

Meeting: Levelling Up Communities Scrutiny Review


Date: Tuesday 11th January 2022

Time: 6.10pm

Venue: Via Zoom (Contact Committee Officer for Details)

To members of the Levelling Up Communities Scrutiny Review

Councillors Valerie Anslow, Robin Carter, Anne Lee, King Lawal, Paul Marks, Zoe McGhee & Kevin Watt

Agenda			
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05	Anti-Social Behaviour and knife crime Including Public Question and Answer session	David Watts	
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	<p>Adele Wylie, Monitoring Officer North Northamptonshire Council</p>  <p>Proper Officer</p>		

This agenda has been published by Democratic Services.

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Members' Declarations of Interest

Members are reminded of their duty to ensure they abide by the approved Member Code of Conduct whilst undertaking their role as a Councillor. Where a matter arises at a meeting which **relates to** a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, you must declare the interest, not participate in any discussion or vote on the matter and must not remain in the room unless granted a dispensation.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **relates to** other Registerable Interests, you must declare the interest. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting but must not take part in any vote on the matter unless you have been granted a dispensation.

Where a matter arises at a meeting which **relates to** your own financial interest (and is not a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest) or **relates to** a financial interest of a relative, friend or close associate, you must disclose the interest and not vote on the matter unless granted a dispensation. You may speak on the matter only if members of the public are also allowed to speak at the meeting.

Members are reminded that they should continue to adhere to the Council's approved rules and protocols during the conduct of meetings. These are contained in the Council's approved Constitution.

If Members have any queries as to whether a Declaration of Interest should be made please contact the Monitoring Officer at – monitoringofficer@northnorthants.gov.uk

Minutes of a meeting of the Levelling Up Communities Scrutiny Review

At 6:00pm on Wednesday 6th October, 2021 via Zoom

Present:-

Members

Councillor Zoe McGhee (Chair)
Councillor Robin Carter
Councillor Kevin Watt

Councillor Anne Lee
Councillor Paul Marks

Officers

David Watt – Executive Director of Adults, Communities & Wellbeing
Callum Galluzzo – Democratic Services

1 Election of Chair

It was proposed by Councillor Anne Lee and seconded by Councillor Robin Carter that Councillor Zoe McGhee be elected chair of the Levelling Up Communities Scrutiny Review

It was therefore

RESOLVED

that Councillor Zoe McGhee be appointed
Chair of the Levelling Up Communities
Scrutiny Review

2 Apologies for absence

None

3 Members' Declarations of Interest

None

4 Terms of Reference

David Watts (Director of Adults, Communities & Wellbeing) addressed the meeting and provided a draft terms of reference document which set out the purpose of the Levelling Up Scrutiny Review

It was heard that the purpose of the Scrutiny Review was to ensure that appointments to undertake investigation into options available for the council to contribute to the Government's Levelling Up agenda. With specific reference to the areas identified by

Government within North Northamptonshire.

The Levelling Up Communities Scrutiny Review Panel will review those 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:

- 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.

It was stated that the Panel was to categorise into the following categories

- 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

Members heard that in adding items for review to the Work Plan, the Chair of the Panel would also consider:

- If the item is of significant community concern
- If the issue is significant to Partners and/or Stakeholders
- What the added value is of doing the work (It must have an impact)
- What evidence there is to support the work
- If the additional work can be completed within the finite timeline of the work of the task and finish group
- If the work is being done somewhere else
- What will be achieved
- If the Council has the resources to carry out the work effectively

Members heard that a closure report for 2021 was to be provided to the Scrutiny Commission in March 2022, however an interim report was to be prepared for December 2021.

During debate members stated their intention to involve local schools and nurseries within the partnership process to allow for a greater understanding and depth of knowledge.

Following debate it was:

RESOLVED

that the Levelling Up Scrutiny Review Terms of Reference be approved

5 Scope of the Scrutiny Review and Proposed Work Plan

The Draft Planning & Scoping document was presented to members which stated that Kingswood in Corby, Avondale Grange in Kettering, and Queensway in Wellingborough were among the neighbourhoods identified across the country by an All-Party Parliamentary Group as 'left behind'.

An amended motion at Full Council on 28 July 2021 called for the Scrutiny Commission to review the underlying data and associated report relating to areas highlighted as "left behind".

Working with local communities and partners the Levelling Up Scrutiny Review will seek to propose an approach on the way forward, including learning from the Big Local Programme in Kingswood, in order to develop a plan on how The Council can level up - as per the government's levelling up agenda - those left behind neighbourhoods in North Northamptonshire in an appropriate and agreed timeframe. This may involve specifically targeting health inequalities, youth unemployment and new skills, and improving housing in these areas."

Members stated that as part of the proposed work plan, the original data which set out the local communities as 'left behind' needed to be examined to further understand the current situation. It was heard that the data would be analysed in consultation with Public Health including refreshing with up to date information. It was stated that this would then be fed back to the Scrutiny Review at a future formal meeting.

It was also recommended by members that as part of the community consultation and engagement that informal physical events take place in each of the recognised communities which would include opportunities for partners and members of the public to engage within the Levelling Up process. The opportunity to research and explore existing areas of good practise were also discussed within the work plan.

To further engagement, it was heard that a communication plan would be developed in consultation with the comms team which included a dedicated page to provide updates on the progress of the Levelling Up Scrutiny Review. Officer support was also discussed which included being able to include the follow partners and departments:

- Children's Trust
- Adults, Wellbeing Services
- Youth Offending Service
- Safer Communities Team
- Neighbourhood Services
- Housing
- Northamptonshire Police
- Environment Health/Protection
- Public Health
- Communication team
- Finance

Following debate it was

RESOLVED

that the Levelling Up Scrutiny Review
Scoping and Planning Document be
approved

It was noted that the next meeting of the Levelling Up Scrutiny Review would take
place at 6:10pm on Thursday 9th November 2021 Via Zoom.

26 Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Chair

Date

Minutes of a meeting of the Levelling Up Communities Scrutiny Review

At 6:10pm on Tuesday 9th November, 2021 via Zoom

Present:-

Members

Councillor Zoe McGhee (Chair)
Councillor Robin Carter
Councillor Kevin Watt
Councillor Valerie Anslow

Councillor Anne Lee
Councillor Paul Marks
Councillor King Lawal

Officers

David Watt – Executive Director of Adults, Communities & Wellbeing
Callum Galluzzo – Democratic Services

1 Apologies for absence

None

2 Members' Declarations of Interest

None

3 Community Engagement Timetable

Members were provided with results to a recent survey which sought to confirm member availability in order to undertake community engagement activities on behalf of the Levelling Up Scrutiny Review.

It was suggested to members and confirmed that that the ward walkabout/tour would be immediately followed by a community workshop in order to maximise engagement with members of the public and partner organisations.

Members also discussed potential venues, timings and partner organisations that would benefit from engagement with the community workshops. Members were asked to forward any contact information with regards to community organisations and individuals.

Following debate it was:

RESOLVED

that the timetable for The Levelling Up Scrutiny Review was agreed as following:

Date	Area	Venue	Session content
Saturday 27 November 2021	Avondale Grange (Kettering)	Crescents Community Centre	13:00-15:00 - Tour of the area to see both areas of concerns and examples of things that are working 15:30-17:30 – Facilitated community discussions
Saturday 04 December 2021	Kingswood & Hazel Leys (Corby)	Hazelwood Neighbourhood Centre	
Saturday 11 December 2021	Queensway (Wellingborough)	To Be Confirmed	

4 Levelling Up Communities Report

David Watts (Director of Adults, Communities & Wellbeing) addressed the meeting and provided members with a presentation which sought to inform members on the Oxford Consultants for Social Inclusion (OCSI) Understanding communities on the edge report.

Members heard that the index covered 19 indicators, across three domains which included;

- **Civic Assets:** Measures the presence of key community, civic, educational and cultural assets in close proximity of the area. These include pubs, libraries, green space, community centres, swimming pools facilities that provide things to do often, at no or little cost, which are important to how positive a community feels about its area.
- **Connectedness:** Measures the connectivity to key services, digital infrastructure, isolation and strength of the local jobs market. It looks at whether residents have access to key services, such as health services, within a reasonable travel distance. It considers how good public transport and digital infrastructure are and how strong the local job market is.
- **Active and Engaged Community:** Measures the levels of third sector civic and community activity and barriers to participation and engagement. It shows whether charities are active in the area and whether people appear to be engaged in the broader civic life of their community.

Civic Assets

It was noted that Left Behind Neighbourhoods (LBNs) had a lower density of community spaces, cultural, educational, leisure and green assets than other deprived areas and England.

Members heard that;

- 72.9% of LBNs had less community space assets in their local neighbourhoods per person than the national average with the lowest density in Manor House in Hartlepool.
- 77.8% of LBNs had a lower density of educational assets than the England average Sheppey East in Swale and Knottingley in Wakefield have the lowest density of educational assets of all LBNs.
- 77% of LBNs had less sport and leisure assets per person than nationally, with the lowest rates in Talavera in Northampton.
- Three LBNs record no green space assets in their local areas these are in Bolton, North West Leicestershire and Middlesbrough.
- Four LBNs are amongst the areas with the lowest density of community or cultural assets on three or more of these measures: Brightmet (Bolton), Norton South (Halton), Sheppey East (Swale) and Yarmouth North (Great Yarmouth).

The third sector

The meeting heard that Left Behind Neighbourhoods were less than half as likely to have a registered charity in their local area than the average across England as a whole.

- 97% of all LBNs had a lower rate of charities per 100,000 population than nationally.
- LBNs were also less likely to have other third sector organisations operating in their local areas including mutual societies, co operative societies, community benefit societies and former industrial and provident societies groups.
- 92% of LBNs had a lower proportion of Mutual Societies registered locally than the national average while 63 LBNs have no co operative groups operating in their local area
- LBNs received fewer grants per 10,000 population than other deprived areas and England though coastal LBNs (including Nelson in Great Yarmouth and Pier in Tendring) typically received the highest levels of grants funding per head.
- There were relatively fewer grants issued by charitable foundations in response to COVID 19 in LBNs than in other deprived areas and England, as well as fewer Mutual Aid groups set ups specifically in response to the pandemic.

Community Participation in 'Left behind' neighbourhoods

Members then noted that Left Behind Neighbourhoods performed less well than the England average on measures of social connectivity, though broadly in line with the average across other deprived areas.

- However, LBNs performed particularly poorly on measures exploring the extent of civic engagement and participation with lower levels across all identified measures than the average in other deprived areas and England as a whole 97% of LBNs have lower levels of civic engagement than the national average and 98% have lower rates of volunteering
- Voter turnout was lower than the national average in 92% of LBNs, with the six LBNs with the lowest levels of voter turnout all found in Kingston upon Hull.
- LBNs had a lower predicted strength of local social relationships than nationally, with 70.2% of all LBNs with lower scores on this measure than the average across England as a whole.
- Adults in LBNs were less likely to be physically active than those in other deprived areas or nationally with 97.2% of LBNs seeing a lower proportion of adults engaging in 150 minutes of moderate intensity equivalent (MIE) physical activity than the national average.

It was noted that the next meeting of the Levelling Up Scrutiny Review would take place at 6:10pm on Tuesday 7th December 2021 Via Zoom.

26 Close of Meeting

The meeting closed at 8.35pm.

Chair

Date