



Scrutiny Committee

16:30 to 18:45

21 October 2021

Present: Councillors Wright (chair), Fulton-McAllister (M) (vice-chair), Carlo, Driver, Galvin, Giles,, Stutely, Osborn, Thomas (Va) and Thomas (Vi)

1. Public questions/petitions

There were no public questions or petitions.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED to approve:-

(1) the minutes of the meeting held on 9 September subject to an amendment to resolution (3) to state “work with the Public Health Team at Norfolk County Council regarding health education on respiratory problems”

(2) the minutes of the meeting held on 16 September 2021

4. Urgent report to cabinet

The Chair reported that he had agreed to an urgent report on Carrow House to be considered at cabinet meeting held on 13 October 2021

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RESOLVED to note the report.

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5. Review of the environmental strategy following Covid 19

The strategy manager presented the report.

Councillor Hampton, cabinet member for climate change and digital inclusion, commented on the progress made on the environmental strategy as detailed in the report.

During discussion members welcomed the direction that the council was taking on environmental matters and raised a number of issues concerning the council's climate commission, invitation to UK100 to attend the committee, revisions to the council's economic strategy and working with other organisations on these issues on these issues which they considered should be prioritised in the future development of the strategy. They referred, in particular, to the progress made by other councils on renewable energy. Councillor Hampton said that the administration was considering how these priorities could be developed. The council had initiated a number of pilot projects including Riverside swimming pool and St Andrews and Blackfriars Halls. The limitation of resources was a significant factor with the estimate cost of the Halls project of £1.5 million pounds. It was important for the council to identify possible sources of funding to enable these and other projects to be developed.

The fuel poverty and energy officer referred to the report taken to CEEEP on retrofitting efficient energy appliances in council properties and the initiatives being taken by the council in to said that that there would be a review of the Housing HRA business plan to with an objective for the council's housing stock to be become carbon neutral. She said that a report on the financial aspects of these initiatives from the executive director of corporate and commercial services would be brought back to the committee in due course.

A member referred to the plans for Norwich Airport to increase its capacity which he considered unacceptable in light of the council's environmental strategy. The chair said that the airport's plans were to be reviewed in light of the impact of the Covid pandemic on capacity. The flights to Amsterdam had reduced to 3 per week.

A member asked whether more information could be provided on carbon emissions per capita in various areas in the city. She also suggested that more effort should be made to introduce green spaces in corridors in adaptations to the city and whether the council could be more proactive in its influencing role on environmental standards in new housing and challenging the need for new road schemes. Councillor Hampton said that the administration would consider these suggestions in its discussion on the future development of the environmental strategy.

In response to a question, the strategy officer outlined the process for the review of the economic strategy.

RESOLVED, to –

- (1) ask for the standing items of the Scrutiny committee to include updates from the Norwich Climate Change Commission;

- (2) invite UK100 to attend a meeting of this committee to update on what work we are going to do with them.
- (3) hold a member briefing on the environmental impact of any investments to form part of the investment matrix that is used
- (4) request that the review of the Economic strategy include businesses plans for net zero carbon emissions.
- (5) review commercial investment strategy to see how it can support environmental strategy
- (6) recommend that when the BEIS per capita figures are reported in council reports that it is stated that the BEIS data set is not comprehensive.
- (7) ask cabinet to actively look at partnering with academia to get the tools needed to ensure we can work out what we can and can't influence.

6. Scrutiny work programme

The chair introduced the report and members considered the current position on the Scrutiny committee work programme.

Councillor Giles said that he had prepared a detailed report on the community safety strategy and that he would be happy to send it to members and answer any questions.

Councillor Stutely updated the committee on work on flytipping and communal bins. Progress has been delayed by 3 months due to the need to consider the data. A full report would be provided and consultation with the public and it was hoped that this committee could consider the detailed report in December. He recognised that there were significant problems in some areas of the city and said that this work would be completed as soon as possible.

Members agreed the scope for the substantive item on the emerging social agenda following Covid 19 to be considered at the November meeting of the committee. In response to a suggestion from Councillor Giles, the strategy manager said that non-domestic commercial debt could be included in the discussion in November.

Councillor Carlo questioned whether Norfolk County Council's review of children and family services was meeting the needs of residents in view of the impact of the Covid pandemic. The executive director of community services said that it the topic for November was already considerable but that it was possible for the council to approach the County Council on this matter.

The Chair reported that an additional meeting of this committee would be required to consider the issues which had arisen on health safety and compliance in council housing following the special cabinet meeting. The executive director of community services explained the arrangements for these meetings and members would be informed of dates in due course.

RESOLVED to

- (1) note the current position on the work programme for 2021/22;
- (2) note that an additional meeting on housing compliance issues would be arranged in due course

CHAIR