



EXECUTIVE

5.30 p.m. – 6.10 p.m.

25 November 2009

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

Apologies Councillors Arthur and Waters

Also present: Councillors S Little, Stephenson and Wright

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the Executive meeting held on 11 November 2009.

2. QUARTER TWO PERFORMANCE MONITORING 2009/10

The Director of Transformation presented the report. Members were advised that the global recession had a significant impact on the Council's current corporate plan. Progress overall had been reasonably good with planning services continuing to improve and a slight improvement with voids. The corporate plan for 2010/12 would need to take account of the current economic climate to support people through the recession. The financial restraints for next year were unknown until these had been set by government.

The Executive noted that Scrutiny Committee had considered the report on 12 November 2009 and raised some issues about energy ratings in council homes.

RESOLVED to note the content of the report and the proposed actions contained within it.

3. NORWICH AREA TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION PLAN CONSULTATION

The Transportation Manager presented the report and answered questions.

Councillor Stephenson said that not all members supported the Northern Distributor Road (NDR). The Chair pointed out however that only one member had voted against the NDR at Council. He said without growth and funds from the NDR the economic well being of the city would be at risk.

Members discussed the need to develop cycling routes in the city as the cycling infrastructure was very disjointed.

RESOLVED to –

- (1) support the Norwich Area Transportation Strategy Implementation Plan (NATS IP) in principle with the following specific comments on the details contained in the plan –
 - (a) **City Centre.** The measures proposed for the city centre were welcomed but it was requested that the following issues / additions were included in the plan:
 - (i) Access to disabled parking spaces
 - (ii) Access for coaches, including drop off / collection facilities
 - (iii) The minimization of the impact of vehicles in Tombland
 - (iv) The closure of St Peters Street
 - (v) The closure of Little Bethel Street
 - (vi) A stated aim that all schemes would be developed with a sympathetic regard to streetscape, based on the adopted Streetscape Design Manual.
 - (vii) Mitigation measures for the residential areas surrounding the city centre, as necessary.
 - (b) **Walking and Cycling.** The standardisation of pedestrianisation times in the city centre and the provision of contra-flow cycling were fully supported but the following additions were requested:
 - (i) The development of orbital cycle routes
 - (ii) The inclusion of pedestrian facilities at all signalled junctions
 - (c) **Bus Rapid Transit.** The principles of BRT were strongly supported and the opportunity to be involved in the development of the proposals was welcomed. It was requested that the following issues were considered as part of that the development:
 - (i) The needs of cyclists
 - (ii) The opportunity for green infrastructure improvements
 - (d) **Bus and Rail.** The proposals for rail improvement were fully supported. Whilst recognising commercial considerations it would be desirable if possible to extend the operational times of park and ride.
 - (e) **Northern Distributor Road (NDR).** The council reaffirms its support for the NDR but requested that those measures in the NATS IP that can be implemented ahead of the NDR are not delayed.
 - (f) **Improving Traffic Flows.** While the need to do this was recognised, it should not be at the expense of other modes. The opportunity to be involved in the County wide deployment of the civil parking enforcement scheme was welcomed. It was requested

that consideration be given to the streetscape impact of variable message signs

- (2) ask Norfolk County Council to work closely with the City Council to implement the measures within the city.

4. RESPONSE TO THE EAST OF ENGLAND PLAN 2031 CONSULTATION

The Head of Planning Services presented the report and explained the response to the consultation had been endorsed by the Local Development Framework Working Party at their meeting on 23 November 2009.

RESOLVED to -

- (1) note the Greater Norwich Development Partnership's response to the consultation in Appendix 2 of the report;
- (2) endorse the City Council's response to the consultation (Appendix 1 to this report).

5. PROPOSED NORWICH INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON CLIMATE CHANGE (NICCC)

The Director of Transformation presented the report and informed members that Sue Falch-Lovesey, Head of Environment and Outdoor Learning had been added to the membership of the Board at Holt.

In response to questions from Councillors Stephenson and Wright the Chair said the proposed board would comprise of a broad spread of people representing different sectors and involving more of the City, rather than just being a City Council matter. The purpose was to consider what the City should do about climate change, and translate this into a language people can understand.

The Director of Transformation said this would help to refresh the new Environmental Strategy and would complement the work already undertaken by the Environmental Strategy Manager.

RESOLVED to agree the establishment of the Norwich Independent Commission on Climate Change (NICCC) and proposed initial membership.

6. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of Item 7 below on the grounds contained in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

***7. CNC BUILDING CONTROL PARTNERSHIP (PARAGRAPH 3)**

The Deputy Chief Executive presented the report and confirmed that the figure in the report was a maximum. The Head of Legal, Regulatory and Democratic Services said that a report would be brought back to Executive on the status of CNC Consultancy Services. The Council had pledged funding to the consultancy of which

£17,000 remained to be paid if required. Cashflow would however be eased by a decision to phase recharge payments to CNC Building Control Partnership.

RESOLVED to –

- (1) approve an additional payment to CNC Building Control Partnership in 2009/10 to fund the costs of Voluntary Early Retirements required to achieve the change needed to meet the current challenges;
- (2) note the position regarding CNC Consultancy Services.

CHAIR