



CABINET

5.30 pm to 18:10 pm

13 NOVEMBER 2013

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

Also present: Councillor Stephenson

1. APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Bremner.

2. PUBLIC QUESTIONS / PETITIONS

There were no public questions or petitions.

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 9 October 2013.

5. ECONOMIC STRATEGY 2013-2018- KEY DECISION

Councillor Arthur, leader of the council, presented the report, noting a discrepancy between the salaries of men and women. She said that an annual action plan would be published.

In response to a member's question, the economic development manager explained that there was no specific reference to low carbon jobs as the environmental impact of employment was seen as a cross-cutting theme across the entire strategy. The aim was to assist all businesses to work in a more ecologically sound way, engaging them in the process of reducing their own carbon footprint.

The economic development manager went to explain that a responsive skills system would be delivered via the city deal to respond quickly to the changing face of the types of jobs the city would see in the future. She said this could prove a good opportunity to make the case to businesses for paying a living wage as it makes both economic and social sense.

RESOLVED to:-

- 1) approve the economic strategy (including the action plan for the remainder of 2013/14); and
- 2) note that an annual review of the action plan will be published, and the plan updated on an annual basis drawing on actions in service plans as informed by the economic strategy and using previous year performance to benchmark and inform future delivery.

6. IMPROVEMENT AND EFFICIENCY SOCIAL ENTERPRISE (IESE)

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

RESOLVED to:-

- 1) approve in principle that the council become a member of IESE and to delegate authority to the executive head of strategy, people and democracy to progress an application for membership in liaison with the leader of the council; and
- 2) designate that the leader of the council and the executive head of strategy, people and democracy be appointed the council's member and officer representatives to IESE.

7. GROWTH BOARD FOR THE GREATER NORWICH AREA – KEY DECISION

Councillor Arthur, leader of the council, presented the report, saying that democratic accountability sat at the heart of what was being proposed.

The deputy chief executive said that one of the aims of the new growth board would be to co-ordinate a consensus view on issues that crossed boundaries, making the board as open and transparent as possible.

RESOLVED to:-

- 1) approve the dissolution of the Greater Norwich Development Partnership;
- 2) approve the establishment of a growth board for the greater Norwich area;

- 3) note the recommendations from the scrutiny committee meeting held on 24 October 2013 and to have regard to these observations in the preparation of the governance and constitutional arrangements for the growth board; and
- 4) note that the detail of governance and constitutional arrangements for the growth board will be the subject of further discussion between the partners and that the outcome will be presented to a future meeting of cabinet for approval.

8. CONSTITUTION REVIEW

Councillor Waters, deputy leader, presented the report, explaining that the motions had been accepted by the constitution working party.

In response to a member's question, the democratic services manager clarified that during cabinet meetings members would be able to ask supplementary questions should the need arise.

RESOLVED to:-

recommend that council make the following changes to council's constitution:

- 1) to adopt the financial regulations, as set out in appendix A to the report;
- 2) to revise the procedure rules in relation to:
 - a) **Questions by the public** -
 - to remove the ability of the public to ask questions at the regulatory committees as there are already procedures for allowing the public to make representations and address the committees
 - to move the deadline for submission of questions to council or committee to three working days before the meeting.
 - b) **Questions by Members** -
 - to enable members to ask questions at cabinet meetings and include the principle that questions to cabinet/council should only be asked as a last resort;
 - to remove the ability to ask questions at regulatory committees for the same reasons as for the public.
 - c) **Appointment of substitute members**
 - to enable groups to nominate any number of members who have undertaken the appropriate training as substitutes for the regulatory committees.

d) **Motions to council**

- to accept motions only if the name of both the mover and seconder is provided.
- 3) to amend appendix 7 (access to information rules) to reflect the changes to legislation and confirm that a key decision in relation to financial decisions, whether relating to expenditure or savings, is defined as being over the OJEU Public Procurement Directive threshold.

9. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2013-14 : PERIOD 6

Councillor Waters, deputy leader, presented the report.

In response to a member's question, the LGSS head of finance explained that the forecast variance was calculated from systems run in the revenues and benefits department and that forecasts can change rapidly. She added that it was the point in the year where the council tax base was being set.

RESOLVED to note the financial position as at 30 September 2013 and the forecast outturn 2013-14.

10. CAPITAL PROGRAMME MONITORING 2013-14 : Q2

Councillor Waters, deputy leader, presented the report.

In response to a member's question, it was explained that under-spend within the area of solar thermal and photo voltaic technology was as a result of consultation that was taking place with the housing department to consider the best time at which to invest in these technologies. It was said that costs are currently dropping and technology efficiency is increasing. It was felt prudent to invest at a time when technology is higher and costs are lower. It was also confirmed that the money for this area would roll forward and would not be lost as a result of the under-spend.

RESOLVED to:-

- 1) note the current and forecast financial position on the housing and non-housing capital programmes and the risk management arrangements;
- 2) approve the proposed capital virements set out in paragraphs 10 and 21 of the report; and
- 3) recommend to council the inclusion of £121,000 in respect of works at Millar Hall in the capital plan and capital programme 2013/14.

11. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the items *12 to *14 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 Waters, deputy leader, presented the report.

RESOLVED to approve the disposal of an area of land in the housing revenue account at Jolly Gardeners Court to the rear of 126/128 Waterloo Road.

***13. MANAGING ASSETS (HOUSING)**

Councillor Waters, deputy leader, presented the report.

RESOLVED to approve the purchase - under the mortgage rescue scheme - of the dwelling highlighted in the report.

***14. MANAGING ASSETS (HOUSING)**

Councillor Waters, deputy leader, presented the report.

RESOLVED to:-

- 1) dispose of the freehold interest in the asset on the open market; the method of disposal being delegated to the Head of City Development Services; and
- 2) approve that the capital receipt from the disposal be reinvested in the housing capital programme.

CHAIR