

**NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**Monday, 7 September 2020**

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT:** Councillor Lane (Chair), Councillor Walker (Deputy Chair);  
Councillors Ansell, Aziz, Duffy, G Eales, Flavell, Kilbride, Kilby-Shaw,  
Roberts, Russell and Smith

Councillor James Hill	Assistant Cabinet Member for Planning
Marion Goodman	Interim Assistant Chief Executive
Peter Baguley	Interim Assistant Chief Executive
Tracy Tiff	Democratic and Member Services Manager

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Ashraf and Meredith.

**2. DEPUTATIONS/PUBLIC ADDRESSES**

There were none.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (INCLUDING WHIPPING)**

Councillor Smith declared an interest in agenda item 7(c) as a Board member of NPH.

**4. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2020 were signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

**5. MONITORING OF ACCEPTED RECOMMENDATIONS**

**6. DEMENTIA FRIENDLY TOWN**

Marion Goodman, Interim Assistant Chief Executive, presented the action plan – Dementia Friendly Town and highlighted the salient points.

The Committee made comment, asked questions and heard:

- The consultation process in accordance with the study undertaken by the University of Northampton and Urban Splash is underway. It was confirmed that a copy of the consultation would be shared with the Committee. Following the consultation, the business case would be produced.

Marion Goodman was thanked for producing the update and it was requested that a further update be presented to the January 2021 meeting of the Committee.

AGREED: That the update is noted and a further update be presented to the January 2021 meeting of the Committee.

## **7. CULTURE AND TOURISM**

Marion Goodman, Interim Assistant Chief Executive, presented the action plan – Culture and Tourism and highlighted the salient points.

The Committee made comment, asked questions and heard:

- The majority of the actions progressing, however, the green badge has not progressed but this will be taken forward as part of the Unitary plans
- It will not be possible to hold Heritage Weekend this year but a virtual tour will be arranged

Marion Goodman was thanked for producing the update and it was requested that a further update be presented to the January 2021 meeting of the Committee.

AGREED: That the update is noted and a further update be presented to the January 2021 meeting of the Committee.

## **8. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT SCRUTINY**

Peter Baguley, Interim Assistant Chief Executive, presented the briefing note detailing information regarding:

- % of major planning applications determined in 13 weeks or agreed extension
- % of minor planning applications determined within 8 weeks or agreed extension

The salient points were highlighted.

The Committee made comment, asked questions and heard:

- Both large scale and small scale major applications have a determination period of 13 weeks, unless an Environmental Statement is submitted with the application, then the determination period will be 16 weeks. The government acknowledges that most major applications can be complex and there could be many related technical issues to be resolved to make development acceptable.
- 98.7% performance for minor applications in 2019/20 and 100% in 2018/19.
- Development Management have achieved 100% performance for major applications, with extensions of time, for major applications in both of the time periods.

Peter Baguley was thanked for his informative briefing note.

AGREED: That the information is noted.

## **9. SCRUTINY PANELS**

### **10. SCRUTINY PANEL 1**

In the absence of the Chair of the Scrutiny Panel, Councillor Russell advised that the work of the Panel is coming to a conclusion. There had been good attendance and a wealth of evidence received. It is possible that further evidence could be appended to the final report.

It is expected that the final report will be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its November 2020 meeting for approval.

AGREED: That the update is noted.

### **11. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY GANGS AND KNIFE CRIME WORKING GROUP**

Councillor Walker, Chair of the Scrutiny Working Group, advised that the work of the Working Group is coming to a conclusion. The Working Group had received a lot of evidence both from desktop research and from expert advisors.

It is expected that the final report will be presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its November 2020 meeting for approval.

AGREED: That the update is noted.

### **12. PRE DECISION SCRUTINY WORKING GROUP - TRIAL OF BUY BACK OF PROPERTIES**

Councillor Roberts, Chair of the Scrutiny Working Group, advised that the Working Group had concluded its work and had received a very comprehensive report from the Director of Housing and Wellbeing. She emphasised the need for further Scrutiny of this issue.

The Committee made comment, asked questions and heard:

The need for social rent, rather than affordable rent, for the 30 additional properties was emphasised

It must be ensured that further, regular Scrutiny of this issue takes place. The Chair advised that the Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing would provide regular updates to the Committee.

The Committee queried the impact of evictions from both private tenancies and temporary accommodation and asked that an update is provided to the next meeting of the Committee and details of how many evictions there have been and details of the process is also provided.

AGREED: 1) That the update is noted.  
2) That regular updates are presented to the Committee.  
3) That the Cabinet Member for Housing and Wellbeing attends the next meeting of this Committee and provides an update is provided to the next

meeting of the Committee including details of how many evictions there have been and details of the process.

**13. POTENTIAL FUTURE PRE DECISION SCRUTINY.**

There were none.

**14. URGENT ITEMS**

There were none.

The meeting concluded at 6:35 pm