



CABINET

5pm – 6.00pm

8 December 2010

Present: Councillors Morpew (chair), Arthur (vice chair), Bremner, Brociek-Coulton, MacDonald, Sands, Waters and Westmacott

Also present: Councillors Lubbock, Stephenson and Wright (R)

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the cabinet meetings held on 27 October and 24 November 2010.

2. GREATER NORWICH ROUGH SLEEPERS STRATEGY 2010-2013

Councillor Arthur, cabinet member for housing, introduced the report and referred in particular to the Council's excellent record of working with partners which had reduced the number of rough sleepers and provided invaluable support to people on an ongoing basis. This sets the framework for future working which was essential as the council sets its course during the difficult times.

In response to a question, the housing strategy officer said that the greater Norwich rough sleeper co-ordinator was partially funded through supporting people and the Communities and Local Government homeless unit for a short period, further funding was currently being sought.

RESOLVED to adopt the Greater Norwich Rough Sleepers Strategy 2010-2013.

3. QUARLTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT – Q2 2010-2011

The transformation programme manager presented the report and referred to the overall performance for the quarter which was showing as being good with all projects either on schedule or showing only slight cause for concern work was underway to address this. This was the second quarter of using the more refined and improved system of reporting, a number of suggestions had been made and these had been incorporated although further work was still required.

RESOLVED to note the progress against the corporate plan priorities.

4. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2010/11

The head of finance presented the report and answered members' questions.

In response to a question from Councillor Stephenson, the chief executive officer together with chair said that the housing improvement programme was up and running and every project agreed with the Homes and Communities Agency would be completed with all the money being spent.

Councillor Waters, cabinet member for resources, performance and shared services said the formula grant settlement would not be known until later in the month, there were suggestions that authorities with deprivation would receive substantial cuts where as authorities in wealthier areas would receive a better settlement. During these uncertain times pressure on budgets would continue.

RESOLVED to note the report and the annexes.

5. IMPROVING CUSTOMER SERVICE AND EFFICIENCY

Councillor Sands, cabinet member for wellbeing, introduced the report and referred, in particular, to the need to replace the existing telephone system and the benefits to the customer with waiting times reduced and being able to make calls to a local number.

In response to questions, the head of customer contact said that the proposed system would be rolled out over 5 year period, giving an improved service with more choice to customer. The previous 01603 number would not be able to be used.

RESOLVED to –

- (1) approve the purchase and implementation of a suite of software, including Avaya Contact Centre 7(potentially AURA Contact Centre), Eckoh IVR, and Verint workforce optimisation;
- (2) replace the current Symposium telephony management software that was no longer supported. The savings outlined in the report allow for this to be done on a 'spend to save' basis.

6. DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK STRATEGY FOR UEA

Councillor MacDonald, cabinet member for environment, introduced the report. The head of planning and regeneration presented the report and referred to the revised recommendations circulated.

In response to a question, the head of planning and regeneration said that public access to Earlham Hall and the land at Blackdale School would be addressed in the forthcoming development management policy and the site development plans which should enable any subsequent planning application to be appropriately controlled.

The chair said it was important to work closely and develop relationships with the UEA as they were a major player in the city.

RESOLVED –

- (1) to note that the Development Framework Strategy for UEA provides evidence that should be taken into account in the preparation of relevant

Development Plan Documents, subject to further consideration of the following concerns:

- that more should be said in the DFS about managing the impact of student on local communities in Norwich. It is welcomed that the 'Home Run' scheme was mentioned as this provides students living off-campus with support and a recommended code of conduct for tenants within this scheme. However, there was no longer term commitment to continue providing this service and working with the council to minimise any potential adverse impacts of students living within the communities surrounding the university. Similarly there was a lack of an explicit commitment to continue the current policy of providing all International and first year undergraduate students with the opportunity to live in accommodation on campus;
 - the extent of the potential development area proposed at Blackdale School. There should be adequate space left to provide some buffer between any new development and the residential properties to the east of Bluebell Road.
 - the lack of a commitment to link new development on the campus (excluding Earlham Hall) into the existing Combined Heat and Power network and facility.
 - there was a lack of detail given about the phasing of the provision of the decked car park which may give rise to problems with overreliance on unsatisfactory temporary car park.
- (2) to agree that the City Council should continue to participate in the steering group to oversee the preparation of a masterplan at Earlham Hall ensuring adequate public involvement and agree that the City Council continue to participate in the steering group to oversee the preparation of a masterplan at Earlham Hall ensuring adequate public involvement; and
- (3) to nominate a Councillor to represent Norwich City Council on this group.

7. NORWICH CITY HIGHWAYS AGENCY REVIEW

The head of transportation presented the report and outlined the changes following the review.

The chair asked that footpath and cycle paths be considered for gritting.

RESOLVED to –

- (1) note endorse revisions to the Highways Agency Agreement between Norfolk County Council and the council as set out in the report; and
- (2) approve the renewal of the Highways Agency Agreement with Norfolk County Council with effect from 1 April 2011 based on the proposed revisions.

8. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of item 9 below on the grounds contained in the relevant paragraphs of schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended.

***9. LOCAL INVESTMENT PLAN AND PROGRAMME (LIPP) (PARAGRAPH 3)**

RESOLVED, having considered the report of the director of regeneration and development, to –

- (1) approve the LIPP Priorities for Investment 2011-2014 (in Appendix 1), specifically the Norwich projects and priorities;
- (2) delegate any further changes (as a result of discussions with HCA and further developments arising within GNDP/ GNHP) to the Director of Regeneration and Development in consultation with the relevant portfolio holder;
- (3) agree that the governance of any new Norwich projects in which HCA investment is made should come under existing arrangements of the Norwich and HCA Strategic Partnership.

CHAIR