



Minutes of the SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE held on WEDNESDAY 22 JUNE 2016 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillor I McCall (Chair)
Councillors Bald (substitute for Councillor A Geary), Bint, Brackenbury, D Hopkins (Vice-Chair), Miles (Vice-Chair), Patey-Smith and K Wilson

Officers: D Sharkey (Corporate Director – Place), S Bridglalsingh (Acting Service Director [Legal and Democratic Services]), B Matthews (Head of Transport Innovation) and S Heap (Committee Services and Scrutiny Manager)

Apologies: Councillors Clifton, A Geary and Khan

Also present: Councillor C Williams and 1 member of the public

SM04 MINUTES

RESOLVED -

That the Minutes of the meetings of the Scrutiny Management Committee held on 9 March and 25 May 2016, be approved and signed by the Chair as a correct records.

SM05 DECISIONS OF THE COMMITTEE'S PLANNING GROUP

The Committee considered the decisions from the meetings of the Committee's Planning Group held on 7 April and 7 June 2016.

The Committee noted that a number of the decisions would be the subject of further reports to the Planning Group.

It was also noted that it was hoped to hold an initial meeting with councillors from Northamptonshire County Council in late July to consider an approach to scrutinising the LGSS Joint Committee.

Arising from the decisions the Committee considered the extent of its forthcoming scrutiny of the Highways Contract and how evidence for reviews was gathered.

RESOLVED –

1. That the decisions made by the Committee's Planning Group at its meetings held on 7 April and 7 June 2016 be confirmed.
2. That, with regard to Item 7 (Work Programme 2016/17), it was agreed that the criteria for the replacement of road signs should be added for consideration by the Committee when considering the performance management of the Highways Contract.

3. That the Planning Group be requested to consider the possibility of advertising publically for evidence prior to consideration of the topic by a scrutiny body.

SM06

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17

The Committee considered the draft Work Programme for the Housing and Community Committee, which was presented by Councillor C Williams, the Chair of the Committee.

The Committee discussed the extent of the Work Programme, the request for additional meetings beyond the standard four and the pressure supporting the additional meetings would place on the resources of officer colleagues.

It was suggested that some of the items included in the draft Work Programme might, as they were of a cross cutting nature, be scrutinised elsewhere, or well within the remit of another committee of the Council.

It was also suggested that to aid the Management Committee in deciding on priorities if Committee work programmes included objectives against each of the items it wishes to scrutinise.

The Chair of the Housing and Community Committee assured the Management Committee that the Committee's Planning Group had prioritised the work programme very carefully and had left off a number of important items. The Chair also referred to the levels of public interest in a number of the items, particularly homelessness.

RESOLVED –

1. That a programme of six meetings for the Housing and Community Committee be agreed, with the possibility of an additional meeting in April 2017.
2. That the Housing and Community Committee be requested to review the Work Programme to ensure that scrutiny of all of the items listed is essential.
3. That the Scrutiny Management Committee's Planning Group be requested to consider whether any of the items listed in the Work Programme could more appropriately be scrutinised elsewhere.
4. That the Housing and Community Committee be requested to provide objectives against each of the items it wishes to scrutinise.
5. That the Scrutiny Management Committee monitor resources available to support the scrutiny process to ensure that demand does not exceed resources available.

SM07

REPORT OF THE PROVISION OF GP SERVICES IN MILTON KEYNES TASK AND FINISH GROUP

The Committee considered the report of the Provision of GP Services in Milton Keynes Task and Finish Group, which was presented by the Chair of the Group, Councillor I McCall.

The Chair referred to the composition of the Group which had included a representative of Health-Watch and, initially, The Council's Older Persons Champion. The Chair also referred to the breadth of evidence which had been gathered by the Group, which included evidence from fellow councillors, officer colleagues, health bodies; including NHS England, patient surveys and publications.

The Chair particularly referred to the pressure on existing surgeries resulting from the growth of Milton Keynes and the failure of health care provision to keep pace and, in many cases, difficulties experienced by patients in getting an appointment.

The Chair suggested that one of the key recommendations from the Group was the need for clear signposting and better education so that patients accessed health care from the most appropriate source, which might not be the GP.

The Committee discussed the evidence base for the report particularly the basis of the data being used by NHS England for planning purposes, how the recommendations in the report should be taken forward, including whether NHS England should be invited to present to the Council its plans for health care provision in Milton Keynes and respond to questions from Councillors.

The Committee noted that the report was also to be presented to the Health and Adult Social Care Committee which, amongst other things, would consider taking up the issues in the report with the Clinical Commissioning Group and whether it was appropriate to seek the support of the Cabinet for any of the recommendations.

It was suggested that there should be a protocol between the Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS England and the Health and Adult Social Care Committee on providing information and answer questions to aid scrutiny.

The Committee also discussed its role in considering reports from the Task and Finish Groups it established.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report of the Task and Finish Group be welcomed.
2. That the Task and Finish Group be requested to consider:
 - (a) requesting NHS England to supply / publish the data referred to at questions 1, 3, 4 and 5;
 - (b) seeking the support of the Local MPs to the report;
 - (c) forwarding the report to appropriate Government Ministers so that they are aware of the situation in Milton Keynes; and
 - (d) seeking extensive publicity for the report.

3. That the Council be requested to consider inviting NHS England to attend a full Council meeting to provide the Council with an up-date on healthcare provision in Milton Keynes and respond to the issues identified in the report
4. That the Council's Communications Team be requested to publicise the report and make it available to the media.

SM08

REPORT OF THE TRANSPORT INNOVATIONS TASK AND FINISH GROUP

The Committee considered the report of the Transport Innovations Task and Finish Group, which was presented by Councillor Eastman, the Chair of the Group, who outlined the key points arising from the report, particularly those innovations which could address some of the transport problems facing Milton Keynes, and referred to the range of evidence the Group had received.

The Chair specifically referred to SMART / integrated ticketing, bus on demand pilot schemes, the important role of 'park and ride', the introduction of Urban Transport Management Control Systems, various parking initiative; including pay on exit and greater use of available data to manage traffic flows as some of the shorter term initiatives that could be considered.

The Committee recognised that the transport situation in Milton Keynes was such that a number of short term initiatives, as well as longer term more innovative solutions, were needed. Also that it was important that transport issues were addressed as a key feature in the Council's long term planning.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report of the Task and Finish Group be welcomed
2. That the report be supported for referral to Cabinet.

THE CHAIR CLOSED THE MEETING AT 8.55 PM