

## OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of the meeting of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee held on Wednesday, 11 October 2023 in the Council Chamber - Council Offices at 9.30 am

<b>Committee Members Present:</b>	Cllr N Dixon (Chairman)	Cllr V Holliday
	Cllr N Housden	Cllr C Cushing
	Cllr P Fisher	Cllr L Vickers
	Cllr M Batey	Cllr J Boyle
	Cllr G Bull	Cllr R Macdonald
	Cllr M Hankins	

<b>Members also attending:</b>	Cllr H Blathwayt (Observer)	Cllr A Brown (Observer)
	Cllr P Heinrich (Observer)	Cllr L Shires (Observer)
	Cllr J Toye (Observer)	Cllr A Varley (Observer)
	Cllr T Adams (Observer)	

**Officers in Attendance:** Democratic Services and Governance Officer - Scrutiny (DSGOS), Chief Executive (CE), Democratic Services Manager (DSM), Assistant Director for Finance, Assets, Legal & Monitoring Officer (MO), Economic Growth Manager (EGM), Assistant Director for Sustainable Growth (ADSG), Director for Place & Climate Change (DFPCC) and Director for Resources / S151 Officer (DFR)

### 54 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Cllr S Penfold.

### 55 SUBSTITUTES

None.

### 56 PUBLIC QUESTIONS & STATEMENTS

None received.

### 57 MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

### 58 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None received.

### 59 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared.

### 60 PETITIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

None received.

**61 CONSIDERATION OF ANY MATTER REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE BY A MEMBER**

None received.

**62 RESPONSES OF THE COUNCIL OR THE CABINET TO THE COMMITTEE'S REPORTS OR RECOMMENDATIONS**

None to report.

**63 NWH SHAZ PROJECT UPDATE REPORT & INFORMATION REQUEST**

Cllr P Heinrich – Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Growth introduced the report and informed Members that an underspend remained on the placemaking scheme as work was still in progress on Black Swan Loke. He added that officers were close to finalising designs for the garden and other minor works in the area, and tenders would be sought as soon as possible. It was noted that there were a number of other small tasks to complete, but overall the project was approaching completion and had achieved vast improvements in the Town centre. Cllr P Heinrich reported that the project had also rejuvenated Cedar House, which was soon expected to be at capacity, whilst further improvements had been made to buildings throughout the town, and the addition of a bus interchange had drastically improved public transport. He added that the cultural programme and involvement of local schools had also had a positive impact on the town and the project had been very successful.

Questions and Discussion

- i. Cllr C Cushing stated that the Committee now had sufficient detail outlining how funds had been spent and justification of the funding uplift, but it was unfortunate that this level of information had not been provided sooner as it would have saved considerable time and effort. He added that once the project was complete the Committee should receive a final report to determine the success of the project with reference to measurable outcomes such as any increased footfall. Cllr P Heinrich replied that there would be a final report once the project was complete, and footfall counters had been installed throughout the town. The ADSG stated that footfall had been measured before, during and would continue after project completion, as required by Historic England, as well as for the Council's own benefit.
- ii. Cllr N Housden noted that there had been a suggestion that the project may not require the full £400k funding uplift, and asked whether an update could be provided on this. Cllr P Heinrich replied that designs were yet to be completed for Black Swan Loke, but it would go out to tender once finalised. The ADSG replied that the current budget position was set out in table 1 of the report, where it was shown that the placemaking scheme had a surplus of £332k, taking into account existing commitments such as safety audit work. He added that once the cost of Black Swan and Bank Lokes were known, any remaining funds could potentially be ringfenced for further works on the town, ancillary works related to the scheme, or any other matter determined by the Council, with the final budget position reported to the Project Board for final consideration. It was noted that the scheme had been descoped and rescoped to fit within the available budget, and expanding the scope may be considered for any remaining budget. Cllr N Housden asked

whether it would be possible for any unspent funds to be returned to the Council's reserves, to which the Chairman added that there would need to be a persuasive argument to explain why any unspent funds were still required for the project. Cllr P Heinrich replied that he didn't believe in spending money for the sake of it, but there were further projects that could be actioned if funds remained, such as repairing the wall behind the Cedars and improving parking areas used for materials storage.

- iii. Cllr V Holliday stated that she was of the view that any unspent funds should be returned to the Council's reserves for use on other projects. She added that the project had also required significant resource for project management and asked whether this had been costed in to the overall project cost, and whether it had limited resources available for other projects, such as updating the Council's Economic Development Strategy. The AD SG replied that funding did include a project officer role, with additional funds secured from Historic England to support the cultural programme. He added that despite this, a project of this size required considerable resource over an extended period of time, but the project was deemed to be a corporate priority for the Town. It was noted that the Team had worked hard to deliver the project, especially during Covid when resources had been diverted to administer Covid grant payments. The AD SG noted that Covid recovery programmes and tourism recovery schemes had also required significant resource, followed by the UKSPF and Rural England Prosperity Fund, which showed that the small Team had carefully balanced its priorities to ensure effective delivery of multiple projects.
- iv. Cllr L Shires reported that upon closure of McColls, Morrisons had opened a convenience store which had been very well received by residents. She added that a water sports business had also opened on the periphery of the town, and many businesses had benefitted from the investment made as part of the wider scheme.
- v. The Chairman noted that there had not been a precise date provided for completion of the project and asked whether clarification could be given. The AD SG replied that Historic England funding required the project to complete by March 2024, and a project completion report would be prepared soon after this date.
- vi. Cllr J Boyle stated that she had recently visited the Cedars and was very impressed with the level of restoration work that had been completed, and was pleased to hear about the level of commercial interest in the building. She added that upon project completion it would be beneficial for the Committee to undertake a site visit, in order to gain better insights into the outcomes achieved. The Chairman replied that a proposal for a site visit had been raised previously, and he felt that it would be prudent to wait until the project was complete to arrange this.
- vii. Cllr G Bull referred to the Cedars and asked whether the prior state of the building had been taken into account and suggested that the Council had to bear some responsibility for the cost overruns on the renovation work, due to its previous failure to maintain the building. Cllr P Heinrich stated that the building had been left unmaintained for several years whilst efforts were made to sell the building, however Covid, subsequent inflationary pressures, and insolvency of the original contractor had all contributed to an increase in the costs of the renovation project. The Chairman suggested that the Council

should reflect on the lessons to be gained from the management and maintenance of its assets. The CE stated that the Council had received a report on the state of the Cedars building in 2011, which had suggested that expenditure of several hundred thousand pounds would be required to bring the building back into a good state of repair, and at the time this investment was not deemed to deliver the necessary return, and the works had not therefore been pursued. He added that the Council had received an unsolicited offer from a national pub chain for purchase of the property, which whilst below the agreed value would have adopted responsibility for repairs of the building, and a draft sale agreement was agreed which had meant that tenants were asked to find alternate premises. It was noted that there was a challenge to an alleged right of way, followed by Covid, which meant that the sale never completed. The CE stated that it was then decided to retain the building and undertake the renovation work as part of the NWSHAZ project.

- viii. The Chairman sought views on how the Committee would like to consider the project going forward, and whether a final report on project completion would suffice, or whether a further update in the next quarter was required. Cllr N Housden suggested that he would prefer to see an interim update following agreement of tenders for the Loke works. The CE stated that the Committee should not seek to micromanage the project, and that whilst the Committee should maintain an appropriate level of oversight, he felt that a final report upon project completion would be adequate for the purposes of the Committee, given the officer resource available. The Chairman suggested that if an interim update was required, it could be a very concise report to limit resource implications, but he would leave it for the Committee to decide. Cllr G Bull stated that he saw no benefit from receiving additional updates, and suggested that there would be more value in waiting for a final report upon completion of the project. Cllr N Housden suggested that it would have been helpful to understand the impact of the Loke works on the remaining project budget, rather than a full update. Cllr L Shires noted that project update information would be provided as part of Portfolio Holder's updates to Full Council, and this may be a more appropriate method for providing interim updates prior to completion. The ADSG noted that following finalisation of the Loke work designs, the Council may either go out to tender or use the existing in-house contractor to complete works, but it would be procured using the appropriate framework. He added that he would be happy to provide as much detail as needed for Portfolio Holder Updates.
- ix. Cllr P Fisher proposed that a final report be added to the Committee work programme in May to coincide with completion of the project, with updates provided as part of the Cabinet Portfolio Holder's reports to Full Council. Cllr J Boyle seconded the proposal.

## **RESOLVED**

- 1. To note the contents of the report.**
- 2. To request that further projects updates are provided as part of the Cabinet Member's Portfolio Holder updates to Full Council, and that a final report is presented upon completion of the project in Spring 2024.**

## **64 ACCESS TO NHS DENTAL SERVICES**

The DSGOS introduced the report and informed Members that to his knowledge the

information was yet to be reviewed by NHOSC. He added that FOI information provided alongside the report had been sought by Cllr V Holliday, with questions raised on the current provision of access to NHS dental services in North Norfolk. It was noted that the map included in the report showed that access to emergency dental services was only available at one location within the District, and that no NHS dental services available to North Norfolk residents were accepting new patients, which was a particular concern. The DSGOS suggested that the Committee should consider whether they had further questions for the ICB, such as waiting list information which was reportedly not collated, recommendations for NHOSC, and how the Committee would like to proceed with any future consideration of access to NHS dental services.

### Questions and Discussion

- i. Cllr V Holliday stated that it was a relief that dental services had become the responsibility of the ICB, and suggested that it would be helpful to have more detail, as the report provided was an abridged version of a report seen by the Primary Care Commission in September, which could be requested. She added that more details were needed on the urgent care pathway, service capacity and travel issues for patients. It was suggested that the Committee should therefore write to the ICB to request the full report and seek information on waiting lists. Cllr V Holliday suggested that it may also be worthwhile raising access to dental services at NHOSC for residents in areas such as Walsingham and Briston, where no services were available.
- ii. The Chairman noted that Cllr J Boyle was the Council's representative on NHOSC, and asked whether she would be willing to raise the issues discussed at the next appropriate meeting. He added that the report provided was very limited on information and took no account of access to private dental services, or the current state of waiting lists. Cllr J Boyle replied that waiting list times may not necessarily be relevant, as many dental practices did not keep waiting lists. She added that she was aware of patients seeking treatment outside of normal hours in a neighbouring County, but noted that this appeared to be a very informal process. It was noted that there were clearly issues specific to North Norfolk, and Cllr Boyle therefore suggested that NNDC should maintain some level of oversight or monitoring for the benefit of residents. She added that questions needed to be raised for residents that couldn't afford private dental care or had no transport to services outside of the District.
- iii. Cllr L Shires suggested that it was important for the Committee to take a North Norfolk approach to the matter, as she was a Member of NHOSC and knew that the District would not be given any direct consideration, as it took a County-wide approach. She added that she was aware of residents who had faced extreme difficulty accessing dental services, and had subsequently had to visit NNUH as a result, which did not meet the level of service expected. Cllr L Shires stated that it also remained unclear how many residents had access to dental services, and it was therefore crucial to better understand the situation in North Norfolk. The Chairman noted that if there were no waiting lists held then the ICB must have some other means of gauging demand to determine how and where to provide services.
- iv. Cllr M Hankins stated that questions needed to be raised on efforts for pre-dental preventative work, and that it was a common perception that former NHS dentists would take on new private patients, but this was not always the

case as there appeared to be issues with capacity across the dental sector.

- v. Cllr P Heinrich questioned the quality of data provided and noted that there were currently no NHS dentists in North Walsham, as had been suggested on the map provided. He added that accurate data was needed to determine the full scale of the issue, taking into account an apparent shortage in trained dentists willing to work within the District. It was suggested that questions should therefore be raised on the efforts taken to train and encourage dentists to work in the area.
- vi. Cllr A Brown referred to p36 of the report which suggested that Norfolk had the highest prevalence of dental decay for five year olds in the East of England at twenty three percent. The Chairman agreed and stated that this issue highlighted the importance of preventative dental care.
- vii. Cllr G Bull stated that he would like to know whether NHS and private dentists were required to keep a record of any new patient requests, as this would provide some indication of the level of demand for dental services.
- viii. Cllr L Vickers referred to difficulties recruiting qualified dentists in the region and noted that local MPs had lobbied the UEA to create a school of dentistry, as this may help to draw and retain dentists in the area.
- ix. The DSGOS confirmed that he had taken note of several questions to be raised with the ICB and at the next relevant NHOSC meeting.

## **RESOLVED**

- 1. To note the report.**

## **ACTIONS**

- 1. To write to the ICB to request more detailed information on the following matters:**
  - **To request the full report that was provided to the Primary Care Commission.**
  - **How is service demand determined if waiting list information is not collated.**
  - **Does the report take into account dental health of those that are not able to access dental services.**
  - **Does the ICB have any data on the number of patients accessing private dental care.**
- 2. To request that NNDC representative raise the following questions at NHOSC's November meeting during discussion of NHS Dental Services:**
  - **What preventative work is done to address dental issues?**
  - **What is causing issues with capacity across NHS Dental Services, is there a problem with training and recruitment of Dentists?**

## **65 SCRUTINY PANEL: UPDATED TOR & APPOINTMENTS**

The DSGOS introduced the report and informed Members that the Committee had

set-up a trial Panel prior to the election which focused on the Environment and Quality of Life theme of the Corporate Plan, during which time a review of the Public Convenience Strategy was undertaken which resulted in fifteen recommendations to Cabinet. He added that updated terms of reference would allow the Committee to undertake more detailed investigations and increase the capacity of the Committee, without being constrained by the themes of the Corporate Plan. It was noted that in the same way Cabinet Working Parties operate, the Scrutiny Panel would be able to undertake work and investigations at the request of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. The DSGOS stated that having a single Scrutiny Panel able to review any matter as requested by the Committee would reduce the administrative burden for both Members and officers. He added that approving the terms of reference would not begin meetings, as the Scrutiny Panel would meet on an ad hoc basis, as required by the Committee. It was noted that the Panel would be comprised of five Members on a politically balanced basis, and whilst the Chair and Vice-Chair had to be Members of the Committee, the remaining appointments did not, so long as they were not Cabinet Members.

### Questions and Discussion

- i. Cllr G Bull suggested that the Panel appeared to be an additional layer of bureaucracy, and he did not see the benefit of using a smaller group to discuss matters of concern. The Chairman replied that the Panel may allow for non-Committee Members to contribute to Scrutiny and previous Panels, sub-committees, and working parties had been a successful use of resources, which he did not regard as another layer of bureaucracy. He added that the Committee would not reconsider or duplicate the work undertaken by the Panel, but would consider recommendations or concluding reports from the Panel, providing additional capacity. Cllr G Bull asked whether the Panel was necessary now, or should be deferred until required. The Chairman replied that agreeing the terms of reference and appointments would allow for additional resource to be available, as and when the need should arise.
- ii. Cllr J Boyle raised concerns that establishing a Panel for non-specific investigations was not something she felt comfortable with, and suggested that a decision should be made only when required. The Chairman replied that a Panel would only be convened when required, with appointments made according to the terms of reference.
- iii. It was confirmed following a question from Cllr G Bull that sub-committee or Panel meetings were not ordinarily held in public, which he suggested was not transparent.
- iv. Cllr V Holliday stated that she had sat on the Environment and Quality of Life Scrutiny Panel and found it to be a very useful experience, with meetings recorded and minutes available. She added that Panel's allowed for reviews and investigations in much greater detail, and having a terms of reference agreed and ready was a sensible approach.
- v. Cllr C Cushing noted that Scrutiny Panels were a common practice that were used sparingly for specific investigations, and that the report was only intended to agree a terms of reference. He added that the last Panel that had looked at the Public Convenience Strategy had done useful work seeking solutions to camper van waste disposal. It was noted that detailed concluding reports and recommendations were brought back to the Committee, so he

had no concerns regarding transparency.

- vi. The CE stated that the report was only presenting a terms of reference that would allow for the formation of a Panel, should the need arise to undertake a detailed piece of work. He added that some topics were better suited to detailed sub-committee investigations, and the terms of reference would seek to delegate these tasks to increase the capacity of the Committee, work more closely with officers to generate service improvements, and add value. It was noted that the report did not require a Panel to be established, but approve the mechanism to do so, should it be required.
- vii. The recommendation was proposed by Cllr V Holliday and second by Cllr C Cushing.

## **RESOLVED**

- 1. That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee adopts the updated Scrutiny Panel terms of reference and agrees to seek appointments to the Chair and Vice-Chair positions from the Committee and remaining appointments from Group Leaders.**

## **66 THE CABINET WORK PROGRAMME**

The DSGOS informed Members that Cabinet were due to consider the Action Plan in November, alongside any associated recommendations from the Committee's consideration of the report. He added that there were several other reports due for consideration by Cabinet in November including a key decision on Stalham Sports Centre, the Budget Monitoring report, Council Tax Discount Determinations, Cromer Floodlights and Emergency Phones, though several of these reports were not likely to be reviewed by OSC. It was noted that The Council Tax Discount Determinations, Budget Monitoring and Prudential Indicator reports would be considered by OSC.

## **RESOLVED**

**To note the Cabinet work programme.**

## **67 OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME AND UPDATE**

- i. The DSGOS informed Members that Anglian Water had agreed to attend the November Committee meeting to discuss sewage outflows and other water related issues, and therefore asked Members to submit written questions via email, that would allow for a full response to be provided prior to the November meeting. In response to a request from the Chairman, it was confirmed that outcomes from the previous Anglian Water briefing would be shared via email to review matters discussed previously.
- ii. The DSGOS noted that a Serco waste contract update was expected in November, to cover matters such as missed collections and progress with implementing the outstanding elements of the contract. He added that a Coastwise briefing report was also scheduled to bring Members up to speed on the project, objectives, and the progress made to date.
- iii. On ambulance response times, the DSGOS noted that data had been requested on several occasions but no response had been received. He added that a new point of contact for EEAST had been sought and it was hoped that data would be provided in time for consideration at the December meeting.



## **RESOLVED**

**To note the work programme and update.**

### **68 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Cllr G Bull proposed exclusion of the press and public in order to discuss the exempt appendices of the Corporate Plan Annual Action Plan Process. The proposal was seconded by Cllr M Batey.

## **RESOLVED**

**That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to the Act.**

### **69 PRE-SCRUTINY: CORPORATE PLAN 2023-2027 - ANNUAL ACTION PLAN PROCESS**

Cllr T Adams introduced the report and thanked Members and officers for their contribution to the workshops that had taken place over the preceding weeks. He added that he was pleased with the range of topics and issues that had been raised, and hoped that it had deepened Members' understanding of the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. It was noted that the Annual Action Plan would need to be agreed in November to inform the budget setting process, and Members were free to make comment on any items contained within the Plan.

#### Questions and Discussion

- i. It was confirmed following a question from the Chairman that the actions and Corporate Plan themes were derived primarily from the Administration's election manifesto, though there was nothing to stop any Member's suggestion from being added to the Plan if it was a positive contribution. The Chairman asked what evidence base would be used to inform the appropriateness and delivery of the actions identified. The Leader replied that this would vary for each action, and would be considered in greater detail once the actions had been agreed, with the affordability and practicality of actions also taken into account as part of that process, as not all suggestions would be achievable. The Chairman referred to actions to invest in the local economy and infrastructure, and suggested that this may require looking at the barriers impacting businesses and growth, and asked what evidence had been used to determine the direction and focus of this action. Cllr T Adams replied that suggestions of increased dialogue with businesses and the potential creation of a business forum would help to make these issues clearer, but it was a changing landscape with the loss of the Local Enterprise Partnership. The Chairman noted that it would be helpful to see a link between actions and an evidence base used to inform them.
- ii. Cllr V Holliday referred to previous comments on financial sustainability and whether this should form a key theme of the Corporate Plan, in addition to comments on the ambitiousness of the Plan and concerns regarding rurality, and asked whether these matters had been addressed adequately within the

Plan. She added that it would be helpful to see more specificity within the objectives, such as the action to protect the environment and biodiversity of North Norfolk, which she suggested was a very loose statement that would be difficult to evidence. It was suggested that more SMART objectives would also allow for better performance monitoring of the Plan.

- iii. The CE noted that many actions outlined in the Action Plan would be derived from the Administration's political manifesto, however it was important to note that many of the themes and priorities including housing, the economy, net zero and communities were unlikely to vary considerably between each political party. He added that there had already been a debate on whether financial sustainability should feature more prominently within the Corporate Plan, and Members were encouraged to move on from the issue to ensure that officers did not feel challenged when undertaking their duties. It was noted that there had been a very positive level of engagement on the Action Plan, with open debate between Members and officers. The CE stated that there was a range of evidence to support actions outlined, such as an increasing number of people in temporary accommodation and rising levels of homelessness, which presented a significant challenge to the Authority. He added that Members should therefore seek to focus on the prioritisation of actions, in order to determine where the Council's focus and resources should be placed. It was noted that the decision had been taken to move to an action plan over a delivery plan, to take a more agile approach year to year, that would also allow more discipline to be focused onto actions.
- iv. Cllr C Cushing stated that he expected to see a link between the Administration's manifesto and the key themes of the Corporate Plan, and also expected to see common themes regardless of political party. He added that given that the actions listed were very early proposals, there was very little to scrutinise at the present time, but he encouraged the administration to focus on and prioritise matters related to financial sustainability and efficiencies. It was noted that language was also important and efforts should be made to improve upon process driven terms such as identify, analyse, investigate, monitor and engage. Cllr C Cushing stated that overall these type of actions didn't relate to SMART objectives that could be measured and proven, which would help the Administration to prove what they had achieved.
- v. Cllr L Shires stated that this was an opportunity for Members to challenge aspects of the Action Plan and put forward proposals. She added that it would be helpful for the Committee to provide any input on the priority and range of actions, to ensure that wider Members were satisfied with the direction of the Administration and confident that residents were getting a good service. The Chairman noted that some answers had already been provided as Cllr Cushing had sought the prioritisation of financial sustainability and efficiency. He added that comments had also been made to ensure that the Action Plan was outcome focused, with less process terminology used. Cllr L Shires suggested that it would be more helpful to discuss specific actions within the Plan, or raise further actions that were not currently listed.
- vi. Cllr L Vickers noted that the draft actions had come as a 'brain dump' and it was difficult to comment on actions at such an early undeveloped stage, with more detail required to be able to properly scrutinise the actions.

- vii. Cllr V Holiday stated that the Committee had not had enough time to properly review the actions listed within the draft Plan, and could not comment effectively in the timeframe provided.
- viii. The CE accepted that Members couldn't comment on every proposal, but encouraged Members to take the opportunity to raise any final actions or raise priorities so that resource could be appropriately placed. He added that officers were working to a tight timeframe to ensure that the necessary information could be provided to set a balanced budget by February, so this was the final opportunity for Members to raise any further actions or priorities. It was noted that Cabinet would ultimately be required to make decisions on which actions to prioritise, in order to develop costings to properly inform the budget.
- ix. Cllr L Vickers asked whether there was any opportunity for a further workshop to focus on the actions, taking into consideration the limited timeframe available. The CE replied that officers may be able to facilitate this, though this would have to take place in advance of the pre-Cabinet meeting on 23<sup>rd</sup> October.
- x. Cllr P Heinrich stated that final workshop only took place on Thursday, and it would take time to properly develop and filter feasible actions, but there were also a number of suggestions that the Council would not be able to pursue as they did not fall within the remit of the Council. He added that some actions such as tackling water scarcity with Anglian Water may be a worthwhile use of resource, but many things related to highways and were not the responsibility of NNDC.
- xi. Cllr C Cushing stated that he had ensured that Members of his Group had attended every workshop, and said that he now expected the Administration to prioritise and further develop the proposals. The CE replied that the earlier Scrutiny Members could be involved to contribute to the process the better, with an aim to involve as many Members as possible to work more collaboratively as a Council.
- xii. Cllr L Shires stated that financial stability and sustainability of the Council was of equal importance to all political parties, and she would therefore be happy to meet with opposition Members to discuss any further concerns and address matters of sustainability and efficiency. She added that it was important to include everyone so that it was North Norfolk's Action Plan, rather than just the Administration's.
- xiii. Cllr J Boyle stated that she had attended most workshop sessions and had found them very useful, with the existing draft Action Plan a positive first step in the process of a collaborative project between officers and Members.
- xiv. Cllr A Brown noted that the Peer Review had recently been completed and the Administration was making efforts to be more collaborative with all political groups and build greater consensus on the Corporate Plan.
- xv. Cllr V Holliday welcomed Cllr Shire's suggestions of further discussions, and asked whether a further workshop would be possible to collaboratively determine the Council's priorities. Cllr T Adams replied that Members had been given ample opportunity to engage with the Plan, and it was now time for Cabinet and officers to agree actions and priorities, as holding another

workshop would only further delay this process.

- xvi. The Chairman noted that he was impressed by the way in which all Members had engaged with the workshops, and said that it had shown great collaborative efforts between Members and officers which should be commended. He added that there was a challenge ahead to take raw ideas and develop them into appropriate actions.
- xvii. The CE stated that a number of actions relating to the A47 and other traffic related issues would not form priority actions due to the Council's limited ability to influence outcomes on these matters. He added that manifesto pledges could be expected to be given priority, but asked whether there was any clear priorities from other parties that should be given greater emphasis within the Plan. It was noted that despite political differences, actions that sought to help the District may not drastically differ between parties, such as efforts to help maintain and grow economic activity in towns across the District.
- xviii. Cllr L Vickers stated that she did not see any controversy in the Administration forming a Corporate Plan and Action Plan around its own political objectives, and whilst she was grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this process, it was premature to comment, given the current state of the actions listed.
- xix. Cllr T Adams stated that if there was anything further that Members wished to contribute, he would be happy to receive proposals via email prior to approval of the Plan. Both the Chairman and Cllr Adams noted that it was difficult to provide input as part of the pre-scrutiny process when actions were at such an early stage of development. It was noted that despite this, all Members had been given the opportunity to engage with the process, and efforts would be made to improve the process in the years ahead.
- xx. The CE suggested that in order to seek a positive outcome from discussions, Members may want to agree a resolution that recognised the opportunity to provide a positive contribution to workshop discussions, but note that it was premature to comment on proposals at this stage, though the opportunity to submit further proposals was still open until the Action Plan was agreed.
- xxi. \*The meeting returned to public session\*
- xxii. The suggested recommendation was proposed by Cllr P Fisher and seconded by Cllr J Boyle.

## **RESOLVED**

- 1. That the Overview & Scrutiny Committee positively commented on the workshop process and its inclusivity, but felt that it was premature to comment on the proposals at this stage and therefore took note of the Council Leader's offer to consider further proposals and comments up to the point of approval in November.**

The meeting ended at 12.20 pm.

---

Chairman