

COUNCILLORS

Boyd Elliott (Chairman)
Glynn Gilfoyle (Vice-Chairman)

Steve Carr Apologies	Philip Owen
Jim Creamer	Francis Purdue-Horan
Kate Foale	Mike Quigley MBE
Eric Kerry	Dave Shaw – Absent
Nigel Moxon – Apologies	Sam Smith
John Ogle	

OTHER COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Chris Barnfather, Cabinet Member for Business Management
Councillor Keith Girling, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Asset Management
Councillor Mike Pringle

OFFICERS

Sara Allmond	Advanced Democratic Services Officer
Martin Elliott	Senior Scrutiny Officer
Isobel Fleming	Service Director Transformation and Change
Derek Higton	Interim Corporate Director, Place
Nigel Stevenson	Service Director, Finance, Infrastructure & Improvement
Andy Evans	Programme Director

1. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON 24 JANUARY 2023

The minutes of the last meeting held on 24 January 2023, having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Steve Carr – medical/illness
Councillor Nigel Moxon – Other Reasons – Councillor Richard Butler substituted

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

4. THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE PLAN – ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN 2023-24

Councillor Chris Barnfather (Cabinet Member for Business Management) who attended on behalf of Councillor Bruce Laughton (Cabinet Member for Transformation and Change), and Isobel Fleming, (Service Director, Transformation and Change) introduced the report which provided an update on the process for developing the Council's Annual Delivery Plan for 2023-24.

In response to questions and comments raised by the Committee, Councillor Chris Barnfather and Isobel Fleming provided the following information:

- The Big Notts Survey influenced the original Nottinghamshire Plan – the Council's 10 year strategy document, which was refined into an overarching "in the next four years we will..." plan, and within that there is an annual delivery plan for each year which draws through the themes from the Nottinghamshire Plan all the way through, to show what is being done in-year relating back to the overall master plan objectives.
- Councillor Bruce Laughton as Cabinet Member for Transformation and Change has overall responsibility for the Nottinghamshire Plan so he is the single point of accountability, with a strategic view of the Plan as a whole. That is the only change to the Nottinghamshire Plan, and as there are not any significant changes to the Nottinghamshire Plan it would not be taken back to Full Council for further discussion or debate. Whilst Councillor Laughton has overall responsibility for the Nottinghamshire Plan and annual delivery plan, each Cabinet Member has responsibility for ensuring all elements of the Nottinghamshire Plan contained within their portfolio are delivered.
- A report on the performance of the Nottinghamshire Plan is on the Committee's work programme to come to 29 June 2023 meeting. This will enable the Committee to scrutinise progress against the plan.
- The committee received an update on the annual delivery plan for 2022/23 at the December meeting, enabling members to scrutinise progress. A range of members and officers presented at that meeting from across the council to provide detail on their specific actions and enable detailed scrutiny.
- Once the Annual Delivery Plan for 2023/24 is approved, the website will be updated and the new plan will be publicised through the Council's social media channels and appropriate local contacts. There will also be regular updates on progress. It is being considered how case studies and client journeys can be prepared to bring the plan to life and show what it will mean in practice. The engagement with these campaigns will be monitored to see how effective they are.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Chris Barnfather and Isobel Fleming for their attendance and presentation and Members for their contributions to the debate.

RESOLVED 2023/003

- 1) That the processes that are in place for the development of the Annual Delivery Plan 2023-24 be supported.

- 2) That the Overview Committee continue to monitor performance against Council Plan priorities as detailed in the Nottinghamshire Plan.

5. RESPONSE TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF COUNCIL OFFICE BUILDINGS

Councillor Keith Girling (Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Asset Management) introduced the report which provided a response to the Committee on the recommendations arising from the review of Council office buildings.

In response to the questions and comments raised by the Committee, Councillor Keith Girling and Derek Highton (Interim Corporate Director, Place) provided the following responses:

- Having accepted the recommendations of the review, business plans for each proposal are now being prepared which will include costings for each proposal and also the whole estate. Overview Committee has completed its work in relation to the review, responsibility for assessing and presenting the business plans to Cabinet for approval sits with Councillor Keith Girling, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Asset Management. The timescale for getting final decisions on each business plan will depend on the complexity of each proposal and some will be easier and quicker to develop than others, those that can will be progressed as quickly as possible.
- Staff and trade unions will be engaged and consulted in a meaningful manner during the process, following the formal engagement channels and their views are important in developing the proposals. The outcomes of staff engagement will be considered and balanced with the needs of the local communities.
- A hybrid working policy is currently in place, and this will be reviewed and refined over time to ensure the policy remains relevant to current working practices and arrangements. Hybrid working enables staff to work in a variety of locations across the County, and the Council will continue to have a significant footprint of various buildings around the County including in the south of the County. The Council's is currently seeing a consistent 20-30% occupancy rate across the estate. So this provides evidence there is strong interest in working from home, but the Council needs to ensure that staff are properly supported when doing so. Anecdotal evidence shows that the Council's positive hybrid working approach is valued by new starters at the Council.
- The costs mentioned in various places for works on County Hall were based on the cost to get the building fit for purpose for staff to work in. The estate should be more efficient and cost effective to run. The Council has declared a climate emergency and committed to being net zero by 2030, which is a significant and potentially costly consideration to consider.

The Chairman thanked Councillor Keith Girling and Derek Highton for their attendance and presentation and Members for their contributions to the debate.

RESOLVED 2023/004

- 1) That the response of the Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Asset Management to the recommendations arising from the committee's review of Council office buildings be received and noted.
- 2) That the committee continues to monitor the implementation of the recommendations arising from the committee's review of Council office buildings.

6. OVERVIEW COMMITTEE REVIEWS – PROPOSED SCOPES

Martin Elliott, Senior Scrutiny Officer, introduced the report which set out the scopes for two proposed reviews to be undertaken by the Committee:

- Cost of Living Review
- Review of the Resident Consultation Review

In response to questions raised the following point was clarified:

- The first task of the Cost of Living Review would be to narrow the scope to local services and what the Council can do to improve or change the response.

RESOLVED 2023/005

That the proposed scopes for the Overview Committee's reviews around Cost of Living and Resident Consultation be approved.

7. WORK PROGRAMME

Martin Elliott, Senior Scrutiny Officer, introduced the Committee's current work programme and encouraged Members to consider future Forward Plan updates in order to highlight any Key Decisions for possible pre-decision scrutiny.

RESOLVED 2023/006

That the work programme be noted, with no further changes suggested.

The meeting closed at 11.45am

CHAIRMAN

COUNCILLORS

Boyd Elliott (Chairman)
Glynn Gilfoyle (Vice-Chairman)

Steve Carr
Jim Creamer
Kate Foale - **Apologies**
Eric Kerry
Nigel Moxon
John Ogle

Philip Owen - **Apologies**
Francis Purdue-Horan
Mike Quigley MBE - **Apologies**
Dave Shaw – **Apologies**
Sam Smith – **Apologies**

OTHER COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE

Councillor Kate Foale (lead signatory to call-in)
Councillor Anne Callaghan
Councillor Errol Henry JP
Councillor Paul Henshaw
Councillor Mike Pringle
Councillor Michelle Welsh
Councillor Matt Barney – Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

OFFICERS

Sara Allmond	Advanced Democratic Services Officer
Martin Elliott	Senior Scrutiny Officer
Marje Toward	Service Director, Customers, Governance and Employees
Melanie Williams	Corporate Director, Adult Social Care and Health
Jonathan Gribbin	Director of Public Health
James McDonnell	Labour Group Researcher

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor Philip Owen – medical/illness – Councillor Richard Butler substituted
Councillor Mike Quigley MBE – other County Council business – Councillor Mike Introna substituted
Councillor Sam smith – other reasons – Councillor John Lee substituted
Councillor Kate Foale – attending as a member who had signed the call-in request –
Councillor Pauline Allan substituted
Councillor Dave Shaw – other reasons

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

None

3. CALL-IN OF CABINET DECISION – NOTTINGHAMSHIRE HEALTHY FAMILIES PROGRAMME: 2024 AND BEYOND

The Committee considered a call-in request made by seven members in relation to the decision – Nottinghamshire Healthy Families Programme: 2024 and Beyond, taken by Cabinet at its meeting on 9 March 2023.

Six of the seven members who had signed the call-in attended the meeting and presented their reasons for the call-in to the Committee as set out below:

- Concerns regarding how pre-scrutiny was undertaken, including concerns about the meetings being held in private and the information included within the report to Cabinet.
- Concerns characterised as safeguarding concerns in relation to the proposed delivery of the service particularly in relation to health visitors.
- Concerns regarding the commissioning approach relating to the Healthy Families Programme.

Councillor Matt Barney, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, was invited to make any comments to the Committee in response to the call-in request as set out below:

- The call-in request was welcomed as it was a healthy and important part of a scrutiny process.
- The report went through internal scrutiny and checking processes before it was referred for decision.
- The service being re-procured covered a wide range of services and went beyond the statutory requirements the Council had to meet. The concerns about the health visiting programme were noted and would enable a focus on this programme as it was re-commissioned.
- The comments within the Cabinet report from scrutiny members were welcomed and valued.

Melanie Williams, Corporate Director, Adult Social Care and Health and Jonathan Gribbin, Director of Public Health were invited to advise the Committee on the background and context of the decision and its importance to achieving service priorities, as set out below:

- A summary of key professional advice provided by officers to Cabinet through the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, including how the various procurement options were considered to determine which approach to recommend for approval, and the statutory requirement to provide many elements of this service.
- Explanation of how the meeting with scrutiny members on 16th February 2023 had been convened.
- Clarification that the decision taken by Cabinet was approval in principle to develop a co-operation agreement and that a further report would be brought to Cabinet in due course for final approval following development of the service design.

Marje Toward, Monitoring Officer made the following comments in relation to the concerns raised in the call-in in relation to “pre-decision scrutiny”:

- The scrutiny undertaken was not formal scrutiny as it had not been constituted as required for formal scrutiny, it was therefore informal dialogue/briefing. The meeting had been labelled incorrectly. The Constitution does allow for informal arrangements and more detailed liaison between Cabinet Members, Overview Committee and Select Committees.
- At the briefing, some members requested that their comments be noted and Cabinet made aware of these in considering its decision. Members also requested that they be able to see the note relating to their comments before circulation to Cabinet.
- There was a tight timescale for getting comments back from members on comments prepared for inclusion in the Cabinet report, and whilst they had been emailed to all members who had attended the session, members informed the Committee that not all had received the email to be able to respond.
- There was learning from the process followed and the Governance Member Working Group and Officer Working Group would look at how to make the arrangements and processes clearer.

Members were invited to ask questions on the issues raised and the following information was provided:

- Clarity was sought on how the meeting was taken into closed session – the meeting was not convened as a public meeting, it began as a private meeting. There was no exempt information being considered. Therefore, no motion to go into closed session was passed.
- Concerns were raised regarding who was invited to attend the informal session and other briefing meetings.
- The informal meeting was recorded, members of Overview Committee could review it if they felt they needed to see it.
- The Constitution needed to be clearer in relation to the processes for scrutiny and this was an opportunity to develop a protocol and create more formal/structured arrangements for how scrutiny could input into policy and service development.
- The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health was confident that he had consulted with all those he needed to for this decision to be taken by Cabinet, and that a further report would be brought to Cabinet in due course.
- The Committee were provided with further detail on who had been invited to the informal meeting, the information they had received and that the meeting had been incorrectly described as pre-decision scrutiny. However, it was clear during the meeting that it was not a public meeting.

Councillor Matt Barney, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health was invited to make his final comments on the matter as set out below:

- The decision was taken in good faith, however, with the questions raised within the call-in, the Cabinet Member was comfortable with the decision being referred back to Cabinet if that is what the Committee decided.

The Committee considered the information they had received, and it was

RESOLVED 2023/006

To ask Cabinet to reconsider its decision in relation to the Nottinghamshire Healthy Families Programme in light of members comments in relation to formal scrutiny by Adult Social Care and Public Health and Children's Select Committees and further consideration of the options, at their next Cabinet meeting on 20 April 2023.

The meeting closed at 12.03pm

CHAIRMAN