4.10 It is proposed that the Panel would report its findings to the Chair of the Scrutiny Commission who will notify the Leader of the Council so that he may appoint to Key Strategic Partnerships and the Monitoring Officer so that she may seek nominations from members for the remaining Outside Bodies. Should more nominations be received than allocated places and agreement cannot be reached by members as to who should be appointed then the Council will be presented with options for approval.
- 4.11 It is proposed that this work be completed in time to allow appointments to be made by Council in September 2021.

5. Implications (including financial implications)

5.1 Resources and Financial

The Scrutiny Panels will be supported by Democratic Services.

5.2 Legal

None identified.

5.3 Risk

Failure to ensure an effective scrutiny function can lead to governance not being as robust.

Failure to workplan would not be in line with statutory guidance and may lead to resources being allocated to matters which do not have an impact on the organisation.

5.4 Consultation

The Chair of the Scrutiny Commission has been consulted on the proposals.

5.5 Climate Impact

None

5.6 Community Impact

The proposals would have a positive community effect and would allow involvement and transparency in the scrutiny function.

6 Background Papers

None

Outside Bodies Scrutiny Panel Terms of Reference

Purpose	<p>To ensure that appointments to Outside Bodies on behalf of the Council are regularly reviewed and add value to the organisation. To ensure that proper governance is adopted in relation to appointments.</p>
Anticipated Outcomes	<p>The Panel will review Outside Bodies that are appointed to by the Council or proposed to be appointed to and determine if they add value to the organisation. Determination will be based on one or more of the following criteria being met:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the proposed appointment is a statutory requirement; • the proposed appointment would be consistent with the Council's policy or strategic objectives; and/or • the proposed appointment would add value to the Council's activities. <p>The Panel will categorise the Outside Bodies into the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key Strategic Partnerships Participation contributes to the Council's strategic functions, priorities and community leadership role. • Community Partnerships Participation is not necessary to fulfil strategic or key partnership role but, nonetheless, beneficial in terms of leading, engaging and supporting the community from North Northamptonshire perspective • Area/Ward Partnerships Beneficial in terms of leading, engaging and supporting the community from a ward perspective <p>Each year Democratic Services will send out on behalf of the Panel an Annual Review document which will allow the Panel to determine whether the Outside Body still meets the criteria.</p>
How often will the Group meet	<p><u>Week commencing 30th August 2021</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Scrutiny Panel agree Outside Bodies and categorise them for nominations

	<u>2022 and subsequent years</u> Annual returns from appointees to be completed by the end of February annually. Meeting to be arranged after deadline to review whether the appointment has added value and undertake categorisation work.
Anticipated timescale for completion	Council will approve nominations on 29 September 2021. As a standing panel, the review work will continue on an annual basis.
Membership of the Group	5 members (politically balanced). Chair to be appointed by the Panel and nominations for the Panel to be agreed by the Chair of the Scrutiny Commission.
What information shall be required to inform the Group	List of all Outside Bodies previously appointed to, requests for appointments to Outside Bodies, information about the nature of the appointments, annual returns from appointees.
What support arrangements are required?	Democratic Services will support the Panel
How often will the Group update Scrutiny Commission	A closure report for 2021 shall be provided to the Scrutiny Commission in October 2021. In subsequent years, the Panel shall provide a closure report at the first meeting of the Scrutiny Commission of the Municipal Year.