



CABINET

5:30 pm to 5:55 pm

15 JANUARY 2014

Present: Councillors Arthur (chair), Kendrick, Sands (M) and Stonard

Also present: Councillors Stephenson and Wright

1. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Waters.

2. PUBLIC QUESTIONS / PETITIONS

There was one public question from Dr Alice Walker:

Two months ago Norwich City Council received almost a quarter of a million pounds funding for its stated ambition to "make walking a natural and attractive choice, whether for recreational purposes or local journeys, enabling people to integrate easily in to their communities, access services and reach their place of work".

It is with profound disappointment that the residents of Eaton have learned that our traffic-free school route is to be closed permanently on 24th February. The only alternative route is prohibitively long, and necessitates children walking along a busy commuter cycle path right next to the A11.

Receiving the funding in November, Cllr Brenda Arthur said "It's a great opportunity for partner organisations to link up, work together, and deliver something which Norwich can be proud of."

Will the cabinet please now commit to working with Eaton Golf Club to ensure that this vital pedestrian route remains open to safeguard the health of our children for years to come, and also commit to working with colleagues at the county council to save this route?

Councillor Stonard, portfolio holder for environment, development and transport replied:

Norwich City Council is committed to promoting walking and encouraging children to walk to school is a key factor in developing good habits.

The city council played no part in any discussions around the idea of closing the route through Eaton Golf Club to the City of Norwich School and was disappointed to learn of the decision when it was announced.

We would be very happy to talk to both the golf club and the county council in an attempt to encourage them to reverse their decision, or to come up with a viable alternative solution.

There was no supplementary question.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2014.

5. EQUALITY INFORMATION REPORT

Councillor Sands, portfolio holder for customer services, presented the report.

In response to a member's question, the executive head of service for strategy, people and democracy agreed to check what type of averaging had been used to calculate pay discrepancies within the report and to let members know. He added that, where available, data was benchmarked and agreed to explore if it would be possible to include further benchmarking in future reports.

The executive head of service for strategy, people and democracy explained that ethnicity of service users can only be gathered if customers are willing to volunteer this information when asked. As such, where insufficient data is gathered, this is not published as it would not be a truly reflective sample size. He also said that, whilst it is difficult to verify statistics between hate crimes and hate incidents, he is confident that the city council is doing well in this area.

RESOLVED to approve the publication of the annual equality information report.

6. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2013-14 PERIOD 7

Councillor Arthur, leader of the council, presented the report.

RESOLVED to note the financial position as at 31 October 2013 and the forecast outturn 2013/14.

7. AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR ON STREET CCTV MAINTENANCE, REPAIR AND UPGRADE SERVICE

Councillor Kendrick, portfolio holder for neighbourhoods and safer community, presented the report.

RESOLVED to approve the award of the on-street CCTV maintenance, repair and upgrade service contract to Quadrant Security Group Ltd for up to 5 years from 1 April 2014 at a cost of £156,122.

8. ADOPTION OF EXTENDED LOCAL LIST OF BUILDINGS OUTSIDE CONSERVATION AREAS

Councillor Stonard, portfolio holder for environment, development and transport, presented the report.

In response to a member's question, the policy team leader (projects) said that councillors who wished to put forward suggestions for additions to the local list should contact the Norwich Society or the council's conservation and design officer.

RESOLVED to adopt the extended local list of buildings of local architectural and historic importance (incorporating the additional heritage assets set out in the report at appendix 1)

9. LOCAL AUTHORITY MORTGAGE SCHEME

Councillor Arthur, leader of the council, presented the report.

RESOLVED to indemnify the monitoring officer (and their deputies) of any personal liability they may incur by providing an opinion and providing the lender within an opinion letter.

10. TEMPORARY SENIOR MANAGEMENT SUPPORT TO GREAT YARMOUTH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Councillor Arthur, leader of the council, presented the report, explaining that the arrangement had been approved by Great Yarmouth Borough Council on 14 January 2014.

RESOLVED to agree that the council's chief executive will temporarily become the interim chief executive of Great Yarmouth Borough Council on a 2 day per week secondment basis for a short term period of between three and six months.

11. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the items *12 to *15 below on the grounds contained in the relevant paragraphs of schedule 12a of the local government act 1972 (as amended).

***12. MANAGING ASSETS (HOUSING)**

Councillor Bremner, portfolio holder for housing, presented the report.

RESOLVED to:-

1. approve the option to dispose of the freehold interest in the asset on the open market; and
2. agree that the capital receipt from the disposal be reinvested in the housing capital program for improving, repairing and maintaining the council housing stock or for providing new affordable housing.

***13. PROPOSED LEASE OF A PROPERTY IN THE GENERAL FUND TO A BUILDING PRESERVATION TRUST**

Councillor Bremner, portfolio holder for housing, presented the report.

In response to a member's question, the head of city development services explained that the Vivat Trust were a well-respected organisation and the kind of group that the city council looks to work with. He confirmed that their business model is based around using the holiday let business to fund the restoration.

RESOLVED to approve the grant of a long leasehold interest in a property held within the general fund.

***14. PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF AN AREA OF LAND**

Councillor Bremner, portfolio holder for housing, presented the report.

RESOLVED to approve the disposal of an area of land in the general fund account as described in this report.

***15. CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF REFUSE, RECYCLING AND WASTE SERVICES**

Councillor Kendrick, portfolio holder for neighbourhoods and safer community, presented the report.

RESOLVED to consider extending the refuse and recycling collection contract in accordance with the terms of the contract.

CHAIR