

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMUNITIES AND PLACE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the **Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee** held in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Morpeth on Friday, 8 June 2018 at 2.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor J. Reid
(Chairman, in the Chair)

COUNCILLORS

Armstrong, E.
Beynon, J.
Cartie, E.
Dunbar, C.
Dunn, E.

Gallacher, B.
Gibson, R.
Pattison, W.
Swithenbank, I.C.F.

PORTFOLIO HOLDERS

Riddle, J. Planning, Housing and Resilience

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE

P. Johnston
J. Sanderson
R. Bendell
D. Feige
S. Nicholson

Interim Executive Director: Place
Senior Planning Manager
Infrastructure Manager
Principal Ecologist and AONB Officer
Scrutiny Co-ordinator

1. MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Committee noted the following membership and terms of reference for the Communities and Place OSC which were agreed by Council on 2 May 2018.

Chair: J. Reid

Vice Chair: I.C.F. Swithenbank

Quorum - 3

Armstrong, E. Beynon, J. Cartie, E. Dunbar, C.	Dunn, E. Gallacher, B. Gibson, R. Pattison, W.
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Terms of Reference

- (a) To maintain an overview of the Management Agreements in place between the County Council and Active Northumberland, Woodhorn Museum Charitable Trust and Northumberland Tourism.
- (b) To monitor, review and make recommendations about:
- Development planning
 - Neighbourhood Planning
 - Conservation
 - Housing
 - Climate Change
 - Countryside, Biodiversity and landscape quality
 - Waste Management and Energy Use
 - Public and community transport network and travel to school
 - Highway maintenance, Streetscape and the local environment
 - Local and Neighbourhood services
 - Crime, Community Safety, and fear of crime
 - Antisocial behaviour and domestic violence
 - Fire and rescue
 - Emergency services and Emergency planning
 - Customer Services
 - Provision of cultural and leisure facilities
 - Improving quality of life through access to culture and leisure;
 - Supporting economic growth in the arts, culture and leisure sectors

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Communities and Place OSC held on 28 March 2018, as circulated, be confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman.

3. FORWARD PLAN

The Scrutiny Co-ordinator presented the latest Forward Plan of key decisions (June - September 2018). (Forward Plan enclosed with the signed minutes as Appendix A).

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

4. CABINET REPORTS PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE

The Scrutiny Co-ordinator advised members of Cabinet decisions regarding issues previously commented on and been subject of report by this Committee. (Report enclosed with the signed minutes as Appendix B).

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

5. SCRUTINY OF CABINET REPORTS

The Committee were advised that the following report would be considered by the Cabinet on 14 June 2018. The Committee were asked to comment on the Engagement Plan contained in the report. Those comments would be presented to the Cabinet by the Chairman.

5.1 Draft Northumberland Local Plan

This report sought Cabinet approval to publish the Northumberland Local Plan - Regulation 18 Draft Plan for consultation. (Report enclosed with the signed minutes as Appendix C).

Paul Johnston, Interim Executive Director of Place, together with Joan Sanderson, Senior Planning Manager, presented the report to the Committee. John Riddle, Cabinet Member: Planning, Housing and Resilience was also in attendance.

The Committee focused on the Engagement Plan on page 11 of the report. Members were assured that arrangements had been made with the Royal Mail to ensure that leaflets would be delivered to all addresses in Northumberland. The Chairman encouraged members to speak to individuals in their areas to confirm that leaflets had been delivered and feedback any responses or issues to the planning officers.

The Committee were advised that the Engagement Plan followed the same process as previous consultations, with the addition of including Local Area Councils. Members welcomed that approach, but urged officers to be vigilant against any technical issues arising from online communications.

RESOLVED that the Committee's comments be presented to the Cabinet when it considers this report on 14 June 2018.

6. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REPORTS

6.1 Northumberland Coast Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty - Boundary Review

This briefing note set out the next steps to examining proposals to realign the Northumberland Coastal AONB Boundary. (Report enclosed with the signed minutes as Appendix D).

The report was presented by David Feige, Principal Ecologist and AONB Officer. He advised the Committee that since the papers had been circulated, he had received a letter from the Department of Environment and Rural Affairs regarding proposals for a Review of Designated Landscapes. The Review would consider National Parks and AONBs in England including the case for extension or creation of new designated areas. (A copy of the letter and the Review's Terms of Reference are enclosed with the signed minutes).

The Committee were advised that the issues that they had previously raised, as set out in the briefing note, would be examined in the context of the Review. Members would be consulted further prior to the submission of the Council's response.

The Committee welcomed this approach and looked forward to receiving further details in due course and suggested that the officers liaise with partner organisations to strengthen the Council's case for any suggested changes.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Gallacher for bringing this issue forward.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the briefing note be accepted;
- (b) the Government's Review of Designated Landscapes be welcomed, and
- (c) the Committee receive updates on the Council's response to the Review as appropriate.

6.2 Review of Transport Asset Management Plan - Policy & Strategy

This report provided an update and sought input from the Committee on the revision of the County Council's Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP) Policy and Strategy document which was last updated in November 2015. (Report enclosed with the signed minutes as Appendix E).

The report was presented by Ruth Bendell, Infrastructure Manager.

Members suggested a number of revisions to the policy and strategy document, including:

- carriageways levels of service to include an additional point regarding the impact of freight and other heavy traffic, and
- lighting delivery standards to include an additional point to improve response rates.

In respect of service delivery standards for responding to defects, particularly regarding street lighting, the Committee requested that efforts be made to communicate progress on the completion of related tasks to the public where appropriate.

RESOLVED that

- (a) the contents of the report be noted, and
- (b) the comments made by members be included in a revised TAMP Policy and Strategy document.

7. REPORT OF THE SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATOR

Communities and Place Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

The Scrutiny Co-ordinator presented the Committee's Work Programme for 2018/19. (Report enclosed with the signed minutes as Appendix F).

Members requested that the Domestic Abuse report be deferred to October to allow the portfolio holder to attend and that a report on Affordable Housing policies be added to the work programme.

RESOLVED that the changes to the work programme be noted.

8. INFORMATION REPORT - POLICY DIGEST

The Scrutiny Co-ordinator advised the Committee that the Policy Digest gave details of the latest policy briefings, government announcements and ministerial speeches which may be of interest to members. The report could be accessed through the service finder element of County Council's website at www.northumberland.gov.uk.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Chairman _____

Date _____