

Norwich City Council – Decisions Notice – Public Decisions
Cabinet Meeting – 12 November 2025

The following decisions were taken by Cabinet in open session. These decisions will come into effect on Monday 17 November 2025 at 17:00 unless the call-in procedure is activated. For Clarity, where an item is “to be noted”, “received” or recommended to Council for decision, this is deemed not to be a formal Executive decision and so the call-in provisions will not apply.

The agenda, reports and background papers have been published and can be found on E-Councillor and the Councils Website.

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Public Decisions

Item 6.

Corporate Performance Report 2025-2026- Quarter 2

It was RESOLVED:

That Cabinet reviewed the progress of the We are Norwich community-led plan and key performance indicators for Quarter 2 2025-2026.

Purpose:

To provide an update on the progress of the We are Norwich community-led plan and report on the key performance indicators for quarter two of 2025-2026.

Reason for Decision:

It is recommended that Cabinet review progress on the We are Norwich community-led plan and key performance indicators for this quarter.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None considered.

Declarations of Interest: None

Dispensations Granted: None

Item 7.

2025-2026 Quarter 2 – Budget Monitoring Report

It was RESOLVED:

That Cabinet:

- 1) Noted the forecast £56k overspend on the General Fund revenue account and the £1,038k underspend on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA);
- 2) Noted the forecast £552k underspend against the General Fund and the £1,184k underspend against the HRA capital programmes;
- 3) Noted the re-profiling of capital budgets as approved under delegation by the Director of finance, resulting in the revised capital programme set out in Appendix 1 of the report;
- 4) Noted the virement of budget within the 2025-2026 General Fund capital programme as set out in Appendix 2 of the report;
- 5) Noted the current position of the General Fund and HRA earmarked reserves as set out in Appendix 3 of the report;
- 6) Approved the addition of £1,984k of General Fund budgets and £4,380k of HRA budgets to the 2025-2026 General Fund and HRA capital programmes, funded wholly by external or ringfenced resources, as set out in Appendix 2 of the report;

7) Recommended to Council, the addition of £131k of General Fund budgets to the 2025-2026 General Fund capital programmes as set out in Appendix 2 of the report;

8) Recommended to Council, the removal of £14,612k of General Fund budgets and £280k of HRA budgets from the 2025-2026 General Fund and HRA capital programmes as set out in Appendix 2 of the report.

Purpose:

This report sets out the Council's overall financial position based on budget managers' outturn forecasts as at the end of September 2025 (quarter 2). The report covers the council's General Fund and Housing Revenue Account (HRA) resources and includes information in relation to both its revenue and capital position.

Reason for Decision:

It is important for the Cabinet to understand the council's financial performance and to highlight corrective actions where significant variances are apparent.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

As the report is primarily for information no other options have been considered.

Declarations of Interest: None

Dispensations Granted: None

Item 8.

Norwich Airport Surface Access Strategy

It was RESOLVED:

That the Airport Surface Access Strategy was deferred for consideration until the December 2025 meeting of Cabinet.

Declarations of Interest: None

Dispensations Granted: None

Item 9.

Norwich City Hall Reimagined

It was RESOLVED:

That Cabinet

- 1) Endorsed the Concept Designs for City Hall as outlined in the Exempt Appendix of the report.
- 2) Agreed to progress to the next stage of development of proposals for the main building and submission of listed building consent.
- 3) Agreed for the use of up to £1m to progress to the next stage of development and submission of a listed building consent application, funded from the Commercial Property earmarked reserve, subject to confirmation from the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer) of the optimum way to fund these costs.
- 4) Delegates the award of a contract for a professional team to provide the necessary support, capacity and capability needed to deliver a listed building consent to the Executive Director of major projects in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Major Projects.

Purpose:

To provide an overview of the significant progress made in establishing a concept design and outline business case for City Hall. Also to approve the funding and appointment of a professional team to progress proposals on the main building through to listed building consent. As outlined in this report and the associated appendices, there is a significant opportunity to deliver a solution for the building and put the foundations in place for the reimagining of City Hall. This is supported by extensive consultation, market testing and benchmarking. The building is currently underutilised, requires investment to preserve its heritage and it is a liability currently costing a significant amount to run each year. However, it also has potential to deliver high quality office accommodation and generate a greater social and economic return to the City as well as generating income to support council services. There are significant risks with a do-nothing approach, this doesn't deliver a solution for the building to any new authority post local government re-organisation and could risk the building becoming redundant without a future viable use. Progressing the project to gain listed building consent will deliver a clear implementable plan for the building which delivers modern high quality office space whilst preserving and enhancing the buildings fabric. This will provide the best possibility for the building to continue in a future viable use and deliver wider enhanced benefits to residents and businesses in Norwich

Reason for Decision:

Norwich City Hall is a landmark building with rich heritage and civic importance. The council has developed concept designs to refurbish the building and explore a new extension at the rear. These proposals aim to modernise City Hall, improve public access, support community use, and unlock economic potential.

The preferred option is a comprehensive refurbishment, with flexible design to accommodate future changes such as Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). The next step is to progress to RIBA Stage 3, which includes detailed surveys, refined designs, and preparation for planning and listed building consent. This will make the project “shovel-ready” and able to secure funding quickly when opportunities arise.

Up to £1m is needed to fund this next phase. Around £1 million has already been invested, consistent with similar projects across the UK.

Securing listed building consent is a key milestone. It reduces risk, confirms what changes are acceptable, and ensures Norwich is ready to deliver improvements that reflect community priorities, protect heritage, and support the city’s future.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

A range of options have been carefully reviewed, as outlined earlier in this report and in the accompanying Outline Business Case. The option to “do nothing” has been ruled out. It would not help achieve the council’s long-term goals for the city, support its transformation into a modern and efficient organisation, or ensure that City Hall remains a valuable and sustainable asset for the future

The report also explores whether to move forward now with developing the rear extension of City Hall. This part of the project is being considered separately due to its complexity and the need for further planning and consultation.

Declarations of Interest: None

Dispensations Granted: None

Item 10.

Corporate Risk Register 2025/2026 – Quarter 2

It was RESOLVED:

That Cabinet noted the identified risks and the direction of travel.

Purpose:

This report provides an update to the council's corporate risk register based on the position for quarter two (September 2025).

Reason for Decision:

It is important for the Cabinet to understand the risks that the council is exposed to and the mitigations in place to minimise those risks to acceptable levels.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

As the report is primarily for information no other options have been considered.

Declarations of Interest: None

Dispensations Granted: None

Items Considered in Closed Session – Public Version

The following decisions were taken by Cabinet in closed session and are exempt from publication. These decisions will come into effect on Monday 17 November 2025 at 17:00 unless the call-in procedure is activated. For Clarity, where an item is “to be noted”, “received” or recommended to Council for decision, this is deemed not to be a formal Executive decision and so the call-in provisions will not apply.

This decision is not for publication because it would disclose information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) as in Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

Item 12.

Managing Assets (Housing)

It was RESOLVED:

That Cabinet approved the disposal of the land identified in the report.

Purpose:

To consider the disposal of land identified in the report.

Reason for Decision:

This information is available to Councillors in the Exempt Report.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

These options are available to Councillor in the Exempt Report.

Declarations of Interest: None

Dispensations Granted: None

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