



Cabinet

17:35 to 18:20

14 June 2023

Present: Councillors Stonard (chair), Jones (vice chair), Giles, Hampton, Kenrick and Oliver.

Also present: Councillor Galvin, Green group leader

1. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Public questions/ petitions

There were no public questions or petitions.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 8 March 2023.

4. Greater Norwich Local Plan: Proposed examination submission on the requirement for Gypsy and Traveller pitches and allocation of sites for Gypsy and Traveller pitches

Councillor Stonard, leader of the council and cabinet member for inclusive and sustainable development introduced the item and referred to the additional paper amending the report which had been circulated. He advised that the plan had to be agreed over the Greater Norwich Area and the amendments had been agreed by the other constituting bodies being Broadland and South Norfolk District Councils. The plan met the requirements for the allocation of Gypsy and Traveller pitches and did not discriminate against those in the community who were no longer able to travel.

The Executive director of development and city services advised that most amendments demonstrated how comments from the consultation had been incorporated or were minor technical changes. The only substantive amendment was to recommendation 5 with the word 'additional' to be added before the word 'focussed'. He advised that the amended report had been considered at Sustainable Development Panel at its meeting on 13 June 2023 and recommended for approval to cabinet.

If members agreed the recommendations then the next stage would be to submit the plan to the Planning Inspectorate. At this stage those that were aggrieved with the approach would have an opportunity to challenge the validity of the process with the inspectors.

RESOLVED to agree:

To submit to the Independent Inspectors of the Greater Norwich Local Plan that:

- 1) the Greater Norwich Local Plan should include a minimum requirement of 52 Gypsy and Traveller pitches to meet the full ethnic need for Gypsy and Traveller accommodation from 2022 to 2038.
- 2) in order to ensure the minimum requirement for Gypsy and Traveller pitches between 2022 and 2032 is met, that the Greater Norwich Local Plan should allocate 45 Gypsy and Traveller pitches comprising:
 - a) 35 deliverable pitches from 2022 to 2027 through the allocation of the sites in Stratton Strawless, Carleton Rode, Foulsham, Wymondham and Cawston
 - and,
 - b) 10 developable pitches from 2028 to 2032 at Ketteringham Depot
- 3) the analysis of historic windfall demonstrates that at least a further 12 windfall pitches can reasonably be expected to meet unmet needs to 2038; and
- 4) the proposed main and additional modifications to the plan set out in appendix 1 which provide the policy changes to enable recommendations 1 and 2 should be considered through the plan's examination;
and;
- 5) Delegate authority to the Executive director of development and city services in consultation with the Leader to agree further modifications as may be necessary, which may include proposals to allocate one or more of the additional focused consultation sites, to ensure the Greater Norwich Local Plan is found sound through its examination.

5. Scrutiny Committee Recommendations

Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for resources introduced the report.

Councillor Hampton, cabinet member for climate change, addressed the recommendations regarding green financing within the report. She expressed that the scrutiny meeting on green financing had been very interesting with an engaging presentation from the Green Finance Institute (GFI). She emphasised that this was an area that the council wanted to progress but noted that it was resource intensive. She proposed that the recommendations be referred to the Climate and Environment Emergency Executive Panel (CEEPP) for consideration as part of the council's Environmental Action Plan.

Council Galvin referred to the work scrutiny committee had undertaken on the welcoming asylum seekers and refugees to Norwich item. She noted that there was

an aspiration for the city council to become a Council of Sanctuary as well as Norwich being a City of Sanctuary and asked how this work was progressing.

Councillor Giles, cabinet member for communities and social inclusion advised that this had moved into his portfolio and he would be following up on this work.

Councillor Stonard, leader of the council and cabinet member for inclusive and sustainable development was pleased to acknowledge there was consensus across the council that Norwich wanted to be a welcoming city and that the city had a proud history of being welcoming.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) refer the scrutiny committee's recommendations on green financing to the Climate and Environment Emergency Executive Panel (CEEEP) for consideration as part of the council's environmental action plan; and
- 2) note the work regarding welcoming refugees and asylum seekers to Norwich.

6. Provisional Budget Outturn 2022/23

Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for resources presented the report. He noted that the report showed the provisional outturn position for 2022-23 as reflected in the draft Statement of Accounts published on 31 May 2023. However, the final position was subject to audit examination which would take place later in the year.

Councillor Giles, cabinet member for communities and social inclusion, highlighted a number of successes within his portfolio as detailed in the report. The Norwich Fringe Project had achieved a higher net income than predicted by managing sites in other authority areas and generating income. Similarly, income for allotments was above that predicted and a number of capital projects had been delivered within parks and open spaces.

Councillor Galvin noted that was a higher level of income than predicted achieved from off street parking. She highlighted that the city council had made a case to the county council as part of Transport for Norwich (TfN) Strategy to move away from car use to public and active travel and had committed to reducing space for off street parking. She asked for confirmation that this was still the direction of travel and asked when the strategy would be in place.

Councillor Stonard, leader of the council and cabinet member for inclusive and sustainable development said that the increase was in part due to the ability to take cashless payments for parking. He confirmed that the city council would be working with the new administration at the county council. He emphasised that the city council had a bold ambition for transport but that there had been a change of members on the TfN board and these conversations would have to be revisited afresh.

The Executive director of development and city services noted that parking fees had increased within the last financial year and this was reflected in the increased income. The charges were increased in line with the TfN objectives in that they

sought to discourage long stay visitors from travelling by private car. He emphasised that it took time to change patterns of behaviours such as moving away from car use.

The Executive director of development and city services advised that there was a cap on the number of parking spaces the city council held within the city and that the figure was currently beneath the cap. He noted that if developments such as those at Anglia Square went forward, the number of parking spaces would be decreased further. He highlighted that the housing development pipeline was considering a number of developments on surface car parks as allocated within the Local Plan.

RESOLVED:

- 1) To note the provisional financial outturn for 2022/23 for the General Fund, HRA and the council's overall capital programme;
- 2) To note the consequential General Fund and HRA balances;
- 3) To note the transfers to earmarked reserves;
- 4) To note budget virements approved during quarter 4;
- 5) To approve an adjustment to the 2023/24 General Fund capital programme to enable external funding received in 2022/23 to be utilised for projects; and
- 6) To delegate to the chief finance officer, in consultation with the cabinet member for resources, the approval of carry-forwards of unspent 2022/23 capital budgets into the 2023/24 capital programme.

7. An update on Health, Safety and Compliance in Council Homes and Buildings

(The chair referred to the supplementary agenda which had been circulated).

Councillor Jones, deputy leader and cabinet member for housing and community safety, presented the report. She noted that it was reassuring to see the progress which had been made, in particular she highlighted that where targets were behind, extra resource had been brought in to counter the issue. There had been tight oversight over the programme and it was moving towards completion.

Councillor Galvin noted that within the report it was highlighted as a risk that there was a great reliance on interim expertise and that it would be challenging to fill these roles permanently. This was acknowledged within the project's risk register and mitigated for in the medium term but asked how would this be addressed in the long term.

The Interim head of asset management concurred there was a risk and advised that upskilling of existing staff had been ongoing over the last 12 months. There was a plan to go out to recruit to posts permanently in place but there was a national shortage of trained compliance staff.

The Chief executive officer advised that the roles would be going out to be recruited to over the next few months, and would emphasis what a great place to work Norwich was. There was also an option to extend interim roles if required.

RESOLVED to note the update on Health, Safety and Compliance in Council Homes and Buildings.

8. Award of contract for Idox services to support digitalisation of the Planning and Regulatory Service

(The chair referred to the supplementary agenda which had been circulated).

Councillor Jones, deputy leader and cabinet member for housing and community safety, presented the report. She expressed that it was exciting to be bringing up to date the system which supported regulatory services as these were the services which impacted upon the safety of residents. It was vital to have the infrastructure in place to improve the customer experience, support the development of the team and maximise the use of staff time.

Councillor Galvin asked if sustainability factors were considered as part of the tendering process. The head of planning and regulatory services advised the contract was tendered using a procurement process and would send information to Councillor Galvin on sustainability factors.

RESOLVED to agree to enter a contract with Idox for the software enhancements and additions as set out in the report.

9. Wide Area Network Contract

Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for resources introduced the report.

The Head of customers, IT and digital advised that the Wide Area Network (WAN) contract was fundamental infrastructure essential. The contract had been provided by Capita for the last eight years and there had been no downtime over the last two years. Therefore, it was recommended to enter into a new contract with Capita.

Councillor Galvin asked if sustainability factors were considered as part of the tendering process. The head of legal and procurement replied that the contract was awarded as part of a framework agreement and different frameworks gave different emphasis to sustainability and social value but it was an important element of awarding the contract.

RESOLVED to agree to enter a contract with Capita IT Services Ltd (Capita) to supply the WAN services.

10. Managing assets (non-housing)

Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for resources presented the report. The report recommended the disposal of two assets, The Brook Hotel and 67 Ridder Haggard. With no member indicating they wished to discuss the exempt appendix it was:

RESOLVED to approve the disposal of the assets outlined in the report.

***11. Managing assets (non-housing) – exempt appendix**

This item was noted under item 10 above.

CHAIR