

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

**Monday, 12 November 2018**

**COUNCILLORS PRESENT:** Councillor Jamie Lane (Chair), Councillor Graham Walker (Deputy Chair); Coun  
Birch, Alan Bottwood, Gareth Eales, Paul Joyce, Dennis Meredith, Cathrine Rus  
Sargeant

Councillor Brandon Eldred, Cabinet Member for Finance  
Councillor James Hill, Deputy Cabinet Member for Planning  
Rick O'Farrell, Head of Economy and Regeneration  
Shelley Parker, Facilities Manager  
Paul Everard, Planning Policy and Heritage Manager  
Mike Kay, CEO, NPH

**Officers** Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer

**Members of the Public** Norman Adams

**Press** James Averill, Democracy Reporter

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Rufia Ashraf, Penny Flavell and Luke Graystone.

**2. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2018 were signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

**3. DEPUTATIONS/PUBLIC ADDRESSES**

Norman Adams addressed the Committee on agenda item 7.

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

Councillor Brian Sargeant declared an interest in agenda item 6 – hiring of rooms at the Guildhall as he would be hiring a room next year.

**5. HIMO RESEARCH**

Councillor James Hill, Deputy Cabinet Member for Planning, and Paul Everard, Planning Policy and Heritage Manager, presented the briefing paper on HIMO research, highlighting the salient points.

The Committee made comment, asked questions and heard:

In response to a query it was confirmed that this would be a local Policy.

Councillor Hill and Paul Everard were thanked for their address.

## **6. HIRING OF ROOMS AT THE GUILDHALL**

Councillor Brandon Eldred, Cabinet Member for Finance, Rick O'Farrell, Head of Economic Regeneration, Shelley Parker, Facilities Manager, presented the briefing paper on hiring of rooms at the Guildhall, highlighting the salient points.

The Committee made comment, asked questions and heard:

- In response to a query it was confirmed that the Office of the High Sheriff is offered room hire, free of charge, due to the prestige position within the borough and county.
- Marketing would target communities and caterers
- The Guildhall is positively marketed for events such as wedding receptions.
- The Guildhall has approved caterers for the catering
- Should a booking be taken for more than one room, a discount of 10% is applied
- The bar, in the Court Room, is used at events where it is requested

Councillor Eldred, Rick O'Farrell and Shelley Parker was thanked for her address.

## **7. TENANCIES AND HOUSING STOCK**

Norman Adams addressed the Committee commenting that in his opinion the report on Tenancies and Housing Stock contained historical data and was not up to date. He commented on the date the Council bought all its own housing stock and the changes made to right to buy. He referred to a Government commitment that right to buy sales would be replaced 1 for 1 but the housing stock in Northampton has decreased by 670 since 2012. Mr Adams commented that NPH has done some good work and concluded his address by conveying his concerns about the declining housing stock.

Mr Adams was thanked for his address.

Mike Kay, Chief Executive, NPH presented the briefing paper on tenancies and housing stock, highlighting the salient points. He gave details of housing stock that had been acquired and details of further ones with planning consent. Right to buy continues to increase funding for new homes.

The Committee made comment, asked questions and heard:

- In response to a query regarding the Government's Right to Buy Policy, Mike Kay advised that no where in the country had this been achieved.
- Discounts for right to buy are: 50% for a house, 70% for a flat – this funds around 30% of a replacement property(ies).
- There is a big need for one, two and three bedded properties

Mike Kay was thanked for his address.

## **8. MONITORING OF O&S REPORTS**

## **9. CABINET RESPONSE TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REPORTS**

The Committee noted Cabinet's response to its reports:

- Child Sexual Exploitation
- Dementia Friendly Town

The reports would be added to the Monitoring Work Programme and the Cabinet Member and Officers would be asked to attend the next meeting to provide an update.

## **10. SCRUTINY PANELS**

### **11. SCRUTINY PANEL 1**

Councillor Russell, Chair, Scrutiny Panel 1, presented the briefing note detailing the work of the Scrutiny Panel so far.

AGREED: That the information is noted.

### **12. SCRUTINY PANEL 2**

Councillor Sargeant, Chair, Scrutiny Panel 2, presented the briefing note detailing the work of the Scrutiny Panel so far.

AGREED: That the information is noted.

### **13. SCRUTINY PANEL 3**

Councillor Walker Chair, Scrutiny Panel 3, presented the briefing note detailing the work of the Scrutiny Panel so far.

AGREED: That the information is noted.

### **(A) SCRUTINY PANEL 4**

Councillor Smith Chair, Scrutiny Panel 4, presented the briefing note detailing the work of the Scrutiny Panel so far.

AGREED: That the information is noted.

## **14. O&S EVALUATION OF O&S REPORTS WORKING GROUP**

Councillor Lane Chair, of the Working Group , presented the briefing note detailing the work of the O&S Evaluation of O&S Reports Working Group so far.

AGREED: That the information is noted.

#### **15. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REPORTING AND MONITORING WORKING GROUP**

The Chair presented the terms of reference of the Reporting and Monitoring Working Group 2018/2019 for the Committee's approval.

AGREED: That the terms of reference of the Reporting and Monitoring Working Group 2018/2019, as attached at Annex 1, are approved.

#### **16. POTENTIAL FUTURE PRE DECISION SCRUTINY**

There were none.

#### **17. URGENT ITEMS**

There were none.

The meeting concluded at 19:16 hours

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

### REPORTING AND MONITORING WORKING GROUP

#### Terms of Reference for 2018/2019

#### 1. Purpose/Objectives of the Review

The purpose of the Working Group is:

- To review the budget proposal.
- To consider the Council's medium term financial plans.
- To recommend a short list to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for detailed consideration.
- To consider suggestions from the public and other Councillors for items to be included in the short list for scrutiny.

#### 2. Outcomes Required

- The production of a short list of budget items for closer consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- To reflect the medium term approach being taken to financial planning.

#### 3. Timetable

12 November 2018	Agree Terms of Reference
8 January 2019	Budget Review
4 February 2019	Report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

#### 4. Responsible Officers

Stuart McGregor, Chief Finance Officer and Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer

#### Final report presented by:

Presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 4 February 2019

#### 5. Monitoring procedure

Continuous, ongoing monitoring process by means of updates to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.