



NORWICH
City Council

MINUTES

NORWICH HIGHWAYS AGENCY COMMITTEE

10.00 a.m. – 10.35 a.m.

26 June 2008

Present:	County Councillors:	City Councillors:
	Adams (Chair) (V)	Morrey (Vice-Chair) (
	Shaw	Read (V)
	Ward	Bremner
		Lubbock

*(V) – Voting Member

Apologies: County Councillors Gunson (V) and Scutter (on other Council business), and City Councillor George

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 22 May 2008.

2. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NORWICH CITY AGENCY 2007/2008

The City Agency Manager, Norfolk County Council, presented the report and, together with the Head of Programme Management, Norfolk County Council, and the Head of Transportation and Landscape, Norwich City Council, answered members' questions.

During discussion members raised concerns about the state of unclassified roads and footways of Norwich being in a poorer state than those in the rest of the County. Members were advised that resources were targeted between the County and City on an even basis to the places most in need but there were practical constraints if a lot of works were required in one area. In response to a suggestion that footways outside the City Centre were also busy and should be monitored, members were advised that the roads and footways were inspected on average 4 times a year and that there was also a significant programme of works to footways in more suburban areas of the City. The table in paragraph 37 of the report showed the national indicators which gave an indication on the state of the roads and that there was a trend to improvement.

Councillor Bremner considered that too often vegetation and overhanging street trees encroached the highway and cycle paths. Members noted that part of the problem was that in the past inappropriate street trees had been planted and this led

to increased maintenance. Members were advised that the authorities had the power to require landlords to cut back branches that overhung the highway.

Councillor Lubbock said that she was pleased that accident statistics were on a downward trend and said that she considered that the introduction of 20mph speed limits in residential areas would further reduce the number of accidents.

In response to a question, the City Agency Manager said that technology had been developed to use brine sprayers on carriageways as well as footways. Such a approach had many advantages (hence its use on City foot streets) but was presently more expensive than more traditional methods...

RESOLVED to approve the Annual Report and note its key messages, as set out in Appendix 1 of the report.

3. NORFOLK AUDIT SERVICES AND NORWICH CITY COUNCIL AUDIT AND CONSULTANCY SERVICES – JOINT ANNUAL REPORT 2007/2008 ON THE NORWICH HIGHWAYS AGENCY JOINT COMMITTEE

The Chief Internal Auditor, Norfolk County Council, thanked the City Council officers who had co-operated in preparing the report.

RESOLVED to note:-

- (1) the Internal Audit Annual Report for 2007-08 and the key message :

Based on an analysis of the audit work carried out and reports issued, Internal Audit can assure Committee that, the adequacy and effectiveness of internal control and risk management during 2007-08 was acceptable.

- (2) that the systems of internal audit are adequate and effective during 2007-08 for the purpose of the latest regulations;
- (3) the content of the 2008-09 audit plan from the Internal Audit Annual Report;
- (4) that internal audit work continues to evolve to cover all areas of risk as well as traditional financial audit. Audit planning is partly based upon risk assessments and therefore internal audit is auditing higher risk areas.

4. ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2007/2008

The Chief Internal Auditor, Norfolk County Council, thanked the City Council officers who had co-operated in preparing the report.

RESOLVED to note:-

- (1) the requirements for an annual governance statement (as contained in the report) and support the annual review;

- (2) that the City Council's Code of Corporate Governance is being reviewed and will be considered adequate;
- (3) that Chief Officers recognise the 'corporate ownership' of its governance requirements.

(The Chair and Vice-Chair then signed the Annual Governance Statement 2007/2008.)

5. 2007-2008 FINAL ACCOUNTS

The Corporate Revenue Manager, Norfolk County Council, said that the Audit Commission had been unable to audit the Joint Committee's accounts for 2006/2007, due to a change in the regulations. Therefore, it was expected that the external audit report of the Audit Commission for these accounts and the accounts for 2007/2008 would be considered at the January meeting of this Committee.

RESOLVED to approve the Norwich Highways Agency Joint Committee's Statement of Accounts 2007/2008.

(The Chair then signed the Certification of Committee Resolution.)

CHAIR