



CABINET

5:30 pm to 6:55 pm

26 March 2014

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

Also present: Councillors Neale and Wright

1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies for absence.

2. PUBLIC QUESTIONS / PETITIONS

There were no public questions or petitions.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Arthur declared an interest in item 15.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2014.

5. NEXT STEPS ON FINANCIAL INCLUSION

Councillor Waters, deputy leader of the council and portfolio holder for resources, presented the report, adding that it was wide-ranging and touched on all aspects of city council work.

Members said that it was important to engage young people (24-35) in the process via consultation on the corporate plan.

RESOLVED to agree the proposed expanding and renaming of the current *Financial inclusion action plan* for 2014-15 into a *Reducing inequalities and promoting wellbeing plan*.

6. THE NIGHT TIME ECONOMY

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

In response to a member's question he explained that the suggestion of hiring portable toilet facilities on a regular basis was too expensive to be viable, but that new toilets in the soon to be built Rose Lane car park would go some way toward to eliminating the use of doorways and alleyways as makeshift toilets. It was stressed that this new car park was to be just on the edge of the night-time economy area and thus easily accessible for those leaving bars and clubs.

He added that the full package of road closures, increased policing presence etc. was designed to be mutually supportive.

RESOLVED to approve:-

1. the action plan; and
2. the implementation and support of the top 12 measures to mitigate the impacts of the night time economy in the city centre on residents, businesses and visitors.

7. NPS NORWICH BUSINESS PLAN: 2014/15 – KEY DECISION

Councillor Waters, deputy leader of the council and portfolio holder for resources, presented the report.

RESOLVED to agree the 2014-15 NPS Norwich Ltd business plan.

8. HERITAGE INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Councillor Waters, deputy leader of the council and portfolio holder for resources, presented the report.

The executive head of communications, customers and culture clarified that the city council owns a small part of the Wensum Lodge complex – the music house – which is leased to the county council.

RESOLVED to approve the *Heritage investment strategy*

9. DISCRETIONARY BUSINESS RATE RELIEF POLICIES: RETAIL RELIEF AND NEW BUILD EMPTY PROPERTY RELIEF – KEY DECISION

Councillor Waters, deputy leader of the council and portfolio holder for resources, presented the report.

RESOLVED to:-

1. approve the new build property relief policy;
2. approve the retail rate relief policy; and,
3. delegate to the executive head of business relationship management - in consultation with the portfolio holder for resources - authority to make minor amendments to the policy to ensure its continued effectiveness.

10. DISCRETIONARY BUSINESS RATE RELIEF POLICY (EXCLUDING MANDATORY AND NOT FOR PROFIT) – KEY DECISION

Councillor Waters, deputy leader of the council and portfolio holder for resources, presented the report.

RESOLVED to:-

1. approve the policy; and,
2. delegate to the executive head of business relationship management in consultation with the deputy leader and resources portfolio holder authority to make minor amendments to the policy to ensure its continued effectiveness.

11. QUARTER 3 2013-14 PERFORMANCE REPORT

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

RESOLVED to accept the quarter 3 2013-14 performance report.

12. ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT

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

RESOLVED to note the *Annual environmental statement 2012-13*

13. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2013-14 P10

Councillor Waters, deputy leader of the council and portfolio holder for resources, presented the report.

RESOLVED to:-

1. note the financial position as at 31 January 2014 and the forecast outturn 2013-14;
2. approve the use of housing revenue account balances as set out in paragraph 13; and,
3. approve the capital virements set out in paragraph 34.

14. CORPORATE RISK REGISTER

Councillor Waters, deputy leader of the council and portfolio holder for resources, presented the report.

RESOLVED to:-

1. note the corporate risks and the key controls in place and actions planned to mitigate the risks
2. approve the council's corporate risk register

Councillor Arthur, leader of the council, left the room at this point, having declared an interest in the following item. The role of chair was adopted by Councillor Waters, vice chair.

15. REVIEW OF PARTNERSHIPS, BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS AND GRANTS

Councillor Waters, deputy leader of the council and portfolio holder for resources, presented the report.

RESOLVED to endorse the partnerships and business relationship registers and agree the specific grants to be awarded for 2014-15.

Councillor Arthur returned to the room at this point and resumed the role of chair.

**16. AWARD OF TWO CONTRACTS TO ADVISE ON STRUCTURAL REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO COUNCIL HOUSING PROPERTIES – KEY DECISION
PLACEMENT OF INSURANCE CONTRACTS – KEY DECISION**

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

RESOLVED to:-

1. award a contract for housing responsive structural advice to NPS Norwich Ltd for the remainder of the joint venture (until February 2022); and,
2. extend for two years for the current contract for housing planned structural advice to Alan Conisbee and Associates Ltd.

17. PLACEMENT OF INSURANCE CONTRACTS – KEY DECISION

Councillor Waters, deputy leader of the council and portfolio holder for resources, presented the report.

RESOLVED to:-

1. approve the renewal of the council's insurance arrangements; and,
2. delegate authority to the chief finance officer and executive head of business relationship management - in consultation with the portfolio holder for resources - to award the contracts following final negotiations upon terms.

18. NORWICH NORTHERN DISTRIBUTOR ROAD – PROCESS FOR RESPONDING TO CONSULTATION ON THE NATIONALLY SIGNIFICANT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS (NSIP) APPLICATION – KEY DECISION

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

RESOLVED to delegate authority to the deputy chief executive (operations), in consultation with the portfolio holder for environment, development and transport, to:-

1. prepare the Statement of Common Ground (SOCG), the Local Impact Report (LIR) and other necessary documentation and evidence to be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate in relation to the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIP) application for the Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NDR); and,
2. produce these as joint statements with other local authorities (likely to be Broadland District Council and South Norfolk District Council).

19. PUSH THE PEDALWAYS - APPROPRIATION OF HOUSING LAND AROUND HEATHGATE FOR A NEW CYCLING AND WALKING ROUTE

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

RESOLVED to delegate to the deputy chief executive (operations) the decision, in accordance with section 122 of the Local Government Act 1972, to identify council land at Heathgate, Norwich needed for the construction of a path for cycling and walking as defined in section 226 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

20. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the items * 21 to *23 below on the grounds contained in the relevant paragraphs of schedule 12a of the local government act 1972 (as amended).

***21. MANAGING ASSETS (GENERAL FUND) (PARA 3)**

Councillor Waters, deputy leader of the council and portfolio holder for resources, presented the report.

RESOLVED to approve the acquisition of small pieces of land into the general fund account.

***22. DISPOSAL OF HRA LAND (PARA 3)**

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

RESOLVED to approve the freehold disposal of an area of HRA land to the two adjacent land owners.

***23. MANAGING ASSETS (HOUSING) (PARA 3)**

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

RESOLVED to approve disposal of the freehold interest at the council owned property detailed in the report.

CHAIR