

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL

MONDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2020 - 1.30 PM



PRESENT: Councillor A Miscandlon (Chairman), Councillor A Hay (Vice-Chairman), Councillor G Booth, Councillor Mrs S Bligh (Substitute), Councillor M Cornwell, Councillor M Humphrey, Councillor D Mason, Councillor M Purser, Councillor R Skoulding, Councillor D Topgood and Councillor Wicks

APOLOGIES: Councillor A Bristow and Councillor F Yeulett

OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE: Anna Goodall (Head of Governance and Customer Services), Izzi Hurst (Member Services & Governance Officer), Alan Boughen (Safer Fenland Partnership Development Officer), Amy Brown (Deputy Monitoring Officer), Peter Catchpole (Corporate Director and Chief Finance Officer), Dan Horn (Head of Housing & Neighbourhood Services), Carol Pilson (Corporate Director and Monitoring Officer) and Annabel Tighe (Head of Environmental Health and Compliance Manager)

GUESTS: Liz Robin (Director of Public Health) and Inspector Ian Lombardo (Cambridgeshire Constabulary)

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor C Boden, Councillor Mrs J French, Councillor P Murphy, Councillor C Seaton, Councillor S Tierney and Councillor Mrs S Wallwork.

OSC36/19 PREVIOUS MINUTES.

The minutes of the meeting of 13 January 2020 were confirmed and signed.

OSC37/19 UPDATE ON PREVIOUS ACTIONS.

Members were provided with an update on the status of actions raised at previous meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

Councillor Booth suggested that in relation to Action 1, there is still work to be carried out on the formatting of reports.

Councillor Mason stated that in relation to Action 5, the member briefing note is still outstanding.

OSC38/19 HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGIC PRIORITIES.

Members considered the Health and Wellbeing Strategic priorities report presented by Councillor Mrs Wallwork.

She introduced members to Liz Robin (Director of Public Health) and welcomed her to today's meeting.

Members asked questions, made comments and received responses as follows;

1. Councillor Purser highlighted the varying types of mental health issues with some being of a very complex nature. He stated that many parents do not have the professional knowledge

to detect these issues and early detection is paramount to the appropriate treatment. He asked what provisions and services are available to detect mental health problems and resolve them. Councillor Mrs Wallwork stated that in her professional opinion, family involvement is key to young people's mental health as usually parents are the first point of delivery of children's needs. She stated that the services are out there and whilst detection is important, the wider issue is the availability and suitability of these services. She highlighted that currently there is a minimum of 6-8 months waiting time for most mental health services.

2. Councillor Mrs Wallwork reminded members that whilst the Council do not deliver these services, there are various mental health services and referral routes available for residents including one which works alongside the whole family. She stated that the help is there however the need of these services outweigh their availability due to the growing number of patients.
3. Councillor Purser asked what assistance is given to individuals whose issues start at home. Councillor Mrs Wallwork confirmed that other services feed into one another. For example, in domestic violence cases the Police automatically feed into the relevant education provider. She stated that further work needs to be taken to engage with individuals that are not flagged up by services, in particular young adult men who have suicidal thoughts do not always engage with the necessary support and further focus needs to be given to this.
4. Councillor Mason stated that the report contains lots of figures highlighting the health inequalities across Fenland. He asked what progress is being made on improving these figures and what new ideas are being pursued in actions that have not been successful to date. Carol Pilson explained that the Council's Health & Wellbeing strategy has been developed to support other service partners in tackling these problems. She explained that the report captures the large number of health systems and structures available including the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the new Primary Care Networks (PCNs) and the Council's role is focused more on prevention work. She stated that the Council can assist via their environmental health, leisure and planning services to contribute support to other health partners to improve these statistics. She added that some of the Council's most impactful work has been in relation to the 'Active Fenland' project as this engages with individuals that face health problems such as obesity and provides an accessible service to them as well as educating them on longer-term solutions.
5. Councillor Mason stated that neighbouring authorities, such as South Cambs District Council, have much lower deprivation than Fenland and asked what can be learnt from them. Councillor Mrs Wallwork explained that the Council need to be realistic in its expectations on tackling deprivation and focus needs to be given on educating the younger generation to avoid long term issues continuing for generations to come.
6. Liz Robin explained that South Cambs District Council have made a long standing commitment to health and wellbeing and perform well against similar authorities. She stated that the Council needs to consider and compare against areas with similar social demographics rather than neighbouring authorities. She explained that Fenland does have a high health need and all partners within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough are committed to ensuring that this need is factored into the distribution of resource. The district's needs are included in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Health and Wellbeing strategy with Wisbech being highlighted as an area with a high level of heart disease. She hopes that this targeted approach will enable practical measures to be implemented which will eventually improve these statistics.
7. Councillor Cornwell stated that there are many tiers of organisations and structures within the region including the newly formed PCNs. He asked where these will be located and are they delivering currently. Carol Pilson explained that the PCN initiative is being rolled out over the next 3 years with Wisbech being used as a trial area. Work will be undertaken to establish priorities in order to formulate a focused action plan for GP surgeries. She agreed to circulate to members the proposed PCN boundary maps.
8. Councillor Cornwell stated that whilst the Council are not a health authority, are they engaging with and influencing delivery partners. Carol Pilson confirmed that the Council

work hard to establish strong working relationships with partners and ultimately educate the health system on the support district councils can offer.

9. Annabel Tighe confirmed that she and Councillor Mrs Wallwork are working hard to establish connections with senior members of these organisations to see if they will commission the Council to undertake some of their preventative work.
10. Councillor Miscandlon asked if the Council can align with other local authorities in relation to this. Councillor Mrs Wallwork reiterated that the health system is not 'one-team' and therefore whilst the Council can try and establish relationships with members of other organisations, there cannot always be a cohesive approach.
11. Councillor Mrs Wallwork explained that whilst the Council have established links within the health service, as new schemes are set up it is not as easy to get involved in these new services. She welcomed suggestions from members on how this can be improved.
12. Carol Pilson agreed and highlighted that the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG recently attended an All-Members seminar. She confirmed that the Council are actively involved in the PCN work and both she, Councillor Mrs Wallwork and Annabel Tighe are committed to making connections with the relevant partners and building on existing relationships.
13. Councillor Wicks explained that the Whittlesey PCN links with South Peterborough which is not a cohesive approach as these are two very different environments with one being a rural area and the other urban. Carol Pilson confirmed that the Council had lobbied at the time for a cohesive approach to PCNs to ensure all communities were correctly represented and stated that at the recent All Member Seminar with the CCG, the geographical boundaries of the PCNs had been discussed.
14. Councillor Miscandlon stated that the CCG had confirmed that they would be reconsidering the structure of PCNs.
15. Councillor Cornwell asked if the PCNs are based on the location of GP Practices. Carol Pilson confirmed this.
16. Councillor Cornwell stated that there has previously been a reluctance to understand the work undertaken by local authorities in relation to health and wellbeing and how the systems work surrounding local government. Liz Robin responded that the Health and Wellbeing strategy aims to lay out how local authorities and the health service can work together in a practical way to tackle issues. She highlighted that the CCG had undertaken a health assessment on rough sleepers and worked with the Council's Trailblazer project in relation to tackling homelessness through local authority work. She added that the Health and Wellbeing Board are keen to support and endorse the work of district councils to ensure a cohesive approach is taken with practical outcomes.
17. Councillor Hay asked if the GP Practices in Chatteris would be part of a PCN. Carol Pilson confirmed that all GP surgeries will be included.
18. Councillor Hay praised the local 'Mental Health Crisis Concordat' and asked if this is working successfully. Liz Robin explained that the service allows access to the mental health crisis team via the 111 emergency services phone line. She stated that the service is available in Wisbech and there has been a reduction in the number of patients experiencing mental health crises visiting A&E. She stated that suicide rates can be difficult to monitor as they are statistically lower than deaths by other causes and whilst it is difficult to assess a significant change in these numbers, the number of cases is not rising as it has in recent years. She confirmed that the NHS is working alongside the media, coroner and Public Health in relation to this.
19. Councillor Mrs Bligh highlighted that social media can cause a number of mental health issues and asked what work is being undertaken to tackle this. Councillor Mrs Wallwork confirmed that all social media platforms have reporting methods in place however young people do not always engage with the services available. She reiterated that both schools and parents are key in flagging up mental health issues in young people and whilst mental health services are not within the Council's remit, support can also be offered by members to their wider community.
20. Councillor Booth recommended that whilst the Council cannot deliver on many health

services, they can directly influence the responsible authorities.

21. Councillor Booth stated that he had heard reports the Cambridgeshire County Council are considering increasing the rates charged to pre-schools operating from their premises and this will have a wider effect on the early learning educational needs of the district's children. Councillor Mrs Wallwork stated that she was not aware of this report.
22. Carol Pilson highlighted that 4.1 of the report shows the direct impact of the Council's work on health and wellbeing including the Active Fenland project. She stated that the Council must continue to align with the appropriate authorities to impact this further. Liz Robin agreed and highlighted that members can influence the health and wellbeing of their district via policy setting in relation to services such as licensing and housing. She reiterated that council policies are very important in improving the health and wellbeing of an area.
23. Councillor Mason stated that the Council must ensure it has adequate signposting for users to the services available. Councillor Miscandlon agreed.
24. Councillor Cornwell agreed that the Council have an important role in the health and wellbeing of the district and stated that the Council's leisure service should operate alongside the health and wellbeing strategy as this can greatly influence the wellbeing of residents. Councillor Mrs Wallwork agreed.
25. Councillor Wicks stated that the district has locations within both the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG and West Norfolk CCG and asked if the Council engage with both of these entities. Carol Pilson confirmed that both CCGs are considered as part of the service planning process and agreed to focus on strengthening the relationship between the Council and both CCGs.
26. Councillor Booth asked if media reports stating that the smoking rate in Fenland has reduced were correct and if so, why has this not been reflected in the report. Liz Robin explained that a sample survey in 2017 had shown that Fenland had a lower smoking rate than Cambridge city however a survey carried out in 2018 showed Fenland as having a higher rate however both surveys had not shown a statistically significant difference from the national average. She confirmed that data received from GP surgeries in Wisbech show a high rate of smoking in the town and a draft smoke-free strategy is being formulated and focus will be given to this as part of the Wisbech 2020 initiative. She added that Public Health is also focused on reducing the smoking rate across the district.
27. Councillor Booth asked when the draft smoke-free strategy will be completed. Liz Robin confirmed that counselling services, campaigns and support are all available currently within Fenland. A campaign has recently been developed to target the diverse population of Fenland and further work will be undertaken with GP's as part of the PCN work.
28. Annabel Tighe explained that work has been ongoing for some time and members will be updated on the progress of this. She explained that the Council have undertaken work with local businesses as well as Trading Standards in relation to the sale of illicit tobacco. She confirmed that the Council's environmental health team have undergone training in relation to detecting illicit tobacco and will continue to build the profile of this. She reflected that this is an area in which partnership work has been very successful.
29. Councillor Mrs Bligh highlighted the statistic in the report which states that 25% of women in Wisbech smoke during pregnancy and asked if literature was available for non-English speaking women. Councillor Mrs Wallwork confirmed this and added that translators are used to promote this message too.

Members thanked Liz Robin for her attendance at today's meeting.

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel received and commented on the draft Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Health and Wellbeing Strategy and commented on the proposed key priorities for the Fenland Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-23.

OSC39/19 FENLAND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

Members considered the Health and Wellbeing Strategic priorities report presented by Councillor Mrs Wallwork.

She introduced members to Inspector Ian Lombardo (Cambridgeshire Constabulary) and welcomed him to today's meeting.

Members asked questions, made comments and received responses as follows;

1. Councillor Miscandlon asked if the Police intend to continue with the community hub interface in Fenland. Inspector Lombardo confirmed that the Police will continue this line of engagement and hope to increase this throughout the coming year. He confirmed that members will shortly be invited to attend a meeting with the Police in relation to this.
2. Councillor Booth highlighted that the Council had previously attended community meetings in the district's villages alongside the Police and asked for commitment that the Council would revert back to this process, as over recent months there has been no representation from them. Dan Horn explained that the Council try to consult with residents subject to the resource available and confirmed that the Council work closely with the Police and try to hold community events in town locations which the rural community visit too, such as supermarkets.
3. Councillor Booth reiterated that these community engagement events are held in the district's towns and as a result, the villages do not benefit. Councillor Mrs Wallwork explained that the resources are placed in locations with the greatest need however she agreed to review this.
4. Councillor Miscandlon stated that previously villages had been visited by the Police's mobile police station and asked if there were plans to reintroduce this. Inspector Lombardo confirmed that this approach is no longer taken however the Police are committed to increased public engagement in locations across the district.
5. Councillor Wicks asked what the Police's timeline is for improving the online reporting facility for criminal intelligence. Inspector Lombardo confirmed that work is ongoing in improving this service and members will be kept updated with the progress of this.
6. Councillor Wicks stated that previously Trading Standard's Little Book of Scams was available for residents and asked if this it still being circulated. Inspector Lombardo explained that this information is available online and work has been undertaken to engage with the older generation at community events to ensure the information reaches them. Councillor Mrs Wallwork confirmed that a small number of printed versions are still available but agreed to circulate the web link to members.
7. Councillor Hay referenced minute OSC40/18 and asked if the analysis of women offender's in Fenland had taken place yet. Councillor Mrs Wallwork explained that following a higher priority demand placed upon the Police and as a result of the introduction of a new multi-functional recording application, this analysis had not been completed. She confirmed that the partnership had discussed this work at the recent January 2020 meeting and agreed that the introduction of 'Essentials by Sue' (page 53 of the agenda pack) will reduce female offending in Fenland. She assured members that the level of female offending in Fenland was not significantly above the national average.
8. Councillor Mrs Wallwork confirmed that loan-sharks can increase the level of female offending, as females are most likely to fall victim to this crime, and confirmed that the Fenland Community Safety Partnership (FCSP) will be delivering training on this.
9. Councillor Mrs Bligh stated that the Police reports to parish councils do not contain enough information on crimes committed in the rural areas of the district. Inspector Lombardo explained that report intends to give an overview of the work being undertaken by the Police but the proposed community engagement meetings will focus on local areas and specifics of the crimes committed in these rural neighbourhoods. He added that the Police will also be setting up an email account which will circulate more detailed information to members.

10. Councillor Cornwell asked for further information in relation to 4.4 of the report. Dan Horn explained that there is a higher risk for younger drivers when driving at work.
11. Councillor Cornwell suggested that the training should include training for users of mopeds and motorbikes and the partnership should engage with those below the legal driving age to educate them early. Alan Boughen explained that the Cambs Drive iQ work is delivered by the Police and Crime Commissioner to sixth form students and focuses on improving hazard awareness and road safety which are transferable to both mopeds and motorcycles too.
12. Councillor Cornwell asked why Chatteris were not included in the Cambs Drive iQ work (page 60 of the agenda pack). Alan Boughen explained that all schools and education facilities were approached however Chatteris did not participate.
13. Councillor Booth praised the work with young drivers but requested that speeding offences are given a higher priority in the FCSP as there is a general community concern about speeding. He stated that whilst there are speed watch groups, they need the Police to support the enforcement action. Inspector Lombardo explained that the Police have recently recruited 15 special officers and they will be focusing on community concerns such as speeding. He explained that the Police collect speed data which allows them to target specific areas and take a focused approach on tackling speeding.
14. Councillor Wicks highlighted the non-statutory partners referenced in 3.3 of the report and asked if the FCSP engage with any other housing associations aside from Clarion. Dan Horn explained that Clarion is the largest provider of affordable and social housing in the district but the Council do work alongside other housing associations too.
15. Councillor Miscandlon asked if street drinking in Wisbech has reduced as referenced in the report (page 61 of the agenda pack). Councillor Mrs Wallwork confirmed that street drinking is declining however work is still ongoing in relation to the public perception of this as residents still believe it is an ongoing issue in Wisbech.
16. Councillor Miscandlon asked what other evidence is available to show that street drinking has reduced in Wisbech. Councillor Mrs Wallwork explained that the town now benefits from a day hub for street drinkers which is highly attended and has significantly improved the figures. She added that there has been successful partnership work to tackle street drinking with Police offering additional support where necessary.
17. Councillor Booth highlighted that street drinking is still a concern amongst the community and asked how reliable the Police and CCTV statistics are, as cases of street drinking may occur in areas not covered by cameras or police presence. Councillor Mrs Wallwork agreed that work is required to tackle the public perception of street drinking and explained that not all CCTV incidents are reportable to the Police. She stated that incidents that occur outside of CCTV coverage can also be picked up by other reporting methods. Dan Horn explained that street drinking involves a multi-agency approach and many teams are involved in the collection of this data, including the Police, CCTV and the Council's street cleansing team who feed information through to the multi-agency group.
18. Councillor Mrs Bligh asked that primary schools are included in the 'Essentials by Sue' campaign. Councillor Mrs Wallwork confirmed that primary schools will be contacted about this very positive campaign.
19. Councillor Booth asked why the 'Essentials by Sue' campaign is not included in the health and wellbeing strategy as its association to crime and the FCSP is incorrect. Inspector Lombardo explained that the campaign features in the FCSP due to the level of theft associated with sanitary products. Councillor Mrs Wallwork agreed to identify the cross overs contained in both reports.
20. Councillor Booth agreed as including it in the FCSP can stigmatise offenders of these crimes
21. Councillor Cornwell agreed that a cohesive approach needs to be taken in relation to the health and wellbeing strategy and the FCSP to ensure interaction between the two.
22. Councillor Skoulding asked if the Police provide first response to the other emergency services as the fire service do. Inspector Lombardo explained that the Police do provide first response where an ambulance is not available and as a result, officers are trained and carry advanced medical equipment on-board. He added that the Police and Fire Services attend

weekly co-ordination meetings too.

23. Councillor Skoulding highlighted an issue with parking outside of schools across the district. Inspector Lombardo agreed to raise this as a community concern with special officers.

Members thanked Inspector Lombardo for his attendance at today's meeting.

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel considered and noted; the current performance of the partnership for 2019/20, the themes chosen for 202/21 remain linked to the PCC plan namely supporting victims, stronger communities and reducing offending and the CCTV performance report for 2019/20.

OSC40/19 PROGRESS IN DELIVERING THE ENVIRONMENT CORPORATE OBJECTIVES 2019-2020.

Members considered the Progress in Delivering the Environment Corporate Objectives 2019-2020 report.

Members asked questions, made comments and received responses as follows;

1. Councillor Miscandlon asked for further information on the priorities and future initiatives contained within the report. Councillor Tierney explained that there a number of upcoming initiatives including delivery of the Wisbech High Street project, the National Waste and Resources Strategy, implementation of the Council's new environmental enforcement service and the delivery of the FCSP Action Plan.
2. Councillor Hay asked if the Council are still on target to maximise the National Lottery Heritage Funding for the 11-12 High Street, Wisbech project. Councillor Seaton confirmed that the project is on target and the developer is fully on board. He confirmed that the fund deadline is January 2021 however if required, the Council may be able to seek a small extension of time.
3. Councillor Booth referenced page 112 of the report and the assessment that the Council's street lighting contract is performing 'exceptionally well'. He asked what consultation had taken place to obtain this feedback. Carol Pilson explained that the service is performing well from a contract management point of view. Councillor Mrs French explained that further information on this would be provided to members at the Full Council meeting on Thursday 20 February 2020.
4. Councillor Booth stated that it must be clear in reports if statistics are the opinion of officer's or service users.
5. Councillor Booth asked that in future, the report contains the service level performance of the street lighting contract and should include feedback from service users.
6. Councillor Hay asked for an update on the environmental enforcement service in light of the Council's contract with Kingdom ending. Councillor Murphy explained that the Council are currently considering the options available to them and members will be kept updated.
7. Councillor Tierney assured members that cover is currently being provided by the Council's street scene officers alongside their existing work.
8. Councillor Hay asked for a timescale of the replacement service. Councillor Murphy confirmed that the Council hope to have a new service in place within the next 3-4 months.
9. Councillor Mason asked what questions will be included as part of the customer satisfaction survey referenced on page 131 of the report. Councillor Tierney confirmed that the survey is available to view on the Council's website.
10. Councillor Mason asked what the Council's approach is towards the disposal of food waste. Councillor Murphy confirmed that this information is contained within the survey and literature available on the website too. He added that the disposal of food waste is a priority of central government who are developing a waste and resources strategy. He confirmed that in Fenland, food waste must be placed in the residual bin.

11. Councillor Cornwell stated that he had heard reports that rural littering and graffiti have increased over the winter months. Councillor Murphy confirmed that there had been issues with graffiti in March recently however these had been reported and dealt with. Carol Pilson explained that there had been no reports from the Council's street cleansing team that rural littering had increased but agreed to look in to this.
12. Councillor Wicks asked if fly tipping has increased in rural areas following the new regulations surrounding recycling centres. Councillor Murphy confirmed that fly tipping had in fact reduced with over 200 less incidents this year.
13. Councillor Miscandlon commended the rapid response team's work. Councillor Murphy agreed and highlighted the successful prosecutions obtained by the Council in relation to fly tipping.
14. Councillor Miscandlon asked how the Council plan to mitigate the effects of climate issues in Fenland. Councillor Tierney explained that the Council aim to be as clean and green as possible. He confirmed that the Council have recently published their Environmental Statement of Intent and agreed to circulate this to members.
15. Councillor Miscandlon asked for an update on the levels of air pollution in the district's towns. Councillor Tierney explained that the air pollution is very low in Fenland and every test location was under the national average which is very positive. He agreed to circulate the Council's Air Quality Annual Status Report to members.
16. Councillor Booth asked if the Council have any plans to expand what is currently being recycled. Councillor Murphy stated that currently residents have a comprehensive range of recycling options available to them and until the government's future strategy is clear, the focus remains on capturing the maximum amount via the current systems.
17. Councillor Booth highlighted that the Council's recycling rate has remained static and asked if the Council could do more to encourage residents to recycle. Councillor Murphy stated that the Council's blue bin service is well used and work is ongoing in relation to the publicity of this as there have been instances where items have been placed in the blue bin incorrectly.
18. Councillor Cornwell asked what are the issues associated with waste incineration. Councillor Tierney explained that there are a range of issues associated to waste incineration. For one, the waste still goes to landfill and incineration does not support the recycling and reuse of items. He highlighted that the target is to produce zero waste and incineration does produce a level of waste. He explained that to effectively run, the costs associated to incineration is usually higher and therefore this is counter intuitive as recyclable waste is often incinerated. He reiterated that this is not a long term, environmentally friendly solution.

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel considered the progress made by the Council in delivering the corporate objectives in the Business Plan.

(Councillor Skoulding declared an interest by virtue of the fact that he is a committee member of March's St George's Fayre and Christmas Fair)

(Councillor Booth declared an interest by virtue of the fact that he is the Chairman of Parish Drove Parish Council's Street Pride group)

(Councillor Mrs Bligh declared an interest by virtue of the fact that she is the Chairman of Wisbech St Mary Parish Council's Street Pride group)

OSC41/19 CALL IN OF CABINET DECISION - CREATION OF INVESTMENT BOARD AND DELEGATION OF FUNCTIONS

Councillor Booth explained that he had exercised the right to call-in this Cabinet decision due to his concerns surrounding the accountability and governance arrangements of the proposed Investment Board. He explained that the governance arrangements propose a quorate of only two

members with one non-voting officer in attendance. He highlighted that in instances where there is not a unanimous decision the Leader will be able to exercise his casting vote as chairman of the board. Councillor Booth stated that this is not democratically appropriate and he recommends that membership to the Investment Board is increased which will both reduce the burden for board members and increase member involvement in the decision making process.

Councillor Boden thanked Councillor Booth for his feedback and agreed that it was highly appropriate to call-in this item for consideration due to its importance. Councillor Boden assured members that whilst the arrangements allow the provision of a chairman's casting vote, where required it will only be used in decisions which will restrict the Investment Board as oppose to empowering them. He confirmed to members that he plans to produce a code for the use of the chairman's casting vote and will keep them updated on this matter.

Councillor Booth thanked Councillor Boden for his explanation but reiterated that the current arrangements do not include the proposed mechanism and therefore his concern still stands. Councillor Boden reminded members that the Investment Board is a sub-committee of Cabinet therefore it is unlikely that a unanimous decision will not be reached during decision making. He offered members assurance that he will consider these comments at the earliest opportunity. Councillor Booth welcomed this.

Councillor Booth asked for clarification that non-board members will be prevented from attending meetings of the Investment Board and will be unable to exercise their 'right to speak'. Councillor Boden explained that as the Investment Board is a sub-committee of Cabinet, members will have plenty of opportunities to challenge and discuss proposed decisions. He highlighted that holding public meetings of the Investment Board would be inappropriate due to the sensitivity and confidential nature of some of the commercial decisions but the Investment Board welcome members input and scrutiny in the decision making process.

Councillor Hay reminded members that the Chairman of Overview and Scrutiny Panel will be invited to attend meetings of the Investment Board and will therefore have an oversight of the process. Councillor Boden confirmed this.

Councillor Mason asked what research had been carried out in relation to the Commercial Investment Strategy (CIS) and associated boards. Peter Catchpole explained that a lot of evidence had been sought from other local authorities and he benefits from knowledge of this area, as he was previously appointed non-executive director of a LATCO in his previous role. He highlighted that the Council have considered investment models from authorities such as the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk, Peterborough City Council and South Norfolk Council and received guidance from Lawyers in Local Government (LMG).

Councillor Wicks recommended that the terms of reference need to reflect the boundaries of the Investment Board. Councillor Boden disagreed and stated that the terms of reference need to be permissive to allow discretion in the decision making processes. He stated that he expects many of the early decisions of the Investment Board to be heavily scrutinised however as the project progresses the board will mostly be making routine decisions and recommendations. He added that some decisions will be of great importance and in these instances the chairman's casting vote will not be appropriate. He confirmed that the Section 151 Officer, Peter Catchpole, will be available at all times to provide advice where necessary and reminded members that the Local Authority Trading Company (LATCO) will have its own separate regulations and will be subject to great consideration prior to its implementation.

Councillor Hay asked if there will be substitute members of the Investment Board. Councillor Boden confirmed this and said whilst a quorate of 2 members will be sufficient for routine decision making, this will not be the case for major decisions.

Councillor Booth highlighted that many decisions will be time critical and suggested that a more robust process needs to be in place for members and substitutes of the Investment Board to ensure decisions can be made quickly when required. Councillor Boden stated that a higher membership would result in a higher quorate which is counter intuitive. He assured members that theoretically there are very few circumstances in which board members and substitute members are not available and meetings will be arranged based on member availability.

Councillor Skoulding agreed and highlighted that having fewer members on the Investment Board protects the confidentiality of commercially sensitive decisions. Councillor Boden agreed and stated that he has every confidence in members and attendees of the board.

Councillor Cornwell requested that a review of the governance arrangements and mechanisms of the Investment Board is included in the Overview and Scrutiny Panel's annual work programme.

Councillor Cornwell supported the call-in for this item as the Investment Board must be subject to scrutiny and accountability. Councillor Miscandlon acknowledged Councillor Boden and officer's transparency and openness in this matter.

Councillor Booth asked that consideration is given to his recommendations being included in the governance framework for the Investment Board. He added that the terms of reference need amending to reflect auditing arrangements and statutory reporting of accounts. Councillor Boden explained that the terms of reference reflect the review and monitoring of financial performance.

Councillor Boden thanked members of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel for their comments and feedback.

Proposed by Councillor Booth, seconded by Councillor Mrs Bligh that the Cabinet decision is referred back to Cabinet for reconsideration with comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

A vote was taken on this proposal. The vote failed.

Proposed by Councillor Miscandlon, seconded by Councillor Hay and decided that the Overview and Scrutiny Panel accept the Cabinet decision.

OSC42/19 FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

Members agreed the Future Work Programme subject to the following comments;

1. Members requested that future meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel commence at an earlier time of 1.30pm.

4.59 pm

Chairman