



COUNCIL

19:30 to 22:00

19 March 2019

Present: Councillors Schmierer (Lord Mayor), Ackroyd, Bradford, Brociek-Coulton, Button, Carlo, Davis, Driver, Fullman, Fulton-McAlister (E), Fulton-McAlister (M), Hampton, Harris, Huntley, Jones, Kendrick, Malik, Maguire, Maxwell, Packer, Peek, Price, Raby, Ryan, Sands (M), Sands (S), Smith, Stonard, Stewart, Stutely, Thomas (Va), Thomas (Vi), Waters and Wright

Apologies: Councillors Coleshill, Henderson, Lubbock, Manning and Trevor

1. Lord Mayor's Announcements

The Lord Mayor said that since the last council meeting he had attended the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service's annual awards evening. He had also attended concerts by the Academy of St Thomas orchestra and the Norwich Philharmonic. He had made a visit to the Magdalen project and said that it was an honour to be invited to these kinds of events as the Lord Mayor.

2. Retiring members

The Lord Mayor said that he understood that Councillors Bradford, Coleshill, Henderson, Raby and Trevor had indicated that they would be standing down from the council after the May elections. He invited group spokespersons, Councillors Waters, Carlo and Ackroyd to say a few words acknowledging the contribution of the outgoing councillors after which he presented the outgoing councillors present at the meeting with a badge in recognition of their service to the city council.

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillor Price declared an other interest in item 10 (b), Motion – Norfolk Pension Fund as his spouse was a member of the Norfolk Pension Fund.

Councillor Wright declared an other interest in item 10 (b), Motion – Norfolk Pension Fund as he had previously paid into the Norfolk Pension Fund.

Councillor Packer declared a pecuniary interest in item 10 (b), Motion – Norfolk Pension Fund as a current member of the Norfolk Pension Fund.

Councillor Waters declared an other interest in item 10 (b), Motion – Norfolk Pension Fund as his spouse was a member of the Norfolk Pension Fund.

Councillor Bradford declared an other interest in item 10 (b), Motion – Norfolk Pension Fund as a recipient of a pension from the Norfolk Pension Fund.

Councillor Maguire declared an other interest in item 10 (b), Motion – Norfolk Pension Fund as his partner was a member of the Norfolk Pension Fund.

Councillor Thomas (Vi) declared a pecuniary interest in item 10 (b), Motion – Norfolk Pension Fund as a current member of the Norfolk Pension Fund.

Councillor Thomas (Va) declared an other interest in item 10 (b), Motion – Norfolk Pension Fund as his spouse was a member of the Norfolk Pension Fund.

4. Public Questions/Petitions

The Lord Mayor said that three public questions had received.

(No notice had been received of any petitions.)

Question 1 – Working parking levy

Shereen Baban, on behalf of Matthew White, asked the cabinet member for sustainable and inclusive growth the following question:

“The Transport Act 2000 gave local authorities the power to charge a ‘workplace parking levy’ in order to discourage car use and improve public transport services. Councils can charge an annual fee per parking space for employers that have a specified minimum number of spaces. All of the money raised is ring-fenced, by law, for public transport expenditure: this could go towards reduced bus fares, new bus routes, a tram service, subsidised park-and-ride, etc. The levy therefore discourages private car use, while also making public transport alternatives more attractive.

So far in the UK, only Nottingham has imposed a Workplace Parking Levy, however many other councils are considering following suit: including Oxford, Cambridge and Glasgow. The Nottingham scheme has been hugely successful, raising over £50 million towards its public transport services since 2012, collecting over 99.9% of revenue, and operating at less than 5% of revenue. Since the imposition of the levy, Nottingham’s tram network has expanded, its railway station has been redeveloped, and there have been many improvements to its bus services.

According to the Birkett Index, which measures the impact of exposure to dangerous PM2.5 particles, 5% of all deaths in Norfolk are linked to air pollution: this is higher than England in general, where 4.7% of deaths are attributed to air pollution. Why should our citizens suffer more? Norwich citizens continue to breathe air that breaches legal air pollution limits.

On average people who drive to work are wealthier than those who use other transport modes. And air pollution disproportionately affects poorer areas more than wealthier areas. Air pollution is therefore a social justice issue, and a workplace parking levy is a progressive tool to encourage a faster shift to more sustainable transport modes for the benefit of all. Will the cabinet member agree with me that a workplace parking levy should be introduced in Norwich as soon as is practical?”

Councillor Stonard, cabinet member for sustainable and inclusive growth's response:

"It is interesting to note that local authorities have had the powers to implement a work place parking levy for many years yet Nottingham is the only authority to have done so. They were in a somewhat unique position that they already controlled the public transport in their area which meant using the work place levy to support investment was relatively straightforward. Public transport in the city is commercially operated which significantly complicates things.

Obviously any decision to implement a levy would be for the Norfolk County Council, as highway authority, to decide as it would need to apply across the greater Norwich area. If Norwich were to introduce one, but our neighbours in Broadland and South Norfolk did not, then businesses would simply haemorrhage out of the city and into the suburbs. As my predecessor said a decade ago, such a move would be suicide for the city.

Of course we all want to see improvements to air quality and a key aim of the Transforming cities initiative, which Norwich is proud to be one of the 12 cities that has been invited to be part of, will see £1.2billion invested in measures that will tackle this issues, alongside other issues such as access to employment and education and improving public health and social mobility. Lastly it is important to note that whereas road traffic contributes to fine particulate pollution (PM2.5) other sources are more significant; including domestic wood and coal burning, industrial combustion and use of solvents and other industrial processes. Clearly, therefore, action to tackle this type of pollution therefore requires action on a number of fronts and by a variety of agencies."

By way of a supplementary question, Ms Baban asked what specific plans did Norwich City Council have to get people out of their cars, to reduce pollution and carbon dioxide and to become carbon neutral. Councillor Stonard said that the council's record on improving air quality was second to none across the country and the council had recently won a national award in this area. Tens of millions of pounds had been invested in the pedalways across the city and steps had been taken to reduce traffic from the city and improve bus services. The council's target was to double cycling levels by 2030 and was already ahead of target on this with only half of the pedalways completed. There would be further investment through the Transforming Cities fund and Norwich City Council was one of only twelve cities with a right to bid for this. The council's target for reducing its carbon footprint was a reduction of 40% by 2019; a 59% reduction had been achieved by 2017 so the target was being exceeded.

Question 2 – Air pollution

Mr Deane Money asked the cabinet member for safe city environment the following question:

“We all have a right to breathe clean air. However across the UK illegal and, here in Norwich, sometimes harmful levels of air pollution are damaging people’s health and their quality of life. This was brought home starkly in the recent report by Professor Stephen Holgate (a leading expert on asthma and air pollution). Talking of the death of nine year old Ella Kissi-Debrah in February 2013, he stated that ‘there was a "striking association" between Ella's emergency hospital admissions and recorded spikes in nitrogen dioxide (NO2) and PM10 ... and that there was a "real prospect that without unlawful levels of air pollution, Ella would not have died”

Oxford City Council, together with Greenpeace UK, and Friends of the Earth, has drawn up a ‘Charter for Cleaner Air’ calling on the government to place the health of communities first. Southampton, Brighton and Hove, Cambridge, and Nottingham have also become signatories to the charter. Will Norwich City Council consider becoming a co-signatory to the charter?”

Councillor Maguire, cabinet member for safe city environment’s response:

Thank you for your timely question. Norwich City Council takes very seriously the quality of the air that our residents and visitors breathe. We are charged with a number of legal duties with regard to it and, as a leader for local change and as a partner with other statutory bodies, the City Council try to persuade and encourage actions which will improve the quality of the air breathed by all (and I mean all) who live in and visit Norwich.

We have a legal duty to review annually the quality of air in Norwich against 7 pollutants: these are specified in the national strategy along with action levels. Where we find exceedances of the levels, the council is required to declare an air quality management area (AQMA). We have declared 1 AQMA with the oxides of nitrogen being the most significant source of NO2 specifically with buses and taxis being the main contributor.

In order to guide further steps to improve air quality in the city, the council also produced an air quality action plan in 2015. This is due for review in 2020 but the current one identifies the following actions to reduce NO2.

- Castle Meadow as a low emission zone
- St Augustine’s road layout changes plus other road changes to Grapes Hill, St Stephens Street, Little Bethel Street, Chapelfield North/St Giles/Bethel Street area.
- Bus/rail interchange
- Bus partnerships in LEZ
- Bus only roads
- Improving bus Euro standards
- Investigating the use of Bio diesel
- Investigating the use of Bio gas

Road layout schemes are monitored by pre and post monitoring with recent examples of additional diffusion tube being sited Finklegate/Queens Road and

Magdalen Street/Edward Street in advance of the redevelopment of Anglia Square.

I am pleased to say that, overall, the NO₂ concentrations within the AQMA are falling (2018 annual status report to government) and overall levels are on a slow downward trend with no excursion of the NO₂ objective being measured outside of the AQMA and only on four occasions was there an exceedance of the 24 hour mean of 50 µg/m³. For the Norwich Lakenfields AURN monitoring site, there were only 5 exceedances of the 24-hour mean; the annual mean concentration for that site was 16µg/m³ (95% data capture). The council is working with partners within the Norfolk Environmental Protection Group's (NEPG) Air Quality sub-group to ensure regular two-way engagement with representatives of Public Health England and the Director of Public Health at Norfolk County Council.

The council has direct dialogue with officers of Norfolk County Council Highways Department as well as through the NEPG sub group, on any significant changes to road layout or traffic flow that may be proposed within the city. PM_{2.5} exposure will be considered alongside other pollutants as part of this dialogue.

We are doing all of these things in order to improve air quality but, as is clear from above, our duties are mainly to monitor and persuade: other statutory bodies take and enforce the proactive work that will result in better quality air in the city. I wish the city did have these powers – but we have not. For this reason, I believe that the principles listed in the Charter are an excellent step forward (For those wishing to find the charter, I provide the link in the published copy of this answer at the bottom of the published copy of this answer). We do want the government to invest in air quality generally and in Norwich in particular and so in summary, I can confirm that we will happily support and sign this charter and I will make the subsequent and necessary arrangements to pursue this. Thank you again for your question and attending this evening.”

https://www.oxford.gov.uk/info/20052/air_quality/1283/charter_for_cleaner_air

Mr Money did not have a supplementary question.

Question 3 – Speed restriction

Ms Lesley Grahame asked the leader of the council the following question:

“Residents of the Wolfe Road, Quebec Road, St Leonards Road area of Thorpe Hamlet, where two primary schools exist in a steep, densely residential area, have been requesting a 20 mph speed limit for a number of years. Cabinet members have previously said, in response to questions from Green Party councillors, that should funding become available for the Green Pedalway project, this money could be used to implement this speed reduction. Could the cabinet member give an update on when the long-awaited speed restriction will be implemented?”

Councillor Stonard, cabinet member for sustainable and inclusive growth's response:

"We remain committed to introduction of the 20mph restrictions in all residential areas of the city, and I am pleased to say that in the coming weeks such restrictions will be implemented on the ground across wide areas in the north east and south associated with the blue and yellow pedalways. As you say it is anticipated that the 20mph restriction in Thorpe Hamlet will be provided as part of the green pedalway. As yet there is no definite funding source for this but I am informed by the officers working on the business case for the main element of the Transforming cities fund that it is likely that the completion of the entire length green pedalway will be one of the schemes that is put forward to the Department for Transport for funding. This will be confirmed in the coming months.

You may have seen recently that the greater Norwich Region was awarded £6.1 million through the first tranche of transforming cities funding and £0.5M of that is allocated to providing pedestrian crossing facilities at the Dereham Road / Bowthorpe Road and Mile Cross Road / Heigham Street signalled junctions. As part of that scheme a 20mph restriction will be introduced in the residential area between those 2 junctions, including Hotblack Road, an area where the residents have campaigned for many years to see such a restriction. I think this demonstrates that we are determined to exploit every funding opportunity to realise the vision of 20mph areas across the city"

By way of a supplementary question, Ms Grahame said that residents were feeling ignored as their route to school was dangerous and there were instances of cars being clipped. She asked how areas were prioritised for pedalways work and how residents would be kept informed. Councillor Stonard said that the council was doing everything it could to roll out the pedalways. He understood the frustrations of residents across the city who wanted 20mph limits but the council could only do work where funding was available. Norwich was one of only seven cities to receive funding for the pedalways project so the city was fortunate to be attracting national grants for these projects. More information would be available alongside the next tranche of funding.

5. Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 26 February 2019

6. Questions to Cabinet Members/Committee Chairs

The Lord Mayor said that eleven questions had been received from members of the council to cabinet members/committee chairs for which notice had been given in accordance with the provisions of appendix 1 of the council's constitution.

Question 1 Councillor Carlo to the cabinet member for resources on action on motions to council.

Question 2 Councillor Price to the cabinet member for safe city environment on air quality outside schools.

- Question 3** Councillor Henderson to the cabinet member for sustainable and inclusive growth on biodiversity in new developments.
- Question 4** Councillor Raby to the cabinet member for sustainable and inclusive growth about electric vehicle rapid charging.
- Question 5** Councillor Ryan to the cabinet member for health and wellbeing on Norwich Market.
- Question 6** Councillor Maxwell to the cabinet member for safe city environment on homelessness.
- Question 7** Councillor Hampton to the deputy leader and cabinet member for social housing on the LetNCC scheme.
- Question 8** Councillor Smith to the deputy leader and cabinet member for social housing on Goldsmith Street.
- Question 9** Councillor Fullman to the cabinet member for safer, stronger neighbourhoods on Norwich Connect.
- Question 10** Councillor Button to the cabinet member for safe city environment on CCTV investment.
- Question 11** Councillor Stutely to the cabinet member for social inclusion on the 'Get Digital' project.

(Details of the questions and responses were circulated at the meeting, and are attached to these minutes at Appendix A, together with a minute of any supplementary questions and responses.)

7. Nominations for sheriff 2019 - 2020

Councillor Waters moved and Councillor Ackroyd seconded that council received the nomination for the sheriff 2019-20 civic year as Dr Marian Prinsley with the formal appointment to be made at the council's AGM in May.

RESOLVED, unanimously to receive the nomination for Dr Marian Prinsley as sheriff for 2019-20.

8. Report of the cabinet member for safe city environment (verbal update)

Councillor Maguire updated members on the Edie Sustainability Leaders Award for carbon reduction which the council won in February 2019. Norwich City Council was the only local authority to be shortlisted for the award and he said that was recognition of the hard work of the council.

The item was noted.

9. Pay Policy Statement 2019-2020

(The corporate leadership team left the meeting for this item.)

Councillor Waters moved and Councillor Harris seconded the recommendations as set out in the report.

Following debate it was:

RESOLVED, unanimously to approve the pay policy statement for 2019-20.

(The corporate leadership team was readmitted to the meeting at this point.)

10. Motions

Notice of the following motions 10(a) to 10(e) as set out on the agenda had been received in accordance with Appendix 1 of the council's constitution.

10(a) Motion – Western Link

Councillor Carlo moved and Councillor Raby seconded the following motion:

Norfolk Wildlife Trust has said that the “Western Link road will lead to direct loss of habitat, the separation of remaining habitats into smaller fragments and impacts on floodplain hydrology as well as increased light, noise, road run-off and air pollution over a considerable distance each side of the road.”

Council **RESOLVES** to reverse the recent decision of cabinet and advise Norfolk County Council that the city council opposes the principle of the proposal to construct the Norwich Western Link.

RESOLVED with 5 members voting in favour and 29 members voting against, the motion was lost.

10(b) Motion – Norfolk Pension Fund

(Councillors Price, Wright, Waters, Bradford, Maguire and Vaughan Thomas had declared an other interest in this motion. Councillors Packer and Vivian Thomas had declared a pecuniary interest in this item and left the room for the discussion and vote.)

Councillor Wright moved and Councillor Ackroyd seconded the motion as set out in the agenda papers.

RESOLVED, unanimously that:

The Norfolk Pension Fund, of which Norwich City Council is a member, has investments totalling nearly £3.6bn (latest published figures as at 31/03/18). The investment strategy is diverse and, based on latest published information, includes investments in a wide variety of companies including a number in the housing sector. Greater Manchester, Lancashire, Islington and the West Midlands are all using their council pension funds to support the building of local homes.

Council **RESOLVES** to:

- 1) recognise the importance of the Norfolk Pension Fund as a potential source of investment in the local economy; particularly for encouraging house building, when bringing forward derelict brown field sites for development in Norwich; giving emphasis to the positive impact of local house building on employment and

training opportunities, creating local jobs and providing work for local companies in Norwich.

- 2) ask Councillor Waters, as Vice Chair of The Pensions Committee of the Norfolk Pension Fund, to call on the fund to work up a business case for using its investments to benefit the local community through local housing building, stressing that as well as benefitting the local community, this could provide a significant financial benefit to the fund.

(Two hours having passed since the start of the meeting the Lord Mayor invited members to consider any unopposed business. Councillor Erin Fulton-McAlister moved and Councillor Hampton seconded a procedural motion to suspend standing orders to suspend rule 16 of Appendix 1 of the council's constitution relating to taking items as unopposed business after two hours. On being put to the vote the procedural motion was carried unanimously. Members considered each item individually and agreed to take the following two items as unopposed business; item 10 (d) motion – Car free day and item 10(e) motion - Local government funding)

10(c) Motion – Parental leave policy

The Lord Mayor announced that an amendment had been received from Councillor Wright as follows:

“To amend resolution (5) to read “notify all Local Government Association groups that this council has passed a motion at full council to adopt the parental leave policy.”

Councillor Erin Fulton-McAlister had indicated that she would accept the amendment and with no members raising an objection, the amendment became part of the substantive motion.

Councillor Erin Fulton-McAlister moved the motion and Councillor Malik seconded the motion as set out in the agenda papers and as amended above.

RESOLVED, unanimously, that:

Analysis of the 2018 Local Election results by the Fawcett Society found that only 34% of councillors in England are women, up 1% since 2017. As of summer 2017, only 4% of councils in England and Wales have parental leave policies for councillors, also according to research by the Fawcett Society.

The role of a councillor should be open to all, regardless of their background, and removing barriers to anyone seeking elected public office is crucial. Introducing a parental leave policy is a step towards encouraging a wider range of people to become councillors, and to encouraging existing councillors who may want to start a family to remain as councillors.

Council **RESOLVES** to:

- (1) reaffirm its pride and belief in being an active elected body with a powerful record of promoting equality and opportunity in the policies it pursues over many years;
- (2) adopt the parental leave policy drafted by the Local Government Association Labour Group's Women's Taskforce to give all councillors, regardless of their gender, an entitlement to parental leave after giving birth or adopting;
- (3) ensure that councillors with children and other caring commitments are supported as appropriate;
- (4) ask the cabinet member with responsibility for HR to review the policy within 6 months; and
- (5) notify all Local Government Association groups that this council has passed a motion at full council to adopt the parental leave policy.

(Members agreed to take Item 10- Motions as set out in agenda items 10 (d) to 10(e) below as unopposed business. Councillor Price had amended his own motion 10(d) - Car free day which had been circulated. As no member objected, it became part of the substantive motion.)

10(d) Motion – Car free day

An amendment had been received from Councillor Price as follows:

“To amend resolution (1) to read “Declare the Sunday closest to 22 September ‘Car Free Day’ in Norwich”

As no member objected, this became part of the substantive motion.

Councillor Price moved and Councillor Raby seconded the motion as set out in the agenda papers and amended above.

RESOLVED unanimously that:

“Car-free cities greatly reduce petroleum dependency, air pollution, greenhouse gas emissions, automobile crashes, noise pollution, urban heat island effect and traffic congestion. The Norwich 2040 vision seeks to be a livable city which has excellent air quality. Norwich City Council has taken the bold step of removing petrol and diesel vehicles from the Lord Mayor's Procession. World Car-free Day takes place on 22 September.”

Council **RESOLVES** to:

- (1) declare the Sunday closest to 22 September ‘Car Free Day’ in Norwich

- (2) take steps to discourage driving in the city on that day by actively promoting the event, including with the business community and partners
- (3) support groups to close residential roads for community and play events on that day
- (4) support cycling, and walking events across the city.

10(e) Motion – Local government funding

Councillor Waters moved and Councillor Kendrick seconded the motion as set out in the agenda papers.

RESOLVED unanimously that:

“Following the budget last month, this council is aware that many council budgets are now at breaking point. Austerity has caused huge damage to communities up and down the UK, with devastating effects on key public services that protect the most defenceless in society – children at risk, disabled adults and vulnerable older people – and the services we all rely on, like clean streets, libraries, and children’s centres”

Council **RESOLVES** to:

- (1) Note; -
 - a) Government cuts mean councils have lost 60p out of every £1 that the last Labour Government was spending on local government in 2010;
 - b) Councils had to spend an extra £800m last year to meet the demand on vital services to protect children;
 - c) With an aging population and growing demand adult social care faces a gap of £3.5 billion – with only 14% of council workers now confident that vulnerable local residents are safe and cared for
 - d) Government cuts have seen over 500 children’s centres and 475 libraries close, potholes are left unfilled, and 80% of councils workers now say have no confidence in the future of local services. In Norfolk 38 SureStart Centres will be closed.
 - e) Northamptonshire has already been bankrupted due to government incompetence at both national and local level, and more councils are predicted to collapse without immediate emergency funding
 - f) Councils now face a further funding gap of £7.8 billion by 2025 just to keep services ‘standing still’ and meeting additional demand. Even Lord Gary Porter, the Conservative Chair of the Local Government Association, has said ‘Councils can no longer be expected to run our vital local services on a shoestring’
- (2) condemn Chief Secretary to the Treasury Liz Truss for stating on BBC Newsnight on October 2018 that the government is “not making cuts to local authorities”, when all independent assessments of government spending show that this is entirely false; and that this council further notes that Prime Minister Theresa May has also claimed that “austerity is over” despite planning a further £1.3bn of cuts to council budgets over the next year;

- (3) agree with the aims of the 'Breaking Point' petition signed by Labour councillors across the country, in calling for the Prime Minister and Chancellor to truly end austerity in local government by:
- a) Reversing the planned £1.3bn cut to council budgets;
 - b) Immediately investing £2bn in children's services and £2bn in adult social care to stop these vital emergency services from collapsing;
 - c) Pledging to use the Spending Review to restore council funding to 2010 levels over the next four years
 - d) Supporting the 'Breaking Point' campaign, recognising the devastating impact that austerity has had on our local community
- (4) ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Prime Minister, and the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government setting out the funding pressures faced by our local council, and calling on the Government to truly end austerity in local government.

LORD MAYOR

Appendix A

Council 19 March 2019 Questions to Cabinet Members or Chairs of Committees

Question 1

Councillor Carlo to ask the cabinet member for resources the following question:

“I am concerned about the lack of action which often follows after motions are passed and agreed by this council. Examples of where motions have not been followed through include: an Access Charter for Norwich (no further progress on this and no action tabled in service plans for 2018/19); ending the provision of single –use plastic cups from council buildings (still provided in the council chamber and committee rooms, more than two years after the motion was passed in September 2016); divesting from fossil fuel and investing ethically (agreed over three years ago); to include biodiversity in the corporate plan under Safe, Clean and Low Carbon City and to ensure that it is consistently addressed in maintenance programmes and contract specifications. (Biodiversity was added as a bullet point in the corporate plan, then dropped and there are numerous examples of council maintenance giving nil priority to biodiversity.) When this council passes a motion, will the cabinet member responsible for taking forward the agreed action ensure that the will of the council is carried out and also provide regular progress reports to councillors?”

Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for resources’ response:

The motions tracker document is updated after each council meeting to include new motions and work on follow up actions takes place throughout the civic year. The relevant service area will be told about any motions that they need to work on and this is recorded on the motions tracker document. Each motion is given a RAG (Red, Amber and Green) status to show progress and comments are recorded as necessary.

The motions tracker for this civic year is on the home screen of e-councillor so is always accessible to members. I have asked for the last two years of motions trackers to be included on e-councillor for members to reference. With regard to the Access Charter as per a previous response given to a public question at the July 2018 council meeting any such charter is contingent on an impact assessment having been completed by Norfolk County Council as the highways authority. This assessment has yet to be completed and therefore we are unable to work on the access charter as this must be done in conjunction with county council. I’ve been assured by county council officers that work is progressing on this.

In terms of single use plastics, we have only used Vegware cups for the council chamber and committee rooms since the motion was passed. Vegware cups are plant based and are biodegradable. They can also be composted with the other compostable waste at City Hall. Obviously it would

be preferable if people bring in their own and this message is on the water dispensers.

The council's new Corporate Plan was put through the scrutiny committee, cabinet and council with members able to make comments on the draft.

There is a reference to access issues within this new Corporate Plan."

Supplementary question:

In response to a supplementary question regarding specific motions on biodiversity and divestment in fossil fuels, Councillor Kendrick asked Councillor Carlo to put the details in writing to him and he would provide the information.

Question 2

Councillor Price to ask the cabinet member for safe, city environment the following question:

"The cabinet member will remember my question of a year ago, when I asked whether he would support the introduction of 'pollution exclusion zones' outside schools in the city. This measure has now been recommended nationwide by Public Health England. As it does not appear to have been possible for air quality outside schools in Norwich to have yet been improved in this way, I am asking, today, if the cabinet member will agree to the council testing air quality outside schools in the city, beginning with the Lionwood infant and junior schools. Like me, parents of children at these schools are concerned about the effect that polluted air is having on the development of their children's lungs, so will the cabinet member commit to the first step in improving air quality, which is to test it?

Councillor Maguire, the cabinet member for safe city environment's response:

"The recent Review of interventions to improve outdoor air quality and public health by Public Health England (PHE) notes the particular vulnerability of children to poor air quality. PHE therefore argue for a focused approach to reducing the impact of air pollution on children. They recommend that local authorities consider a range of interventions including working with children and their parents to implement no-idling zones outside schools, making it easy for children to walk or cycle to school and increase public awareness in relation to air pollution and children. I am mindful that such an approach requires Norfolk County Council as education and highway authority to play its part and I look forward to working with them to develop these recommendations.

As any scientist would tell us, we must base our actions on evidence: there is no use having a solution for a problem that may or may not exist. So Cllr Price is right in suggesting that, key to taking forward the recommendations, is understanding air quality in the vicinity of schools or on the routes most used to walk or cycle along. Already the council monitors air quality at over 30 locations – selected through a combination of scientific understanding which is now combined with the experience of having monitored air quality over

many years. The data from this monitoring shows that air quality by those schools close to such monitoring sites is less than statutory limit values. For example air quality is monitored on Bull Close Road opposite Magdalen Gates Primary School and here annual mean nitrogen dioxide was 29.9 micrograms per cubic metre which is well below the 40.0 micrograms per cubic metre limit value.

Officers review the siting of air quality monitoring regularly. However in light of the PHE's recommendations they are giving particular consideration to further monitoring in the vicinity of schools. This may lead to a re-disposition of sites or additional sites. However, as I am sure Cllr Price understands such sites need to be chosen based on the knowledge we already have and the science that underlies this, so that we can obtain the best possible information with the limited resources available."

Supplementary question:

As a supplementary question, Councillor Price asked whether the cabinet member would seek funding for an initiative similar to that being undertaken in London whereby school children wore air quality monitors in their school backpacks. Councillor Maguire said that he was aware of the project and in principle, would be happy to be involved with such projects where funding was available.

Question 3

Councillor Henderson to ask the cabinet member for sustainable and inclusive growth the following question:

"I'm sure the cabinet member will agree with me that all new developments in Norwich should give far greater attention to biodiversity as we don't want to create a world which is largely devoid of wildlife. New council housing at Goldsmith Street has minimal greenery. There are no verges, no areas of grass, no hedges; instead, plots are divided by concrete, wooden or metal fencing down to ground level. This breaks up the habitat of hedgehogs, birds, insects and other natural and essential wildlife, all of whose numbers have crashed. There also appears to be minimal provision for drainage of surface water which will become an increasing issue of concern, as most of the landscape comprises hard paving, very narrow insignificant shrub beds and lollipop trees in hard pits, plus the odd patch of grass. The main design principle appears to be minimal maintenance, little interest in the environment, both visual and ecological, whilst helping to create a hotter, more harmful, urban environment. In the light of this, will the cabinet member join me in aspiring to better designs for biodiversity in the future?"

Councillor Stonard, cabinet member for sustainable and inclusive growth's response:

"Whilst I do agree with the general need for greater attention being given to biodiversity in new development and would point to our own policies such as DM6 which seek to encourage this insofar as possible, I certainly don't agree

that the multi-award winning Goldsmith Street development is deficient in how it addresses biodiversity. Indeed I think examples such as this could be used to illustrate good practice in relation to promoting biodiversity in high density urban developments.

The development site had been cleared in 2009 with enclosures erected for safety and security reasons. In ecological terms this site had a very low baseline of and potential to support protected and other species with limited evidence of species being present other than nesting birds and a low possibility of bats within some of the buildings surrounding the site.

Best practice during construction was undertaken as a precaution to protect bird and bat species. This included timed clearance works, or clearance works conducted in the presence of an ecologist. If any mature trees were to be felled these were to be first be assessed for bat roosting potential by a suitably qualified ecologist [amend after we know whether any trees were felled]. Mitigation took place for birds and other species in the form of suitable new landscape planting including introduction of native species, nesting boxes and detail to include small mammal access through boundary fences. The Indian bean trees (*Catalpa Bignonioides*) were retained to form a focus to the site. As many of the healthy mature trees were retained as possible in order to add value as a mature element to the landscape scheme. New planting will augment this and will grow in time to create a unified and improved urban space.

The scheme aimed at balancing the need for new housing and the provision of a suitable environment for the benefit of the area. Site analysis was extended to include the area of grass and trees which is next to the route through to Dereham Road. Improvements were made to this green space in the form of new play and planting and better links through this previously underused space. The introduction of additional planted areas and trees within the site provide planted links across a wider area. The development also provides for additional play areas and links through to St Barnabas Church and beyond where other mature planting still exists.

In terms of site drainage the possible use of a surface water drainage system using localised soakaways concentrating water drainage to ground was discounted due to the risk of solution features within the sites geology of sand over chalk. The use of permeable paving areas and landscape spaces, giving a wider area of dispersal, was chosen instead and to cater for extreme weather events attenuation storage is provided within an oversized below ground pipe system. Drainage rates from these are controlled to prevent other off-site flood issues within the wider area. The use of permeable surfaces and soft landscaping and effective on-site water storage provides significant improvement within the area and provides a drainage system in compliance with Local Plan policy.

The buildings are built to achieve PassivHaus certification. This standard was developed for residential buildings as a means of minimising the heating demand of the building, primarily achieved through considered orientation, internal arrangement and envelope design. This has fed into the specific layout design of the development. Heating requirement in the development is

reduced to the point where traditional extensive heating systems are no longer considered essential. The high standard for construction should also have built in efficiencies for water conservation.

Goldsmith Street is a genuine example of high quality urban development not only addressing local housing needs but also delivering excellence in environmental performance across the board.”

Supplementary question:

As Councillor Henderson had given her apologies for the meeting, there was no supplementary question.

Question 4

Councillor Raby to ask the cabinet member for sustainable and inclusive growth the following question:

“Given the importance of electric vehicles in the transition to a decarbonised society, I am surprised that Norwich has so few electric charging points, and that there are no rapid charging points in council-owned car parks. With ultra-rapid charging points now being rolled out, our city and the council need to catch up! Green councillors have been told that rapid charging is not possible in the city centre, due to sub-station limitations in the electricity grid. If this is the case, what is the council doing to ensure Norwich will be able to provide the charging points drivers will need in the present and the future?”

Councillor Stonard, cabinet member for sustainable and inclusive growth’s response:

“I’m afraid Cllr Raby is mistaken in his belief that there are no rapid charging points in council owned car parks; there is one at Earlham Park car park. It was funded by Highways England due to its proximity to the trunk road network.

If you compare Norwich to the likes of Cambridge and Peterborough you will see that we are similar with regard to numbers of charging points. In Norwich there are currently a total of 59 publically available electric charging points; this is the same as Cambridge and 2 less than Peterborough. In terms of the rapid charging points we have 11 compared to Cambridge’s 13 and Peterborough’s 7. Notably Norwich has a much greater number of fast and/or rapid charges compared to these two cities. These numbers are increasing and through the planning process we look to ensure that all car parks associated with new development include charging points.

The point about rapid charging is well made; the restriction on these points is largely due to limitations in the UK Power Networks grid, which cannot cope with spikes in the demand. This certainly is not an issue confined to Norwich, it is one many urban areas are struggling with and it needs a nationwide solution. I understand that there are already initiatives under consideration such as ‘Smart Electric Urban Logistics (SEUL)’. A key part of this initiative is the use of onsite energy storage batteries. Together with the smart-grid, this will pave the way toward a EV infrastructure that can dynamically make use of a conventional power, a smart grid, onsite storage, and in many cases, local power generation including solar and other alternative sources.

Electric charging is a rapidly changing technology and we do need to be mindful that we don't want to adopt something that quickly becomes obsolete. This is something that the Transforming cities team will be looking at to see what would suit Norwich best for the long term future"

Supplementary question:

In response to a supplementary question from Councillor Raby, Councillor Stonard said that there were restrictions around the national power grid with regard to electric vehicle charging points as the spikes in usage are problematic. He added that he would be happy to write to the Secretary of State about the matter but said that a solution would be worked on with the Transforming Cities funding.

Question 5

Councillor Ryan to ask the cabinet member for health and wellbeing the following question:

"As a regular user and great supporter of our fabulous Norwich Market I was particularly pleased that it was announced as the best large outdoor market in the country earlier this year. Building on the success of our strategy to promote and develop our treasured market, will the cabinet member for Health and Wellbeing congratulate traders, staff and all groups who have done so much to develop this great Norwich icon and discuss how it will be still further improved?"

Councillor Packer, cabinet member for health and wellbeing's response:

"The award of Britain's Best Large Outdoor Market awarded in January this year at the Great British Market Awards was well deserved. It follows our market being named a finalist in the Britain's Favourite Market category of these awards in January 2018 and the award won in September 2017 at the EDP Norfolk Food and Drinks Awards when Norwich Market food traders were named independent food and drink retailers of the year. As many members will be aware, a huge amount of work has been undertaken in the background to get to this stage. The council's markets team started working towards this success back in 2016 when a 10-year plan was developed to rejuvenate the market. A significant part of that has been developing the way the council works with the market traders themselves. The new Norwich Market Traders Association (NMTA) meets with the council every two months and this has been key to working together to drive the market forwards. Now that we are in year three of our 10-year plan, not only have awards been won and working practices improved, but the market itself has changed.

An important milestone was when a public survey was carried out to ask people what they wanted Norwich Market to offer them. The regard for the market was clearly demonstrated with one of the biggest survey responses this council has seen with more than 1,000 people providing comments and the resounding response was that they wanted more street food and more local produce. The market services team listened to that feedback and have put what customers want at the heart of everything they do. We have retained the 14 original hot food offer selling much-loved dishes including fish and

chips and homemade hot dogs but they have built upon that and doubled the street food offering. There are now 28 street food businesses and they are thriving. In fact over the last year, six of them have expanded their businesses on the market, taking on more stalls to support the demand.

The other notable success I'd like to mention is the pop-up stalls project which has been very popular. Having increased the street food offering, the markets team was keen to ensure the market remained a mixed market so introduced a scheme by which small local businesses including for example illustrators and other mostly non-food-related micro businesses could come and trade on the market for a few days a week or up to a month. This has allowed people to try out a business idea and many have taken the opportunity to rent a pop-up each week for several months. More than 100 different small businesses have used the pop-ups since the project was launched in June 2017 and provides an invaluable testing ground for new business ideas.

The other great opportunity of the pop-ups has been working in collaboration with local schools and colleges to offer young people the opportunity to come and visit and trade on a market. In this way, the market has supported the Norwich Writers Circle; Norwich Big Switch and Save; Digital First initiatives and local groups including Independence Matters; Break; NWES; Norfolk Food and Drink and is currently collaborating with other organisations across the city in relation to exciting projects for this year.

As I speak today the occupancy rate of Norwich Market is 93% which is a great achievement when you consider 47 stalls were standing empty just over two years ago. We have 88 businesses operating on the market employing around 200 local people full and part-time. Nine of these businesses are new start-ups this financial year, with a further eight business expansions this year. Investment has been made in a new seating area, new signage, a new bin compound, and the phased replacement of cross aisle awnings in 30 locations across the market.

The market is a fantastic asset, not only as a great place to shop for local people but as an attraction and an icon in its own right and a veritable hub for small businesses and business start-ups and a place to make a living for dozens of local people.

We are committed to its continued success and sustainability."

Supplementary question:

There was no supplementary question.

Question 6

Councillor Maxwell to ask the cabinet member for safe city environment the following question:

"I was pleased to read of the drop in rough sleeping numbers in the Evening News, earlier this year. Recent reports on the success of the innovative Pathways scheme and efforts to support rough sleepers from the streets into housing solutions show the importance and outcomes of this strategy. Given the ongoing pressures of austerity helping to drive homelessness up, can the cabinet member for safe city environment comment on the difference our initiative has made so far?"

Councillor Maguire, the cabinet member for safe city environment's response:

"Yes, we have seen a drop in numbers of rough sleepers in Norwich. At the Government sponsored annual rough sleeping count in November, 21 people were found rough sleeping. This is a 30% drop compared to the previous year when 30 were found. This reduction in numbers compares favourably to the East of England average where there was a 21% drop overall.

Since July 2018 which was the time the service became fully staffed, the Pathways team have been identifying some of the most chaotic rough sleepers in Norwich many of whom have multiple and complex needs.

During the period June to September and October to December, 55 people were given intensive support to help them find and access accommodation.

However, the need and service provided by Pathways is not just about finding accommodation: with their slogan of "No wrong door" the team provide rough sleepers with wraparound support to help them access statutory services and health appointments. This support helps people engage back into society.

From April to 30 September 2018, 257 people who were either rough sleepers or at risk were found suitable accommodation. Between October and December 2018, 15 of the 30 most chaotic individuals were helped to access accommodation. The service continues to work intensively with the rough sleepers to help get them off the street. Each rough sleeper will have a named worker within the Pathways team who will support them.

Since December 2018 the Council with partners has helped co-ordinate the provision of a winter shelter, to complement the SWEP provision, working closely with volunteers in the faith and voluntary sector. This has helped 51 people, 25 of which have now found suitable accommodation."

Supplementary question:

There was no supplementary question.

Question 7

Councillor Hampton to ask the deputy leader and cabinet member for social housing the following question:

"Like most councillors on this council, access to housing remains a critical issue for many of my constituents. Given this huge pressure the LetNCC scheme has proved to be an innovative means to free up empty homes or properties landlords wish to rent privately. Since 2006 this has helped over 1,200 households from becoming homeless and I have supported families living in my ward who have benefited from it. Given the importance of this scheme I hope it will continue. Can the cabinet member for safer, stronger neighbourhoods comment on how this will develop further?"

Councillor Harris, deputy leader and cabinet member for social housing's response:

"The council's private sector leasing scheme (LetNCC) was launched in May 2006 with the aim of utilising the private rented sector to provide a decent, affordable housing alternative to those facing homelessness. The scheme runs alongside the housing options team to reduce the demand on temporary accommodation and the council's housing stock.

Since its inception, the scheme has helped relieve or prevent 1280 households from becoming homeless and we currently have a portfolio of 275 properties. These are properties that are privately owned and leased to the scheme for a 4 year term, subject to a one year minimum term.

Landlords receive a guaranteed monthly rental payment even during void periods, and at the end of the agreement period we guarantee to hand the property back in same condition in which it was first let, less fair wear and tear. The council will also repair any damage made by the tenants.

For a small charge we also offer to manage any day to day repairs and the annual gas safety inspection if landlords do not wish to do this themselves

As part of the Rough Sleeping Strategy the ministry of housing, communities and local government invited authorities to bid for part of a £20 million Private Rented Sector Access Fund with the purpose of the fund to enable better access and sustainment of tenancies for those who are, or at risk of becoming homeless or rough sleeping.

A submission was made by the council which has been successful and the award includes funds to provide additional support to LetNCC. Part of the award is to fund an additional officer within the LetNCC team to increase the number of properties taken on including providing incentives to landlords to join the scheme. The new role will concentrate on marketing and establishing how the additional funding can be best used to expand the council's housing portfolio, such as boosting landlords monthly rent levels or awarding one off payments to enable them to carry out work required to the property before they can sign up. This also brings opportunities to work with our private sector housing team to identify empty homes which we may be brought back in to use via LetNCC. We also intend to use the funding to carry out some direct marketing such as those people whose homes we know to be empty and unfurnished.

Council will know that the LetNCC provides homes for the Syrian Vulnerable Peoples Refugee Resettlement Programme and we have a number of landlords specifically interested in renting their properties to refugees. At the time of endorsing the second phase of this programme, it was noted that demand on the housing market in Norwich had increased making the identification of properties challenging but not insurmountable. This new initiative not only supports the council's contribution to this scheme, but provides increased housing options to people who are at risk or are homeless by increasing the number of properties held by the scheme.

The award will also fund a number of tenants to complete training with St Martins Housing Trust with a view to them moving onto council housing, if appropriate. This fits in with our tenants move-on scheme we are currently trialling whereby LetNCC tenants who meet a criteria will be awarded an increased banding enabling them the chance to move to council housing. This will ensure a turnover of LetNCC tenancies to enable more appropriate people to be housed within the scheme.

Supplementary question:

There was no supplementary question.

Question 8

Councillor Smith to ask the deputy leader and cabinet member for social housing the following question:

“Representing Mancroft I was pleased to see Councillor Harris hand over the keys for a new council property on Goldsmith Street to a new tenant. Given the continued positive development of this site and significance it represents to our city, can the cabinet member for social housing update us on progress including the recent awards which it has achieved?

Councillor Harris, deputy leader and cabinet member for social housing’s response:

“Thank you for your question.

I was delighted to recently meet prospective tenants at viewings of properties on the award winning development at Goldsmith Street and be able to hand over the keys to another tenant.

Development is continuing to progress well on site and we have taken handover of a further 6 homes this morning, with viewings arranged for tomorrow. This takes the number of new homes handed over at Goldsmith Street to 43 with the remaining 50 due to be handed over in phases over the next 2 months.

Last week I attended the LGC awards where we were shortlisted for the housing initiative category for our overall strategy, for having a bold and ambitious approach to building low-energy homes for the future, as demonstrated by our Goldsmith Street and Rayne Park developments, but unfortunately was pipped to the post by Blaby District Council.

Goldsmith Street itself has won a number of awards including ‘project winner’ at the housing design awards 2016, and the CPRE Norfolk ‘green build’ award 2018.

We have also recently been notified that the site is in consideration for further awards having been shortlisted in the RIBA East awards, the RICS East of England awards (in both the regeneration and residential categories) and is also up for a Considerate Constructors site award having achieved a fantastic score of 44 out of a maximum 50.

In addition to this Goldsmith Street has been recognised as the Best New (World) Architecture of 2018 by The Times, and has been featured in the Guardian and in the latest edition of the Architects Journal.

Following on from the completion of our first Passivhaus scheme at Hansard Close last year and the continuing development on Rayne Park I am incredibly proud that we are leading the way in development of homes.

These awards not only show the quality of housing the council are building but the important thing is that we are providing good quality homes for our residents. In some cases children will be able to play in their very own garden for the first time in their lives.

I look forward to celebrating the completion and further awards in the coming months."

Supplementary question:

There was no supplementary question.

Question 9

Councillor Fullman to ask the cabinet member for safer, stronger neighbourhoods the following question:

"As a councillor who assisted several constituents who have experienced domestic abuse I am continually aware of the reduction in funding for services across Norwich since 2010. I am therefore pleased that this council has launched a new programme providing support services for families and individuals experiencing this abuse. Norwich Connect will pilot innovative partnerships with individuals and develop a better, more holistic response. Given the significance of this service can the cabinet member for safer stronger neighborhoods comment on the benefits it will offer to our constituents who experience this abuse?"

Councillor Jones, cabinet member for safer, stronger neighbourhoods' response:

"Norwich Connect launched in Norwich in mid-November 2018 with clear objectives to help fill identified gaps in service provision for people experiencing domestic abuse and to identify system changes across the County that could contribute to reducing risk of harm.

Norwich Connect is a partnership between national domestic abuse charity SafeLives, and local funding partners from the Norfolk community safety partnership.

As Cllr Fullman identifies, the program is piloting innovative approaches to tackling domestic abuse via the following five service strands:

- Community Independent domestic violence advisor (IDVA) - this service assesses the risk level of harm to victims and works with the individual to develop a safety plan to manage that risk for all members of the family. This might include referral to other Norwich Connect services, or to

services provided by other partners. The Community IDVA advocates on behalf of the victim, to reduce the requirement of victims to keep repeating their story to other support providers, which re-traumatises victims. Before Norwich Connect was established, only those victims assessed as being high risk of harm were assigned an IDVA, via Leeway domestic abuse services. The Norwich Connect Community IDVAs work with victims assessed as both medium and standard risk. Norwich Connect works closely with Leeway to ensure that individuals assessed as high risk receive the appropriate service from Leeway.

- Complex needs – this service works with a number of partners including those providing services for mental health, substance misuse, learning disabilities; to enable domestic abuse victims with complex needs to be appropriately supported.
- Children & young people – this area provides a range of support services to address emotional and physical harm via one to one and group work for children and young people that have witnessed domestic abuse, experienced it directly or have been abusive to family members. This includes a course specifically on adolescent to parent violence.
- Staying together – this service works with the abuser within a family unit that wants to change their behaviours, where it is safe to do so and the victim(s) wish the same. While controversial in its approach, evidence suggests that if abusers are not supported to change their behaviours, they go on to further abusive relationships, thereby increasing the number of adult and child victims. On this basis, it's incredibly important to address the problem and not just deal with the effects of the problem.
- Step down and recovery – We know that, on average, victims of domestic abuse are persuaded to return to their abuser 14 times before they leave for good. In starting a new life, victims often lack confidence and knowledge on how to develop a fulfilling life outside of their abusive relationship, as they have been controlled for so long – on average almost three years, but often far longer. This service provides regular support for people having left abusive relationships and explores volunteering, community activity and employment and training options with victims. This helps them recover from the abuse and identify a sustainable pathway, free from abuse, ahead.

Norwich Connect officers attend the Norwich early help hub each day, to link with other local support providers and promote their work to other professionals. This forms part of the countywide approach to provide support services earlier, to help reduce harm and increase the chances of positive outcomes for people.

SafeLives uses the voice of victims and evidenced research to develop trauma informed group and one to one services as part of its 'Beacon Sites' programme; of which Norfolk is one and West Sussex. Part of the Beacon Sites work looks at accessibility to services for victims of domestic abuse. SafeLives is currently working with partners in Norfolk's multi agency safeguarding hub (MASH) to improve the victims experience and accessibility to services.

As a SafeLives Beacon Site, the Norwich Connect programme also benefits from a full, independent evaluation, undertaken by the University of Lancaster. This will mean that at the end of the three year programme, commissioners of domestic abuse services will be able to make informed choices on what works for victims and what has greater impact in the long term. Also identified through the evaluation will be recommendations for Norfolk partners on system change, in terms of structures, services and processes – to help improve the experience of individuals and families receiving support for domestic abuse.

Norwich Connect has already received 93 referrals from partners requesting support for 224 individuals from Norwich. 111 of these are children and young people and 19 are perpetrators of domestic abuse.

It's important that we make people aware of Norwich Connect if they disclose abuse to us; as Norwich residents can self-refer to the service and receive support sooner.

Supplementary question:

There was no supplementary question.

Question 10

Councillor Button to ask the cabinet member for safe city environment the following question:

“Like most councillors I have seen the dramatic consequence of austerity upon reducing the level of community safety in the ward I represent. Rising crime and the fear of crime preys heavily upon the quality of life of many of my constituents, often particularly upon those with least resources to respond to it. I was therefore particularly pleased that last month's budget and the cabinet report approved last week sees a significant increase in funding for CCTV, alley-gates and other safety protective measures. Given this investment can the cabinet member for safe city environment comment on the desired differences this policy will deliver?”

Councillor Maguire, cabinet member for safe city environment's response:

“Whilst Norwich is generally regarded as a safe city to live in, work and visit and overall levels of crime have remained generally static compared to national changes, councillors are receiving concerns on the doorstep from residents

Norwich like the rest of the country has experienced continued issues of county lines “gang” related activity including properties, some of whom are council tenancies, being cuckooed. Residents are also reporting overt drug dealing becoming more visible.

The council has always worked very closely with the Norfolk Constabulary where joint working is required including establishing the joint and co-located Norwich operational partnership team (OPT), based at Bethel Street police station.

Whilst enforcement activity is one element required to counter issues of crime and disorder, either directly by the Constabulary or through joint working in Norwich with the council, prevention activity is also required to help reduce the risk and harm to vulnerable people.

To support enforcement action across the city, this administration is investing over £520,000 in a new state of the art CCTV system focussing on the city centre as well as a number of communal areas in some of the council's high rise properties.

As part of this investment, our neighbourhoods are not being ignored but a fixed camera system is neither practical, affordable nor desirable across the whole of Norwich.

To this end, four demountable CCTV cameras are being purchased to complement three held by the Norwich operational partnership team which will be deployed for short periods of time in the most problematical areas which will be identified using pooled council and police crime and disorder data. These will be used to monitor and capture criminal activity and be used to support enforcement activity.

£50,000 has also been identified in next year's budget to pump-prime actions based on evidence of the local issue and needs of the community but may help fund such practical measures as estate improvements, the gating of alleyways or the provision of additional district lighting.

An important element of this initiative is to ensure that as far as possible, the interventions and positive change brought about is sustainable.

Through Get Involved, our community enabling model we will concentrate our work with residents in neighbourhood 'hot spots' so they can be involved in any interventions. The objective would be to help support communities to take control of where they live and their local communal and open spaces and make a positive statement that Norwich will not tolerate county lines."

Supplementary question:

There was no supplementary question.

Question 11

Councillor Stutley to ask the cabinet member for social inclusion the following question:

"Digital poverty, through the lack of access to the internet or improving digital skills, remains a significant problem for some of my constituents. Given that government 'services' such as Universal Credit depend on online accounts and access to the internet, improving the ability for my constituents to access the full range of opportunities on offer is increasingly paramount. In promoting this, I was pleased that groups can now apply for the 'Get Digital' money to install infrastructure, cover training, workshops, provide software and equipment related to supporting residents to become more digitally included. With this in mind, can the cabinet member for social inclusion comment on the scheme including the anticipated differences it will offer to groups in this city?"

Councillor Davis, cabinet member for social inclusion's response:

"The Get Digital small grants scheme has been operating in 2018/19 and will continue in 2019/20. It has joined the other community enabling team small grants and is funded by the Norwich Digital Inclusion project.

Over the course of this year we have distributed 5 grants (with one still to assess for the 2018/19 period). The following grants were awarded this year:

| | |
|---|--|
| Sorrel & Campion House Residents Association | Awarded: September 2018 Received: £500 A grant to pay for two new (refurbished) PCs in the communal room, additional cabling, etc, and a small budget for a party to launch the new provision. Sorrel & Campion House is a Broadland Housing scheme based in Bowthorpe. |
| New Routes | Awarded: October 2018 Received: £498.01 A grant to buy a new laptop to be used at the IT classes and informal IT groups at the centre, for their client group – refugees, asylum seekers and migrants. |
| Russel Street Community Centre | Awarded: October 2018 Received: £500 A grant to pay for broadband for the hall for a year, and some equipment to start a weekly digital café. Digital café sessions due to launch in March 2019, one session a month will be work-themed. |
| Bridge Plus | Awarded: December 2018 Received: £499 A grant to pay for a laptop to be used by clients at Bridge Plus (BAME population) to go online particularly to apply for jobs and Universal Credit. The grant will also cover the costs of two community lunches to introduce the new laptop to the client group and explain how and when it can be accessed and used. |
| MAP | Awarded: December 2018 Received: £500 A grant to buy a new PC to join the suite of PCs in the Risebrow Centre. MAP is a countywide organisation and experienced a hike in demand for internet access amongst their client group (young people) in Great Yarmouth due to the introduction of Universal Credit. They applied for this grant in anticipation of a similar high demand in Norwich. |

As you can see above, the last two grants that were given specifically had a focus on government digital services (UC).

Over the past 4 years, Norwich City Council has been leading on the Norwich Digital Inclusion project, aiming to reduce digital exclusion in the city, raising people's digital skills, and access to free internet access points in the city. We have nearly 20 Digital Hubs in the city, with more organisations joining all the time.

We recognised that for some people, particularly the most vulnerable of our residents, it made sense that digital provision was provided from an

organisation they already visit and trust and have built up a working relationship with, rather than signposting them to a Digital Hub. Thus the Get Digital grant scheme allows non-profit groups the opportunity to apply for up to £500 to buy equipment (including broadband), train staff and volunteers, or cover any other costs that may be incurred to support people to raise their digital confidence.

For an organisation this small seed funding is useful to assist their service users to be able to access the internet on site with support. The offer of up to £500 for the grant is in addition to a free offer of volunteer support provided by our partner Voluntary Norfolk – they have around 35 trained volunteers active in the community who can support individuals to gain the skills and confidence they need, out of any agreeable venue (including Digital Hubs, community venues, and from people's homes). In addition, the Digital Inclusion project can lend some equipment to organisations and individuals on a short-term basis, which is also negotiable alongside a grant.

Although we are aware there is a lot of support available throughout the city, we are always keen to hear from other groups seeking to partner with the project and support more Norwich residents to be digital included. ”

Supplementary question:

There was no supplementary question.