



Cabinet

17.30 – 18.50

8 September 2021

Present: Councillors Waters (chair), Harris (vice chair), Davis, Hampton, Jones, Kendrick, Oliver, Packer and Stonard

1. Public Questions/Petitions

There were no public questions or petitions.

2. Declarations of interest

Councillor Harris declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 8 below as a director of Norwich Norse Building Ltd but would remain in the meeting.

Councillor Kendrick declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8 below as a director of NPS (Norwich) Ltd but would remain in the meeting.

Councillor Oliver declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 8 below as a director of Norwich City Services Ltd but would remain in the meeting.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 7 July 2021.

4. Emergency Management Strategy

Councillor Oliver, cabinet member for environmental services, presented the report. She referred to the extensive work which had been done in preparing the strategy which covered the council's approach to emergency management, roles and responsibilities and training. She referred to the training and presentation that had been given to members on this subject earlier in the year.

Councillor Bogelein said that the Green group were concerned that the strategy should contain more tangible specifics and requested to send the suggestions to officers. The Emergency Planning Manager said that she would be pleased to receive those and any other suggestions.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) approve the Emergency Management Strategy;
- (2) refer the strategy to the Scrutiny Committee for review
- (3) ask Councillor Bogelein to send her group's suggestions to the cabinet member for environmental services and the emergency planning manager.
- (4) congratulate the emergency planning manager on her recognition by the Emergency Planning College.

5. Response to Transport for Norwich Strategy consultation

Councillor Stonard, cabinet member for inclusive and sustainable growth, presented the report and outlined the extent to which the city council's priorities had been taken into account in preparing the response to the consultation. He said that the council's support for the strategy would be dependent on the extent to which these priorities had been incorporated in the final strategy document.

Councillor Davis, cabinet member for social inclusion, expressed concern at the condition of the highways in the city since the Joint Highways Agency agreement had ceased. It seemed that the city was being treated with similar priorities to rural areas when its own highways needs were very different.

Councillor Bogelein expressed concern that the city council's carbon reduction targets had not been included within the strategy and asked whether implementation of the strategy should be delayed until these issues had been addressed. Councillor Stonard, cabinet member for inclusive and sustainable growth said that the city council would continue to make its representations known and suggested that the Green group could make its own comments as part of the consultation process.

RESOLVED to approve the response to Norfolk County Council's consultation on the Transport for Norwich Strategy contained in appendix 1 of the report.

6. Transfer of assets from the General Fund to the Housing Revenue Account

Councillor Packer, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, presented the report.

Members welcomed the proposals for the community centres concerned and noted the increase in community activities in the centres since the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions had been reduced.

Councillor Bogelein asked why other community centres in the city had not been included on the list. The neighbourhood and community enabling manager said that research had been undertaken on levels of use of the centres which had formed the basis for deciding which should be included in the transfer.

RESOLVED to transfer the assets and their associated costs, detailed in the report, to the HRA from 2021-22 onwards.

7. Q1 2021-22 Combined Corporate Assurance Report

Councillor Waters, leader of the council, presented the report and welcomed the new format in presenting the performance information. He referred to specific performance targets which were in the red and green categories.

Councillor Kendrick, executive member for resources, outlined the financial aspects of the report.

Councillor Bogelein welcomed the improvements to the targets for dealing with anti-social behaviour.

In response to concerns about staff shortage and their impact on the council's performance, the Chief Executive Officer said that local government was experiencing a number of skill shortages in certain areas. It was hoped that the council's hybrid working policy and a review of application rates for certain roles would help to improve level of recruitment to shortage areas.

RESOLVED to

- (1) note progress on the key performance indicators for this quarter and the corporate risk register;
- (2) note the financial progress for 2021-22 general fund, HRA and capital programme;
- (5) note the consequential balances of the general fund and HRA reserves as detailed in figures 1.6 and 1.7;
- (6) thank officers for the excellent presentation and content of the report

8. Transfer of building repairs and maintenance services to Norwich City Services Ltd and property services to Norwich City Council

Councillor Harris, cabinet member for social housing, presented the report.

The chair and members welcomed the positive proposals for the future provision of those services.

RESOLVED to approve

- (1) the utilisation of earmarked invest-to-save reserves to fund additional revenue investment of £747,000 to support delivery of project place phase 2 (£149,000 from the general fund invest to save reserve and £598,000 from the HRA invest to save reserve). The details as described in this report under financial implications;

- (2) the reprofiling of the existing cabinet budget between financial years, increasing the 2021/22 capital programme by the same value. The details as described in this report under financial implications

9. Treasury management Full Year Review Report 2020-21

Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for resources, presented the report.

RESOLVED to recommend that council note the report and the treasury activity for the year 31 March 2021.

10. Award of a Contract for Communal estate Improvement

Councillor Harris, cabinet member for social housing, presented the report.

Councillor Bogelein noted the underspend in the estate management budget and the delays in repairs to properties. The leader of the council said that this budget would continue to be available going forward and that the current underspend had been due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, disruption in the supply chain, the effects of Brexit and the tightening labour market.

RESOLVED to approve the award of a contract for communal estate improvement work to Breyer Group PLC from 1 October 2021 to 30 September 2023. The contract is valued at £1,500,000 (£750,000 per annum)

11. Award of a contract for housing and non-housing lift servicing and maintenance

Councillor Harris, deputy leader and cabinet member for social housing, presented the report.

RESOLVED to delegate approval to the executive director for community services, the authority to award a contract for housing and non-housing lift servicing and maintenance as detailed in the report.

12. New District Heating System at Barnards Yard, Norwich

The leader of the council reported that whilst the Cabinet remained supportive in principle to the proposals in the report, the risks associated with the proposals required full understanding and in consequence officers had requested that the matter be deferred.

RESOLVED to defer consideration of this report until a future meeting.

13. The extension of an awarded contract for warden call upgrades to sheltered housing schemes

Councillor Harris, deputy leader and executive member for social housing, presented the report

RESOLVED to approve the extension to an awarded contract for warden call upgrades to sheltered housing schemes with M English Security Ltd.

14. Exclusion of the public

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of items *15 to *16 (below) on the grounds contained in the relevant paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

***15. Transfer of building repairs and maintenance services to Norwich City Services Ltd and property services to Norwich City Council - Appendix (Paragraph 3)**

Councillor Harris, deputy leader and cabinet member for social housing, presented the report.

RESOLVED to note the exempt appendix to the report.

***16. Managing assets (Housing) (Paragraph 3)**

Councillor Harris, deputy leader and cabinet member for social housing, presented the report

RESOLVED to approve the disposal of the land and property assets as set out in the report.

CHAIR