



## EXECUTIVE

**5.30 p.m. – 7.10 p.m.**

**10 February 2010**

Present: Councillors Morphew (Chair), Morrey (Vice-Chair), Arthur, Blakeway, Bremner, Brociek-Coulton, Sands and Waters

Also present: Councillors Lubbock, Stephenson and Wright

### **1. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW**

The Chair advised members of the decision made by Secretary of State to approve unitary status for Norwich. Subject to orders being passed by Parliament, transitional arrangements would begin ready for the new council April 2011. The Council was on course to fulfil the ambitions of the City to have a new unitary council for Norwich.

**RESOLVED** to note the position.

### **2. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the Executive meetings held on 27 January 2009.

### **3. JOINT CORE STRATEGY – PROPOSED SUBMISSION TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE**

The Planning Policy and Projects Manager presented the report and answered member's questions. He informed members this was the final stage of the strategy which started in 2007 of which there had been three substantial consultations.

Councillor Morrey, the Executive Member of Sustainable City Development acknowledged that there was a risk that the strategy would not be found sound, however, he considered that the risk of not making progress with the strategy and not having it agreed were greater. If the process is delayed he felt it could result in more speculative development proposals in places that were not in line with the strategy.

**RESOLVED:-**

- (1) to note the revised evidence base; representations received on soundness and the potential risks in relation to the Joint Core Strategy process.

- (2) to delegate authority to the Director of Regeneration and Development, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Sustainable City Development and with other Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP) partners to:
  - (a) make any further typographical corrections to the schedule of minor changes that might be required to appendix 1 to the GNDP policy group report;
  - (b) approve any other technical documents required to be submitted alongside the joint core strategy under Regulation 30; and
  - (c) produce a joint assessment of the final reports of the Water Cycle Study and Appropriate Assessment for consideration by constituent authorities.
- (3) subject to there being a satisfactory outcome following consideration by GNDP Directors and Portfolio Holders of:
  - (a) the final report of the "Water Cycle Study" and any views on it from Natural England, the Broads Authority, the Environment Agency or Anglian Water; and
  - (b) the final report of the Appropriate Assessment and views on it from Natural England,

to recommend Council to:-

1. agree that the "Joint Core Strategy for Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk: proposed submission document (Nov 2009)" as amended by the schedule of proposed minor changes is legally compliant and sound;
2. submit it to the Secretary of State under Regulation 30 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Development) Regulations 2004 (as amended).

**4. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2009/2010**  
**A) FINANCIAL POSITION AND FORECAST OUTTURN TO**  
**31 OCTOBER 2009;**  
**B) FINANCIAL POSITION AND FORECAST OUTTURN TO**  
**30 NOVEMBER 2009**

The Head of Finance presented the reports and said an under spend was still predicted and this had improved slightly than earlier in the year.

Councillor Waters, Executive Member for Corporate Resources and Governance said as forecasts become more certain during the year any surpluses would be looked at to reduce saving requirements and to resource investment programmes.

**RESOLVED** to note the reports.

**5. DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN**

The Director of Transformation presented the report and answered members' questions. He explained that in future years it was proposed to deliver the Corporate

Plan earlier to align with the budget process. In light of the comments made by the Scrutiny Committee the wording would be reviewed. This was the first draft and the Executive would have another opportunity to consider the final plan on 24 March 2010 before the Corporate Plan was finally recommended to council.

The Executive Member for Corporate Resources and Governance said having the Corporate Plan available at the same time as budget would help to ensure the corporate priorities could be funded.

Councillor Lubbock asked if improving cycling could be included in the Corporate Plan under Strong and Prosperous City.

**RESOLVED** to note this report.

## **6. BUDGET 2010/11 GENERAL FUND**

The Head of Finance presented the report and circulated an amendment to the level of council tax.

The Chair said the increase in council tax would be an average of 1p per day for up to 89% of the households in Norwich.

The Executive Member for Corporate Resources and Governance said by regular review of the Medium Term Financial Strategy the Council had been able to react to adverse developments. Having a strong level of reserve the Council had been able to absorb some of the impact of the recession.

The Head of Finance, said with the announcement on Unitary Status the election cost would need to be retained.

### **RESOLVED -**

- (1) that Council Tax should be set at £225.87 for Band D, which is an increase of 2.2%;
- (2) the Council's budgetary requirement to be set at £25.097 million;
- (3) that the prudent level of reserves for the Council be set at £4.244 million in accordance with the recommendation of the Head of Finance;
- (4) authorise the Head of Finance in consultation with Portfolio Holder for Resources and Governance to transfer such sums as deemed necessary from the element of the General Fund Reserve identified as contingency in annex 6;
- (5) that an amount of £500,000 be earmarked within the General Fund to be used on spend to save projects and that any project requiring support from this must have Executive approval;
- (6) that the uncommitted elements of the area based grant be used to fund the redundancy costs of the transformation programme and that any

residual amount of the grant remaining be used to support the Council's non-housing capital programme;

- (7) that a contribution of £400,000 is made from the revenue budget to reserves;
- (8) that the precept of the collection fund for 2010/11 be calculated in accordance with Sections 32-36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as per the determinations attached at Appendix 7 (to be circulated at the meeting);
- (9) to give the Chief Executive authority to draw down up to £0.5 million from reserves for the preparation of the Unitary Council, and review this during 2010/11 if necessary.

## **7. CAPITAL STRATEGY**

The Executive Member for Corporate Resources and Governance introduced the report and said the capital budget was under pressure because of a significant reduction in the level of capital receipts. He said in the difficult economic situation the Council should consider how they use their resources to generate capital.

In reply to a question the Director of Regeneration and Development said he had no knowledge at this stage of the potential investment in regeneration and growth in Greater Norwich.

**RESOLVED** to recommend to Council that it adopts the Capital Strategy.

## **8. NON-HOUSING CAPITAL PLAN AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/11**

The Executive Member for Corporate Resources and Governance introduced the report and said the current climate reflected the resources available and investment around the S106 projects which had reduced due to the slow down in development. The Homes and Community Agency Partnership (HCA) would produce resources to invest in housing and the capital programme for the medium term.

**RESOLVED** to

- (1) recommend the Non Housing Capital Plan 2010-2015 to the Council for approval;
- (2) approve the Non Housing Capital Programme 2010/11 as set out in the report;
- (3) note the forecast position on the Non Housing Capital Programme 2009/10;
- (4) approve the following increase in expenditure;
  - (a) an additional £51k for access road works to the rear car park, City Hall;

- (5) approve the following discretionary S106 expenditure provisions, and to delegate to the Capital Programmes Board the approval of detailed proposals in the form of Project Mandates when requirements have been fully worked up in conjunction with Members and other stakeholders:

Play and Open Space provisions

- (a) Peterson Road - replacement of old play equipment £8,500;
- (b) Eaton Park – improvements to existing MUGA £8,550;
- (c) Pointers field – contribution to a new natural play park £20,000;

Transportation provision

- (d) Heartsease Cycle route – upgrade crossing to a toucan crossing £8,826;
  - (e) Pedestrian improvements Rosary Road – contribution towards zebra crossing £7,650;
  - (f) Green infrastructure improvements, Northern City – new cycle and pedestrian routes to encourage walking and cycling £96,330;
- (6) approve the following amendments to discretionary S106 expenditure provisions previously approved, and to delegate to the Capital Programmes Board the approval of detailed proposals in the form:

Play and Open Space provisions

- (a) Stirling Road – previously approved budget of £80,000 to be funded entirely from former Fifers Lane development to ensure contribution is not lost;
- (b) Fiddlewood Road – previously approved budget of £70,000 to be partially funded with £15,000 from former Fifers Lane development to ensure contribution is not lost.

## **9. COUNCIL RENTS AND SERVICE CHARGES FOR 2010/2011**

Councillor Arthur, Executive Member for Housing and Adult Services said the Council had been under-recovering costs relating to service charges and steps were being taken where everything that should be recovered would be. Norwich Tenants CityWide Board had considered this fair and reasonable.

**RESOLVED** to:-

- (1) implement an average rent increase of 2.4%, being £1.45 per week for Housing Revenue Account dwellings, and a corresponding average rent increase of 2.03% (£1.38) for General Fund dwellings;
- (2) set service charges for district heating, premises management, sheltered housing and good neighbour services, at the levels set out in paragraph 32.

## **10. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT BUDGET 2010/2011**

The Head of Finance circulated an amendment to the report.

The Executive Member for Housing and Adult Services said the amendment reflected the comments made by the Scrutiny Committee. Tenants who take care of their homes and gardens would be offered an incentive by being given a small reward.

**RESOLVED** to recommend to Council:

- (1) the Housing Revenue Account budget for 2010/11 as amended;
- (2) minimum level of HRA balances as £2.8m as advised by the Chief Financial Officer as shown in Appendix 2 of the amended report.

## **11. HOUSING CAPITAL PLAN AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2010/11**

The Chair referred to the report which forecasted an increase in volumes (of kitchens, bathrooms, electrical works and window replacements) had been made possible by the lower costs anticipated from the re-let of the housing repairs and upgrade contract, with refocusing on planned maintenance, and the Homes and Community Agency.

Morrison Facilities Services Limited had started a High Court action to prevent the Council from entering into the approved contracts. The Council had reviewed the case presented and were confident that the action would not be successful and the Council could continue implementing with the successful contractor Connaught Partnerships Limited and deliver the high quality services that the tenants deserve.

**RESOLVED** to:-

- (1) recommend the Housing Capital Plan 2010/2015 to the Council for approval;
- (2) approve the Housing Capital Programme 2010/2011 as set out in the report;
- (3) note the forecast position on the Housing Capital Programme 2009/10.

## **12. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of Item \*11 and \*12 below on the grounds contained in Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

### **\*11. AWARD OF CONTRACTS TENDERS FOR SERVICES PROVIDED BY CITYCARE (PARAGRAPH 3)**

The Executive noted the Unison comments circulated and those presented by the Unison representative.

The Head of Procurement and Service Improvement circulated an additional paper with amendments to the report. He presented the report and together with the Deputy Chief Executive answered members' questions.

The Executive praised the work of the Procurement and Service Improvement team.

**RESOLVED** to approve:-

- (1) the award of the contracts as follows:

| Contract   | Supplier                          |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Lot 1 – Routine Building Maintenance (Non-housing buildings) | NORSE Commercial Services Limited |
| Lot 3 – Multi-Storey Car Park Cleaning                       | NORSE Commercial Services Limited |
| Lot 4 – Street and Other Cleaning Services                   | Connaught Partnerships Limited    |
| Lot 5 – Grounds Maintenance Services                         | Connaught Partnerships Limited    |
| Lot 6 – Arboriculture Services                               | Connaught Partnerships Limited    |
| Lot 7 – Refuse, Recycling and Waste Services                 | Connaught Partnerships Limited    |
| Lot 8 – Housing Repairs, Maintenance and Improvements        | Connaught Partnerships Limited    |
| Lot 9 – Gas Appliance Maintenance and Repair                 | Connaught Partnerships Limited    |
| Lot 11 – Asbestos Management                                 | Connaught Partnerships Limited    |

- (2) not awarding a contract for Lot 10 – Water Service Testing and that these services be tendered again and award be made by officers under the existing powers in the scheme of delegation;
- (3) the award of the refuse contract Lot 7 based on the standard service and note that the option to take up the maximum landfill diversion option requires council to approve the additional budget and will require a separate value for money assessment and Executive approval at a later date;
- (4) the proposal for call handling by the contractor for housing and citizen services contracts;
- (5) the delegation of power to award Lot 13 contract for electrical and mechanical services to the Director of Regeneration and Development in consultation with the Executive Member for Housing and Adult Services.

**\*12, SPORT RELIEF 2010 – NORWICH MILE**

**RESOLVED**, having considered the report of the Head of Communications and Cultural Services to agree to enter into a contract to provide event management service for Sport Relief 2010 – the Norwich Mile.

CHAIR