



Council

Members of the council are hereby summoned to attend the
meeting of the council to be held remotely

on

Tuesday, 22 September 2020

18:00

Agenda

Page nos

1 Lord Mayor's announcements

2 Declarations of interest

(Please note that it is the responsibility of individual
members to declare an interest prior to the item if they arrive
late for the meeting)

3 Public questions/petitions

To receive questions / petitions from the public.

Please note that all questions must be received by the
committee officer detailed on the front of the agenda by
10am on Thursday 17 September 2020.

Petitions must be received by the committee officer detailed
on the front of the agenda by **10am on Monday 21
September 2020**

For guidance on submitting public questions or petitions
please see appendix 1 of the council's constitution.

4 Minutes

5 - 22

To agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on
21 July 2020

5 Questions to cabinet members / committee chairs

(A printed copy of the questions and replies will be available at the meeting)

- 6 Appointment of interim chief finance and section 15 officer (report to follow)**
Purpose - To appoint an interim chief finance and section 151 officer
- 7 Treasury Management Full Year Review 2019-20** **23 - 40**
Purpose - To consider the Treasury Management performance for the year to 31 March 2020
- 8 Future Housing Commissioning** **41 - 52**
Purpose - To consider an adjustment to the 2020-21 HRA capital programme to increase the budget allocation to support the development of new council housing.
- 9 Committee Meetings 2020** **53 - 62**
Purpose - To approve a schedule of committee meetings for the remainder of the civic year 2020/21
- 10 Motions** **63 - 66**
Purpose - To consider motions for which notice has been given in accordance with appendix one of the council's constitution.
- 11 Exclusion of the public**
Consideration of exclusion of the public.
- *12 Director remuneration (para 4) - Report to follow**
Purpose - To consider the report



Anton Bull
Director of resources

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Information for members of the public

Members of the public and the media have the right to attend meetings of full council, the cabinet and committees except where confidential information or exempt information is likely to be disclosed, and the meeting is therefore held in private.

For information about attending or speaking at meetings, please contact the committee officer above or refer to the council's website



If you would like this agenda in an alternative format, such as a larger or smaller font, audio or Braille, or in a different language, please contact the committee officer above.



Minutes

COUNCIL

18:05 to 21:20

21 July 2020

Present: Councillor Thomas (Va) (Lord Mayor), Ackroyd, Bogelein, Brociek-Coulton, Button, Carlo, Davis, Driver, Fulton-McAlister (E), Fulton-McAlister (M), Giles, Grahame, Harris, Huntley, Jones, Kendrick, Lubbock, Maguire, Manning, Maxwell, McCartney-Gray, Neale, Oliver, Osborn, Packer, Peek, Price, Sands (M), Sands (S), Sarmezey, Schmierer, Stonard, Stutely, Thomas (Vi), Waters, Wright and Youssef

Apologies: Councillors Ryan and Utton,

1. Lord Mayor's Announcements

The Lord Mayor introduced the meeting.

The Lord Mayor announced that he had attended the virtual Norwich Pride.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillors Harris, Kendrick and Maguire declared that they had a conflict of interest in item 6 below and would leave the meeting for the discussion and vote on that item.

Councillors Button and Price declared an other interest in item 10b, motion on food poverty.

3. Public Questions/Petitions

No public questions or petitions had been received.

4. Minutes

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 23 June 2020.

5. Questions to Cabinet Members/Committee Chairs

The Lord Mayor said that six 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.

The questions are summarised as follows: 5 of 66

Question 1	Councillor Osborn to the leader of the council on the New Anglia LEP
Question 2	Councillor Price to the cabinet member for sustainable and inclusive growth on Car Free Day 2020
Question 3	Councillor Neale to the leader of the council on the Norwich Regeneration Limited board
Question 4	Councillor Button to the deputy leader and cabinet member for social housing on housing conditions.
Question 5	Councillor Matthew Fulton-McAlister to the leader of the council on local government funding
Question 6	Councillor Button to the cabinet member for safe and sustainable city environment on the 'get everyone in' strategy.

(Details of the questions and responses were made available on the council's website prior to the meeting, and are attached to these minutes at Appendix A, together with a minute of any supplementary questions and responses.)

6. Adjustment to the General Fund capital programme

(Councillors Harris, Kendrick and Maguire, having declared a conflict of interest in this item, left the meeting for the discussion and vote on this item.)

Councillor Waters moved and Councillor Stonard seconded, the recommendations in the report.

Following debate, it was:

RESOLVED, with a majority voting in favour, to:-

- 1) To approve the following amendments to increase the General Fund capital programme by £2.780m to provide a:
 - a) £1.140m, 20 year loan to the wholly owned company to create a depot facility at a rate of 3%. The loan will be funded through prudential borrowing;
 - b) £0.370m, equity investment to support the creation of the depot facility and establish an equity:loan ratio of 25%:75%. The equity investment will be funded from capital receipts;
 - c) £1.270m budget for IT, tools and equipment to be funded through borrowing and then recharged to the wholly owned company over the useful life of the assets.

(Councillors Harris, Kendrick and Maguire were readmitted to the meeting.)

7. Transforming Cities fund update and match funding

Councillor Stonard moved and Councillor Stutely seconded, the recommendations in the report.

Following debate, it was:

RESOLVED, with a majority voting in favour, to approve: -

- 1) An increase of £162K in the General Fund Capital programme for 20/21 and £368K for 21/22; and
- 2) The allocation of the Norwich City Council held funds detailed in appendix 1 as matched funding for the Transforming Cities Fund programme.

8. Annual scrutiny committee review 2019-20

Councillor Wright moved and Councillor McCartney-Gray seconded the recommendations in the report.

RESOLVED, unanimously, to receive the annual review of the scrutiny committee 2019-20

9. Annual report of the audit committee 2019-20

Councillor Price moved and Councillor Driver seconded the recommendations in the report.

RESOLVED, unanimously, to receive the annual report of the audit committee 2019-20

10. Motions

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

10(a) Motion: Car free city centre

Councillor Lubbock moved and Councillor Price seconded the motion.

"In January 2019, this council acknowledged the existence of a Climate Emergency and pledged to take measures as soon as possible to make Norwich carbon neutral.

In September 2019, Norwich marked Car Free Day, and will continue this on an annual basis.

Car journeys currently have an important part to play in our transport mix, but there is evidence that car use impacts on health through high levels of air pollution.

Building on existing policies, and as part of the council's desire to make Norwich carbon neutral, this council should consider further steps to reduce carbon emissions and increase the attraction and uptake of sustainable transport options, such as cycling and public transport.

Council **RESOLVES** to ask cabinet to:

- 1) Build on work already undertaken as a response to Covid-19,

- 2) Identify options following consultation, and in conjunction with the County Council, residents, businesses and groups such as Car-Free Norwich, to significantly reduce or remove non-essential motor vehicle journeys from 'within the city walls' on a longer term basis, considering all financial, regulatory and legal factors;
- 3) work closely with disability advocacy groups and Blue Badge Holders to identify options to ensure that access to the city centre is maintained and improved for people with mobility difficulties or who are otherwise unable to use public transport;
- 4) explore opportunities to significantly reduce or restrict all non-essential motor vehicles from accessing the roads immediately adjacent to the city's primary schools at drop-off and pick-up times; and
- 5) work constructively with traders in any options to ensure deliveries continue and businesses are not negatively impacted by any changes to city centre access."

Councillor Stonard moved and Councillor Waters seconded, a motion under part 52(k) of appendix 1 of the council's constitution, to defer debate on the motion until the work around the 'Liveable City' as part of the 2040 City Vision work had taken place.

RESOLVED With a majority voting in favour of deferral, debate on the motion was deferred until the work around the Liveable City as part of the 2040 City Vision work takes place.

10(b) motion: Food poverty

Councillor Davis moved and Councillor Jones seconded the motion.

Following debate, it was **RESOLVED** unanimously that:

"Norwich has experienced the profound multiple impacts of Covid-19 since the onset of the pandemic. Evidence shows that this impact has not been shared evenly, with those in the city's most deprived communities suffering hardest. One very visible example of this has been the rocketing use of foodbanks which have multiplied and provided critical support to those facing the difficulties of food crisis. As the city now begins to emerge from the pandemic special focus to provide support for those most at risk from food hunger should be considered.

Council **RESOLVES** to:

(1) Ask the leader of the council to:

- a) publicly thank the volunteers, groups, organisations and partners who have worked so tirelessly to provide emergency food, support of other provisions across the city, acknowledging the vital difference this has made.
- b) write to the Secretary of State at the Department for Work and Pensions and both the Norwich Members of Parliament to request, with specific reference to alleviating child poverty, that child benefit is immediately raised by £15.00 per week, per child as an alternative to parents using the current inefficient, ineffective and often inaccessible voucher service.
- c) write to the Secretary of State at the Department for Work and Pensions and Norwich Members of Parliament to request that the Norwich City Council

administrative area becomes a pilot area for Universal Basic Income within the next 6 months.

- (2) acknowledge the impact of a decade of deliberate structural austerity in driving people into food hunger through the weakening of social security and other systemic measures which have fuelled poverty across Norwich,
- (3) use the powers available to ensure that the recovery of the city economy must address the root drivers of poverty with special reference to creating new, inclusive and sustainable growth, tackling endemic low pay and working with the newly formed Good Economy Commission; and
- (4) Consider and implement the agreed Recovery Plan, working with partners, to enhance and develop strong and sustainable food networks to better provide support to those most at risk of food hunger.”

Councillor Waters proposed and Councillor Harris seconded the following motion moved without notice:

‘Under part 52e of appendix one of the council’s constitution, to suspend procedure rule 16 in relation to agenda item 10c only, that the item be discussed after two hours had passed without opposing the business.”

With a majority voting in favour, item 10c was debated following a ten minute break.

10(c) motion: Black Lives Matter

Councillor Youssef moved and Councillor Davis seconded the motion.

“In July 2020, Varsity magazine said “Systemic racism in the UK goes beyond policing and the criminal justice system. It is deeply embedded into our education, our housing, our medical care, our immigration policy.” Furthermore, the Human Rights Campaign Foundation reported that trans women of colour are disproportionately affected by fatal violence.

A black American man, George Floyd, was killed on 25th May 2020, in Minneapolis after a policeman knelt on his neck for almost nine minutes. The website ProPublica has found that young black men aged 15 to 19 are 21 times more likely to be killed by police.

This council **RESOLVES** to:

- 1) note that the response of the President of the United States of America and his administration has been to use extreme force to crush and repel protesters;
- 2) note that a report by the British government has shown a disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on black, Asian and minority ethnic people and that it is of vital importance that action is taken as a result to alleviate the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on black, Asian and minority ethnic people;
- 3) reaffirm that all forms of hate crime are abhorrent;
- 4) continue to condemn all forms of discrimination based on personal characteristics;

- 5) provide all our members with the training and support needed to eradicate discrimination and champion diversity, including by providing training on unconscious bias;
- 6) continue to welcome and support people from underrepresented groups to stand as councillors, because more inclusive councils bringing more diverse perspectives are better equipped to represent the interests of their communities;
- 7) reaffirm that members will work actively with each other to encourage a safe and fair working environment for all members and officers, by advocating robustly and actively for minority groups and by condemning incidences of discrimination in their role as a councillor, whether in the chamber or out in their communities;
- 8) continue supporting members and officers in speaking out against and condemning any form of discrimination based on personal characteristics, whether this be racism, sexism, ageism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, misogyny, maternity, paternity or faith based discrimination, or any other form of discrimination;
- 9) encourage greater diversity within our council by working to understand and break down barriers for underrepresented people wanting to stand for election;
- 10) reaffirm that those charged with providing pastoral care to members (including group leaders and senior officers) to be sensitive to diverse members' needs and ready to signpost to sources of help and support;
- 11) ensure that robust processes are used to deal appropriately with incidents of harassment or discrimination in any form; and
- 12) continue to work with the community and the police in Norwich to ensure that policing across the city is proportionate and fair to all residents.

(More than two hours having passed since the beginning of the meeting, the following item was taken as unopposed business.)

10(d) motion: Universal Basic Income

Councillor Osborn moved and Councillor Grahame seconded the motion.

"A Universal Basic Income is a non-means-tested sum paid by the state to cover the basic cost of living, which is paid to all citizens individually, regardless of employment status, wealth, or marital status, which has been widely debated in recent months. Advocates argue it is the fairest, most effective way to mitigate the effects of coronavirus on people's incomes. A network of Universal Basic Income Labs has been set up and works with local authorities across the UK developing UBI proposals to address problems such as poverty, inequality, discrimination and environmental damage, long-term and immediately, in relation to coronavirus.

This Council **RESOLVES** to ask the leaders of political groups on the council to write to the Good Economy Commission for Norwich, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the leader of the party in Government, their counterparts in all opposition political parties in parliament, all Norwich MPs, and to Norfolk County Council to express the following:

- 1) That the current benefit system is failing citizens, with Universal Credit causing hardship to many communities in Norwich;
- 2) There is a danger of increasing numbers of people facing poverty as a result of the coronavirus crisis;
- 3) Testing a UBI is needed, as a UBI has the potential to help address key challenges such as inequality, poverty, precarious employment, loss of community, and breach of planetary boundaries through:
 - i) Giving employers a more flexible workforce whilst giving employees greater freedom to change their jobs;
 - ii) Valuing unpaid work, such as caring for family members and voluntary work;
 - iii) Removing the negative impacts of benefit sanctions and conditionality; and
 - iv) Giving people more equal resources within the family, workplace and society;
 - v) Breaking the link between work and consumption, thus helping reduce strain on the environment;
 - vi) Enabling greater opportunities for people to work in community and cultural activities or to train or reskill in areas that will be needed to transition to a lower-carbon economy.
- 4) The success of a UBI pilot should not be measured only by impact upon take-up of paid work, but also the impact upon communities and what the people within them do, how they feel, and how they relate to others and the environment around them; and
- 5) Given its history of social innovation, wealth of expertise, and active networks across community, business and public services, Norwich is ideally placed to pilot a UBI.

(The Lord Mayor closed the meeting.)

LORD MAYOR

Appendix A



NORWICH
City Council

Council
21 July 2020

Questions to cabinet members or chairs of committees

Question 1

Councillor Osborn to ask the leader of the council the following question:

“At Cabinet on 8 July, the leader of the council stated that he was “very pleased” with the work of the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (NALEP) in responding to the climate emergency. Is he also pleased with the NALEP’s Local Industrial Strategy, which forms the underlying foundation for the NALEP’s Covid recovery plan? The Local Industrial Strategy celebrates the “significant benefits” of the government’s Road Investment Strategy – that is, the country’s largest ever road building programme and currently the subject of a legal challenge on the basis that it breaches climate laws and the Paris Agreement targets. The Local Industrial Strategy also commits to protecting the Bacton gas terminal until at least 2045 – that is, 15 years after the 2030 date that the national Labour Party committed to having a carbon neutral energy system during the last general election campaign, to say nothing of the many local councils that have committed to becoming entirely carbon neutral by 2030.”

Councillor Waters, the leader of the council’s response:

“For your information, Councillor Osborn, I was referring to the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (NALEP) Climate Change Adaptation and Carbon Reduction Action Plan commissioned from the Tyndall Centre at UEA.

The Tyndall report covers a number of sectors: domestic; transport, agriculture, food processing and energy. It’s a trenchant report, doesn’t pull any punches and is a necessary benchmark against which NALEP and the public, private and third sector partners, including all local authorities, must work with urgency to deliver on tight carbon reduction targets. That includes the industrial strategy which is framed around ‘good’(inclusive) economy principles.

To pick up one of the other points in your question. Yes, it’s a shame that the outcome of the general election did not return a Labour government. Norfolk and Suffolk are leading the way in delivering sustainable and low carbon energy solutions to help low carbon economic growth across the UK.

We already have 986 offshore wind turbines generating 3.75GW of renewable power directly off the region’s coast, with an additional 1,000+ turbines generating some 14GW of offshore wind power to be installed over the next decade.

These numbers would have been much higher with a Labour government. This would have been welcome in the current economic circumstances. The energy sector within Norfolk and Suffolk has a current workforce of 7,800

which under Labour's plans would have been greatly increased. Your question fails to acknowledge the crucial role played by central government in how quickly we are able to make significant advances in tackling climate change. One illustration is the underwhelming announcement by the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak to spend only £3bn to fund its new energy efficiency plan. According to an Institute for Public Policy Research report, it requires triple that sum each year up to 2030 to meet the UK's target to reduce carbon emissions. With a further £7bn a year, between 2030 to 2050, to meet the UK's legally binding commitment to create a net zero carbon economy by 2050. Labour's manifesto planned for major investment to deliver on these targets and would have created over a quarter of a million jobs in England alone. The new leadership of the Labour Party in Westminster is committed to tackling climate change on an ambitious scale. Through our own policies – most notably the recently published Environment Strategy and the citywide Norwich 2040 Vision partnership we are seeking to match that ambition at the local level.”

Supplementary question

Councillor Osborn asked whether the leader of the council supported the Local Enterprise Partnership's Local Industry Strategy as a basis for post Covid Recovery, considering its support of road building and fossil fuels.

The leader of the council said that the points raised in the supplementary question had already been covered in the initial answer. Any economic activity undertaken by the LEP had to be informed by data set out in the climate change strategy.

Question 2

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

“Last September in an article in the Eastern Daily Press, the cabinet member for sustainable development stated the city council’s intention to see roads closed for Car Free Day 2020 and to work with other groups on making Car Free Day bigger and with more family friendly activities. In the intervening months, covid-19 has seen an increase in people experiencing traffic-free streets and many other councils have committed to extending the benefits of that. Has the cabinet member asked the county council to implement road closures for Car Free Day 2020 in order to fulfil the commitment he made last year?”

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

Norwich has a proud pioneering record in creating space for people to walk and cycle in comfort, which puts us ahead of other cities. We have always argued that rather than simply close roads on Car Free Day, we should put on events on those closed roads to engage the public and explain what we have done and why we have done it. Without events it becomes an empty gesture that risks alienating the public who would not understand why they are being inconvenienced.

Due to the Covid-19 lockdown events run by this council have been cancelled, all the way to and including Halloween. We have not been alone in cancelling events; independent event organisers have also cancelled indoor and outdoor events throughout the autumn. Our events team has been redeployed throughout the lockdown to essential front line duties to help with the city’s Covid-19 response. Events need planning and in the middle of lockdown it was not clear – and it still is not clear – whether the type of events we had in mind could be held safely given the requirements for social distancing.

We have therefore concentrated our response to the virus on working with the county council to partially or completely close some roads, widen pavements and make provision for outside eating and drinking. This will be followed by other schemes to help cycling and walking using money from the Transforming Cities Fund. We will keep working with the county council to identify and deliver further enhancements for walking and cycling through the forthcoming review of the transport for Norwich strategy. This will be much more beneficial for the public and businesses than any single-day gesture.”

Supplementary question

Councillor Price said that he acknowledged the pandemic had made holding events difficult, but the public should not be underestimated. He asked the cabinet member for sustainable and inclusive growth what work had been undertaken with Norfolk County Council to prepare for Car free Day 2020.

Councillor Stonard, cabinet member for sustainable and inclusive growth said that it was a disingenuous question. All city council events up to Halloween had been cancelled and may be beyond this date. There was no reason that Car Free Day should be any exception. The actions asked for in the motion to council in March 2019 had been carried out.

Question 3

Councillor Neale to ask the leader of the council the following question:

“At the council meeting last November, when we discussed Norwich Regeneration Limited, the Green group asked questions on the governance of that company. We felt that there was a conflict of interest in having two board members who were asking the council for financial support when they were also cabinet members. We were told there was no conflict of interest.

In June the topic was again on the council agenda and although the board had now been restructured to include independent non-executive members, as we had suggested, the cabinet did not agree to the removal of cabinet members from the board as we had called for. We again called for them to resign but they refused to.

A recent proposal was to create another wholly-owned council company to facilitate some of the council’s operations. We note that it has been proposed to have a board consisting of independent non-executive directors and chair and no cabinet members on the board.

In light of this, I ask again: will the two cabinet members on the board of Norwich Regeneration Limited either resign from the board or resign as cabinet members?”

Councillor Waters, the leader of the council’s response:

“Councillor Neale, I am pleased to see you and the Green Group have abandoned the misleading line that there was and is a lack of transparency around the operation of the company. That was inevitable following the detailed chronology I provided at the June full council meeting and the June cabinet, describing how the Norwich Regeneration Limited (NRL) was discussed over 50 times by either council, cabinet, audit and scrutiny between 2017 and 2020. So, now let me deal with the misleading suggestion about conflict of interest.

Councillors Stonard and Kendrick have always declared their interest as a director of NRL whenever reports relating to NRL have been heard at cabinet or council or any other committee.

As directors of NRL, Councillors Stonard and Kendrick do not receive any remuneration and fulfil the role of director of NRL on a voluntary basis and this helps to reduce the likelihood of any conflict of interest.

Norwich City Council as the sole shareholder in NRL is effectively a parent company and the interests of the council and NRL are aligned which in most cases will mean that, although directors of NRL who are also cabinet members will have an “other” interest to declare, they are unlikely to have any conflict of interest.

At the June cabinet and council meetings this year Councillors Stonard and Kendrick did identify a conflict of interest and as required, they both declared this interest and removed themselves from the meeting while the cabinet and then council debated and voted on the paper with its recommendations.

Councillors Stonard and Kendrick have always done the right thing declaring their interests and balancing their roles as cabinet members and directors of NRL.”

Supplementary question

Councillor Neale asked why there was an instance on having cabinet members on the NRL board but it was felt appropriate to exclude cabinet members from the board of the council's new wholly owned company.

The leader of the council said that the value of having an elected cabinet member on the board had already been outlined and there was a healthy set of sales at Rayne Park.

Question 4

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

"The local press has twice covered the plight of a council tenant who was moved into a council flat suffering a damp and mould problem in February. The tenant was informed by the council that the flat would be repaired before she moved in. However, the work was not carried out in time and the lockdown has delayed it further. The tenant has chronic asthma and reports that her lung condition has worsened as a result of the damp and mould and she is having to take extra medication. Asthma is a life-threatening condition which is exacerbated if not triggered by damp and mould. As someone who is a lifelong asthmatic with many allergies, damp, mould and the spores produced are a major trigger for me. Asthma UK advises carrying out quick treatment of damp and mould in homes before problems get worse.

Will the portfolio holder ensure that all council homes, from now on, are fully fit for purpose before allowing tenants to move in, and, specifically, ensure that no-one moves into council accommodation showing unacceptable levels of damp and mould, let alone someone who has a respiratory condition, is elderly or has children?"

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

"Thank you for your question and comments and I am sure you will understand that I am not able to comment on any one particular case in a meeting of council.

Our tried and tested lettings approach ensures that we let properties quickly, in good condition and at good value to the tenants of the city. Our performance to let a vacant property of around 16 days is one of the best in the country and tenant satisfaction with their new property also remain high. But we can always do better.

The condition of a newly available council home is referred to as the 'lettable standard' and this is summarised in a leaflet called "Safe, Secure, Warm Home - Your new council home" published in February 2018. This details the minimum standard that we seek to achieve with all our lettings. All properties that are let will have been subject to an inspection firstly before a property is vacated by the previous tenants; again when the property becomes empty and a final time when any work required to bring the property to the lettable standard is completed.

Not all of our properties will require any works aside from a thorough clean. Inspections are undertaken by housing officers and surveyors from NPS Norwich, who act as our client and who manage the contractor, Norwich Norse Building Ltd (NNBL), on Page 47 of 66

The council operates a choice-based lettings policy which aims to give as much choice, in terms of location and property type, for tenants at, or near the top of, the waiting list. Tenants 'bid' on properties and in normal circumstances the top three prospective tenants are invited to view a property, usually when work, if any is required is still being undertaken. If the successful tenant is happy with the quality of the offer, then we will arrange sign up to start the tenancy.

Any defects identified that fall outside of the work required to get the property to a lettable standard, such as a kitchen or heating upgrades, would not normally be done before the property is let. In these cases, we will advise the incoming tenant what we will do and generally these repairs are completed in a timely manner. In some cases, this may include structural works like installing a damp proof course which may then be completed as part of a wider programme. Any visible or significant evidence of the effects of damp, for example, mould growth will be dealt with prior to letting.

The overwhelming reports of damp are not caused by any structural defects. Inspections invariably establish the cause to be a lack of air circulation causing the build-up of humidity. In most cases, a fungicidal wash will remove the condensation, and in others the council will install additional ventilation. In these situations, the condition will reoccur unless there is proper ventilation and/or activities such as drying clothes indoors is modified. It is essential that tenants work with us to get the required results.

When we let a property, we confidently expect the property repairs to have been completed in accordance with the lettable standard and this will include work to wash down and treat any signs of condensation. The lettings team have reported that when they view properties awaiting sign up, all meet the lettable standard and there have been very few, if any recent examples where there is visible evidence of damp or condensation. In the recent example highlighted in the local press it is very unfortunate that the reported 'damp' was identified and highlighted after the property had been let. On the rare occasions this happens we will work with tenants to rectify the issue and provide ongoing support and advice through our housing officers as well as undertaking any works should any be required. New tenants will have the phone number of their housing officer and can call at any time. Housing officers will normally visit new tenants within four weeks of them moving into their new home and again will pick up any outstanding repairs and other issues. Housing staff and our contractors have been working tirelessly during the lockdown making sure basic and emergency services are delivered in challenging and changing conditions. They will redouble their efforts as we start on the road to recovery.

It is also worth noting that we are revising our lettable standard recognising that many tenants may need help with making their house their home for example by making it easier to decorate by plastering the walls, fitting curtain rails, renewing the flooring. This may include some damp proof and other works which do not form part of a programme and where the disruption caused by having this work done when the tenant is in occupation would be significant. A checklist which guarantees the new 'Norwich standard' for letting will be issued to each tenant. Assurance that the property is free from damp forms part of the existing and this new standard.

Our pilot was due to start before Covid-19 and will start now at the end of the summer."

Supplementary question

Councillor Carlo asked whether the results of the pilots would be shared with other councillors.

Councillor Harris, deputy leader and cabinet member for social housing, said that she would be delighted to share feedback once the pilots had started.

Question 5

Councillor Matthew Fulton-McAlister to ask the leader of the council the following question:

“Following the Chancellor’s Summer Financial Statement earlier in the month and additional announcement of £500m toward local government, can the leader comment on whether this will indeed provide the much needed and publicly promised support to this council and assist in the crucial recovery of our city?”

Councillor Waters, the leader of the council’s response:

“Thank you for your timely question Councillor Matthew Fulton-McAlister. The latest tranche of government funding was £301,970 which takes the total for Norwich up to £1,818,177.

Last week we received a little more information giving the broad principles of how the income reimbursement scheme will work. From what we do know it doesn’t look like it will cover lost rental income or any other commercial income. The qualifying losses will be based on the net loss position and therefore things like losses from events may not result in compensation as we also didn’t incur the costs of running the event. The table below shows the Covid-19 impacts as previously discussed but I have now incorporated the additional £300k of grant funding and a very preliminary estimate of the income compensation. The latter being predominantly based on estimated lost car park income which in itself is an estimate. When combined with the £2.7m of in year savings identified this stills results in a budgetary shortfall that we would need to look to reserves to fill. An improved position from last week but still not fully funded and with the caveat of a high degree of uncertainty as there has to be a lot of estimates in the figures.

Covid-19 expenditure	982
Income losses	7,296
Funding	- 1,818
Income compensation	- 2,500
Identified in year savings	- 2,700
Estimated 2021 GF budget shortfall	1,260

The figures above do not incorporate the impact of Covid-19 on our business rates and council tax collection - the impact of any shortfalls from these will be seen in coming financial years so we need to be mindful of the longer term budget implications.

The guidance on Friday made no mention of lost income reimbursement for the HRA so it remains unclear if the government will be providing any assistance in this regard.

The calculations surrounding income are very complicated and we still do not know either the full impact of the pandemic or the full details of the government’s scheme so all numbers are provisional and subject to change.

This answer should be read in the context of the question I answered at June council from Councillor Sally Button (page 13 of the July council agenda). The points about local government being not fully recognised for its vital role during the Pandemic (not over by a long way) and the funding model for local government being broken remain the facts on the ground. Despite this we have an ambitious plans to help the city move into a recovery phase. A summary can be found in the Citizen Covid-19 special

edition that has gone to every household in Norwich.”

Question 6

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

"I am proud of this council's record in tackling homelessness and rough sleeping over many decades. With special reference to the significant and ongoing work since 27 March to 'get everyone in' can the cabinet member for safe and sustainable city environment comment on the achievement delivered so far to house rough sleepers and provide them sustainable routes out of homelessness? "

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

"The Covid-19 outbreak and the requirement for us to accommodate all rough sleepers as part of the public health emergency, has brought about unprecedented challenges for this council.

We realised at an early stage that this wouldn't be a static situation and provision of temporary accommodation alone wouldn't, in itself, be a satisfactory solution. The key to maintaining capacity and ensuring positive, life-changing outcomes for rough sleepers was to ensure an onward route into settled accommodation. Our housing options team have been working hard with our partners to put this into practice.

Our approach has been successful. Since 23 March, 106 existing and newly arrived rough sleepers have been accommodated, with the vast majority already moved into settled accommodation so that they will not have to return to the streets. Services are continuing to support the small number remaining in emergency accommodation and any new rough sleepers presenting in Norwich. Of the remaining cohort, an accommodation plan exists for each client, with a key worker assigned to them to deliver tailored support.

Experience has shown that homelessness is rarely just a housing need and this is reflected in the strong infrastructure which we have developed in Norwich over the years to deal with rough sleeping. We were able to draw on this strong network of partners in dealing with the crisis, for example through the Pathways Norwich service, hostel providers and support agencies.

Increased cross-sector working has also been vital in order that we seek to address each client's individual issues and we have worked in partnership with multiple agencies, voluntary groups and statutory services to support this complex and sometimes challenging client group into accommodation to keep them safe during the pandemic.

We are proud of our accomplishments and grateful to our valued partners. All have worked at phenomenal speed to get everyone accommodated, support those clients and develop sustainable plans to make sure those helped do not return to the streets. What we have seen is the best possible evidence of our ongoing commitment to delivering the best possible services to vulnerable clients in the city."

Report to Council
22 September 2020
Report of Chief finance officer
Subject Treasury Management Full Year Review 2019-20

Item

7

Purpose

To consider the Treasury Management performance for the year to 31 March 2020.

Recommendations

To:

- (1) note the report and the treasury activity for the year to 31 March 2020;
- (2) note the treasury management policy statement approved by cabinet on 9 September 2020.

Financial implications

The report has no direct financial consequences however it does report on the performance of the council in managing its borrowing and investment resources.

Ward/s: All wards

Cabinet member: Councillor Kendrick, resources

Contact officers

Hannah Simpson, interim chief finance officer	01603 989204
Caroline Knott, senior technical accountant	01603 987615

Background documents

None

Report

Background

1. The Council is required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual review of its treasury management activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2019/20. This report meets the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management (the Code) and the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (the Prudential Code).
2. This report details the results of the council's treasury management activities for the financial year 2019/20. It compares this activity to the Treasury Management Strategy for 2019/20, approved by Full Council on 26 February 2019. It will also detail any issues that have arisen in treasury management during this period.
3. The CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management recommends that councils approve a Treasury Management Policy Statement, stating the policies, objectives and approach to risk management of its treasury management activities. Per the Financial Regulations, Cabinet is responsible the approval of the policy statement and the Chief Finance Officer has delegated responsibility for implementing and monitoring the statement. Cabinet reviewed and approved the Treasury Management Policy Statement at its meeting on 9th September 2020.

Introduction

4. Treasury Management relates to the policies, strategies and processes associated with managing the cash and debt of the Council through appropriate borrowing and lending activity. It includes the effective control of the risks associated with the lending and borrowing activity and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with the risks.
5. For the 2019/20 financial year the minimum reporting requirements were:
 - an annual Treasury Management Strategy in advance of the year (Council 26 February 2019).
 - a mid-year Treasury Management Review report (Council 28 Jan 2020).
 - an annual review following the end of the year describing the activity compared to the strategy (this report).
6. The regulatory environment places responsibility on members to review and scrutinise treasury management policy and activities. This report is therefore important in that respect, as it provides details of the outturn position for treasury activities and highlights compliance with the council's policies which have previously been approved by members. This report summarises the following:-
 - Capital activity during the year (paragraphs 7 - 10)
 - Impact of this activity on the Council's underlying indebtedness (the Capital Financing Requirement) (paragraphs 11 - 17)
 - The actual prudential and treasury indicators (paragraphs 18-22)

- Overall treasury position identifying how the Council has borrowed in relation to this indebtedness, and the impact on investment balances (paragraphs 23-27)
- Borrowing strategy and detailed debt activity (paragraphs 28-39)
- Investment strategy and detailed investment activity (paragraphs 40-46)

The Council's Capital Expenditure and Financing 2019/20

- The 2019/20 capital programme budgets were approved as part of the budget papers by full Council on 26 February 2019. Subsequent to this there were approved revisions to the 2019/20 capital budgets to include the 2018/19 capital carry forwards and new capital schemes approved during the year. The final capital programme budget is shown in **Table 1** along with the mid-year estimate as reported to Cabinet in December 2019.
- Actual capital spending was under budget for the year by £36.702m. This capital spending included spend on individual capital projects and commercial property investment. The actual level of revenue and capital resources needed to finance the expenditure was less than that originally estimated. The actual capital expenditure forms one of the required prudential indicators. **Table 1** shows the estimates and then the actual capital expenditure for 2019-20 and how this was financed in the year:

Table 1: Capital Programme Financing

	2019/20 Original Budget	2019/20 Final Budget	2019/20 Mid-Year Estimate	2019/20 Actual Outturn	Variance from Final Budget
Capital Expenditure	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
GF capital expenditure	35.959	59.253	53.908	48.760	(10.492)
HRA Capital expenditure	36.568	54.953	38.441	28.744	(26.209)
Total Expenditure	72.528	114.206	92.349	77.505	(36.702)
Financed by					
Capital Receipts	8.383	18.972	9.839	6.897	(12.076)
Capital Grants/Contributions	6.814	8.826	6.157	5.746	(3.080)
Capital Reserves	25.267	25.257	24.521	16.750	(8.508)
Revenue	7.063	15.590	6.313	5.797	(9.793)
Total Financing	47.528	68.646	46.830	35.189	(33.457)
Borrowing need for the year	25.000	45.561	45.519	42.316	(3.245)

- During the year the loan balance with the council's wholly owned subsidiary, Norwich Regeneration Ltd, reduced by £3m. The company repaid £6m of its outstanding loan in November 2019 and took a new loan drawdown of £3m in March 2020. These transactions were in line with the lending facility approved by Council in November 2019. The impact of the loan movements on the capital financing requirement is shown in Table 2.

10. Capital expenditure may either be:

- Financed immediately through the application of capital or revenue resources (e.g. capital receipts, capital grants, revenue contributions etc.), which has no impact on the Council's borrowing need; or
- If insufficient financing is available, or a decision is taken not to apply resources, the capital expenditure will give rise to a borrowing need, which will be satisfied by either external or internal borrowing.

Council's overall borrowing need

11. The council's underlying need to borrow for capital expenditure is termed the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR). The CFR arises as the Council incurs capital spending and then if it does not apply resources immediately to finance the capital spend, (i.e. capital receipts, capital grants, capital reserves or revenue), a borrowing need arises. The 2019/20 CFR year-end balance is the cumulative total of the 2019/20 unfinanced capital expenditure i.e. £42.316m and prior years' unfinanced capital.
12. Treasury Management includes addressing the funding requirements for this borrowing need; it also includes maintaining a cash position to ensure sufficient cash is available to meet the capital expenditure and cash flow requirements. This may be sourced through borrowing from external bodies, e.g. the Government through the Public Works Loan Board (PWLb) or the money markets, or utilising temporary cash resources within the Council (known as internal borrowing).
13. The council's (non-HRA) underlying borrowing need (CFR) is not allowed to rise indefinitely. Therefore statutory controls are in place to ensure that capital assets are broadly charged to revenue over the life of the asset. This requirement is met by making an annual revenue charge, called the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP), to reduce the CFR. This is effectively a repayment of the non-HRA borrowing need (there is no statutory requirement to reduce the HRA CFR).
14. The total CFR can also be reduced by either:
 - the application of additional capital financing resources (such as unapplied capital receipts)
 - charging more than the statutory MRP each year through a Voluntary Revenue Provision (VRP).
15. This differs from the treasury management arrangements which ensure that cash is available to meet capital commitments. External borrowing can be taken or repaid at any time, but this does not change the CFR.
16. The Council's CFR for the year is shown below and is a key prudential indicator. It includes leasing schemes on the balance sheet, which increase the Council's borrowing need. No borrowing is actually required against these schemes as a borrowing facility is included in the contract.

Table 2: Capital Financing Requirement

	2019/20 Original Estimate	2019/20 Revised Estimate	2019/20 Outturn (unaudited)
	£m	£m	£m
Opening General Fund CFR	82.836	77.063	77.063
Movement in General Fund CFR	55.353	41.605	38.497
Closing General Fund CFR	138.189	118.668	115.560
<i>Movement in CFR represented by:</i>			
Borrowing need (capital programme)	45.000	45.519	42.316
Borrowing need (NRL lending net of repayments)	1.622	(3.300)	(3.000)
Borrowing need for the year (capital ambition)	9.529	0	0
Less MRP and other financing adj.	(0.798)	(0.614)	(0.820)
Movement in General Fund CFR	55.353	41.605	38.497
Opening HRA Fund CFR	205.717	205.716	205.716
Movement in HRA CFR	0	0	0
Closing HRA CFR	205.717	205.716	205.716
TOTAL CFR	343.906	324.384	321.277

17. Borrowing activity is constrained by prudential indicators for borrowing and the CFR, and by the authorised limit.

The actual prudential and treasury indicators

18. **Gross borrowing and the CFR** - in order to ensure that borrowing levels are prudent over the medium term and only for a capital purpose, the Council should ensure that its gross external borrowing does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of the capital financing requirement in the preceding year (2018/19) plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the current (2019/20) and next two financial years. This essentially means that the Council is not borrowing to support revenue expenditure. This indicator allows the Council some flexibility to borrow in advance of its immediate capital needs. The table below highlights the Council's gross borrowing position against the CFR. The Council has complied with this prudential indicator.

Table 3: Gross Borrowing

	2019/20 Original Estimate	2019/20 Revised Estimate	2019/20 Actual
	£m	£m	£m
Gross borrowing	255.677	255.617	219.369
CFR	343.906	324.384	321.277
Over Borrowed/(Under Borrowed)	(88.139)	(68.767)	(101.908)

19. **The authorised limit** - the authorised limit is the “affordable borrowing limit” required by s3 of the Local Government Act 2003. The Council does not have the power to borrow above this level. The table below demonstrates that during 2019/20 the Council has maintained gross borrowing within its authorised limit.

Table 4: Authorised Limit & Operational Boundary

	2019/20 Original Estimate	2019/20 Revised Estimate	2019/20 Actual
	£m	£m	£m
Authorised Limit for external debt			
Borrowing	372.306	372.306	372.306
Other long term liabilities	1.600	1.600	1.600
Total Agreed Authorised Limit	373.906	373.906	373.906
Operational boundary for external debt			
Borrowing	342.306	342.306	342,306
Other long term liabilities	1.600	1.600	1.600
Total Agreed Operational Boundary	343.906	343.906	343.906
External debt (including other long term liabilities e.g. finance leases)			220.780

20. **The operational boundary** – the operational boundary is the expected borrowing position of the Council during the year. Periods where the actual position is either below or over the boundary is acceptable subject to the authorised limit not being breached.

Actual financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream

21. The authority is required to report on the ratio represented by its net financing costs to its net revenue stream. For the general fund net revenue is represented by the amount that is funded by government grants and council tax payers, while for the HRA it is the rental income paid by tenants. This is intended to be a measure of affordability, indicating how much of the authority’s revenue is taken up in financing its debt.
22. The table below shows that GF outturn is lower than the estimate due to the fact that borrowing has been managed via internal borrowing rather than sourcing external loans thus reducing interest charges. The HRA outturn is slightly higher than estimated as unbudgeted impairment costs have been charged within the year; last year’s outturn was at a similar level 43.59%.

Table 5: Affordability Ratio

	2019/20	2019/20
Affordability of financing costs	Estimate	Actual
General fund - financing costs as a percentage of net revenue	9.98%	2.25%
HRA - financing costs as a percentage of rental income	38.56%	44.39%

Treasury Position as at 31 March 2020

23. The Council's debt and investment position is managed by the in-house treasury management team. All activities are undertaken primarily to ensure security for investments, to ensure that there is adequate liquidity for revenue and capital activities, and to manage risks within all treasury management activities. Procedures and controls to achieve these objectives are well established both through member reporting detailed in the summary, and through officer activity.
24. The council's actual borrowing position at 31 March 2020 and activity during 2019/20 is detailed in the table below. Borrowing has remained within the authorised limit throughout the year.

Table 6: Borrowing activity 2019-20 (excluding finance leases)

	PWLB loans £m	Market loans £m	Total £m	Average interest rate %
Opening balance (1 April 2019)	194.107	5.000	199.107	
New borrowing taken	20.000	-	20.000	
Borrowing matured/repaid	-	-	-	
Closing balance (31 March 2020)	214.107	5.000	219.107	3.81%
Authorised limit for external debt			373.906	

25. The maturity structure of the debt portfolio was as follows:

Table 7: Maturity Structure of Fixed Rate Borrowing

		31-Mar-20
	%	£m
Under 12 months	0%	0.026
Between 12 months and 2 years	1%	2.552
Between 2 years and 5 years	26%	57.643
Between 5 years and 10 years	53%	117.200
Over 10 years	19%	41.948
		219.369
Perpetually irredeemable stock		0.510
Total borrowing		219.879

26. Table 8 shows the movement in investments in the year. The movement is a combinations of several factors including: an increase in the Council's internal

borrowing (see table 3); repayment of loan agreements; an increase in short term creditors and a reduction in long term debtors. These can be seen on the face of the Council's Balance Sheet, shown in the draft Statement of Accounts.

Table 8: Investment Movements

	Actual 31 March 2019	Net movements in year	Actual 31 March 2020
	£m	£m	£m
Short term			
Banks	11.000	(7.000)	4.000
Building Societies	3.000	(3.000)	0.000
Local Authorities	12.000	(7.000)	5.000
Cash Equivalents			
Banks	13.710	(2.410)	11.300
Building Societies	0.000	0.000	0.000
Local Authorities	4.000	5.000	9.000
Money Market Funds	0.000	15.000	15.000
UK Government	6.000	(6.000)	0.000
Total Internally Managed Funds	49.710	(5.410)	44.300

27. The maturity structure of the investment portfolio was as follows:

Table 9: Maturity Structure

	31 March 2019	31 March 2020
	£m	£m
Under 1 year	49.710	44.300
Over 1 year	0.000	0.000
	49.710	44.300

Borrowing Strategy for 2019/20

28. The council maintained an under-borrowed position in 2019/20. This means that the capital borrowing need (the CFR) has not been fully funded with loan debt as cash supporting the council's reserves, balances and cash flow has been used as a temporary measure. This strategy is prudent as investment returns are low and counterparty risk is relatively high.

29. Table 10 below shows the interest rate forecast to March 2022. These forecasts have been provided by the Council's treasury advisor, Link Asset Services and show gradual rises in medium and longer-term fixed borrowing rates over the next two financial years. Variable, or short-term rates, are expected to be the cheaper form of borrowing over the period.

Table 10: Interest Rate View

Link Asset Services Interest Rate View				31.3.20				
	Jun-20	Sep-20	Dec-20	Mar-21	Jun-21	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22
Bank Rate View	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10
3 Month LIBID	0.45	0.40	0.35	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30
6 Month LIBID	0.60	0.55	0.50	0.45	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40
12 Month LIBID	0.75	0.70	0.65	0.60	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55
5yr PWLB Rate	1.90	1.90	1.90	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.10	2.10
10yr PWLB Rate	2.10	2.10	2.10	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.30	2.30
25yr PWLB Rate	2.50	2.50	2.50	2.60	2.60	2.60	2.70	2.70
50yr PWLB Rate	2.30	2.30	2.30	2.40	2.40	2.40	2.50	2.50

Source: Link Treasury March 2020 (PWLB rates include adjustments for Certainty rate discounts)

30. It is likely that the Council will need to undertake fixed rate long term borrowing within the next 12 months. Any decisions will be reported to Cabinet at the next available opportunity.

PWLB rates

31. PWLB rates are based on, and are determined by, gilt (UK Government bonds) yields through HM Treasury determining a specified margin to add to gilt yields. HM Treasury has imposed two changes in the margins over gilt yields for PWLB rates in 2019-20 without any prior warning; the first on 9 October 2019, added an additional 1% margin over gilts to all PWLB rates. That increase was then reversed for any borrowing for HRA purposes on 11 March 2020, at the same time as the Government announced in the Budget a programme of increased spending on infrastructure expenditure.
32. In March 2020 the government also commenced a consultation on the PWLB's future funding terms. The consultation aims to work with local authorities and sector representatives to develop a targeted intervention to stop debt-for-yield activity while protecting the crucial work that local government does on service delivery, housing, and regeneration. The proposals, if implemented, would mean that the PWLB would not be a source of lending to local authorities investing in commercial properties to generate income. The council will await the outcome of the consultation before deciding whether to take forward any further investment in this or future years.
33. The advice from the council's treasury advisors is that there is likely to be little upward movement in PWLB rates over the next two years as it will take national economies a prolonged period to recover all the momentum they will lose in the sharp recession that will be caused during the coronavirus shut down period. Inflation is also likely to be very low during this period and could even turn negative in some major western economies during 2020-21.
34. The Council has previously relied on the PWLB as its main source of funding; however, the council may need to consider alternative cheaper sources of borrowing. We will continue to liaise closely with our treasury advisors, monitor the borrowing market and update Members as this area evolves.

35. The Municipal Bond Agency are now offering loans to local authorities. This Authority may make use of this emerging source of borrowing as and when appropriate. This is within the existing approved Treasury Management Strategy.

Forward borrowing considerations to mitigate expected future interest rate increases

36. The Council may look to arrange forward borrowing facilities should the future borrowing risk rise or predictions of a significant rate rise is expected. This would enable the Council to lock into borrowing facilities at current low rates and draw down the cash over a period of up to 3 years subject to cash flow demands. It should be noted that some of these facilities may carry brokerage and arrangement fees that will be factored into value for money assessments. The policy has been complied with in 2019/20.

Debt Rescheduling

37. No debt rescheduling was undertaken during 2019/20.

Borrowing Outturn for 2019/20

38. £20m borrowing was undertaken at 1.81% during August 2019 because cash balances were insufficient to cover the 2019/20 unfinanced capital and short term investments. During 2019/20 no PWLB debt was repaid.
39. During 2019-20 the council paid £7.9m in interest costs on external loans, this compares to a budget of £8.9m.

Investment Strategy for 2019/20

40. The TMSS for 2019/20, which includes the Annual Investment Strategy, was approved by the council on 26 February 2019. It sets out the Council's investment priorities as being:
- Security of capital;
 - Liquidity; and
 - Yield

No policy changes have been made to the investment strategy, the Council will continue to aim to achieve the optimum return (yield) on investments commensurate with proper levels of security and liquidity.

41. This report does not cover the Council's investment strategy in regard to non-financial investments. These investments which include the purchasing of commercial property and lending to third parties are covered under the Non-Financial (Commercial) Investment Strategy published in February 2019 as part of the Budget papers.

Investment Outturn for 2019/20

42. The investment activity during the year conformed to the approved strategy, and the Council had no liquidity difficulties.

Reserves

43. The Council's cash balances comprise revenue and capital resources and cash flow monies. The Council's reserves comprised

Table 11: Balance Sheet Reserves

	31-Mar-19	31-Mar-20*
	£m	£m
General Reserves	42.556	43.432
Earmarked Reserves	12.055	17.103
Useable Capital receipts	43.154	51.069
Capital grants Unapplied	5.141	3.462
Major Repairs Reserve	9.796	8.307
Total	112.702	123.373

* Unaudited figures

Investments held by the Council

44. The Council's year-end balance of cash and short term investments was £44.300m. These internally managed funds earned an average rate of return of 0.77%.
45. The Council is part of a benchmarking group (run by our treasury management advisors, Link Asset Services) across Norfolk, Suffolk & Cambridgeshire. The table below shows the performance of the Council's investments when compared with this benchmark group, and also when compared with the non-metropolitan districts and all authorities that use Link's benchmarking group facility.

Table 12: Link benchmarking - position at 31 March 2020

	Norwich	Benchmark Group 7 (11)	Non met districts (87)	All authorities (217)
WARoR ¹	0.77%	0.61%	0.75%	0.71%
WA Risk ²	2.41	3.4	2.88	2.81
WAM ³	52	43	74	70
WATT ⁴	68	112	159	152

Source: Link Treasury March 2020

¹ **WARoR** Weighted Average Rate of Return This is the average annualised rate of return weighted by the principal amount in each rate.

² **WA Risk** Weighted Average Credit Risk Number Each institution is assigned a colour corresponding to a suggested duration using Link Asset Services' Suggested Credit Methodology.

³ **WAM** Weighted Average Time to Maturity This is the average time, in days, till the portfolio matures, weighted by principal amount.

⁴ **WATT** Weighted Average Total Time This is the average time, in days, that deposits are lent out for, weighted by principal amount.

46. The council's average investments return (0.77%) is slightly better than with that for the benchmark group (0.61%), and very similar to the 87 non-met authorities at 0.75% and the population of 217 local authorities at 0.71%. The average

investment return in 2019/20 compares favourably with other similar authorities while still keeping council funds readily available so that if an opportunity to acquire an investment property arose the funds would be available to purchase it at short notice. The WATT for Norwich reflects the positive decision to utilise internal resources to support capital investment, therefore Norwich has kept its investments to a shorter maturity profile averaging 2 months.

Treasury Management Policy Statement

47. The CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management recommends that councils approve a Treasury Management Policy Statement, stating the policies, objectives and approach to risk management of its treasury management activities. It should also include the organisation's high level policies for borrowing and investments.
48. Per the Financial Regulations, Cabinet is responsible the approval of the policy statement and the Chief Finance Officer has delegated responsibility for implementing and monitoring the statement.
49. A treasury management policy statement was approved by Cabinet on 9th September and is included in Appendix 1. It includes the recommended wording per CIPFA's Treasury Management Code of Practice. In addition to the policy statement Cabinet and Full Council will continue to receive as a minimum, an annual treasury management strategy in advance of the year, a mid-year review and an annual report after its close.
50. Alongside the policy statement, CIPFA recommends that the council puts in place suitable treasury management practices (TMPs) setting out the manner in which the organisation will seek to achieve those policies and objectives, and prescribing how it will manage and control those activities. Following the approval of the policy statement, the finance team will now undertake an exercise to review its TMPs and update as appropriate in line with the current CIPFA guidance.

Appendix 1

Treasury Management Policy Statement

The council's financial regulations require it to create and maintain a treasury management policy statement, stating the policies, objectives and approach to risk management of its treasury activities, as a cornerstone for effective treasury management.

Definition

The council defines its treasury management activities as: The management of the organisation's investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.

Risk Management

The council regards the successful identification, monitoring and control of risk to be the prime criteria by which the effectiveness of its treasury management activities will be measured. Accordingly, the analysis and reporting of treasury management activities will focus on their risk implications for the organisation, and any financial instruments entered into to manage these risks.

Value for Money

The council acknowledges that effective treasury management will provide support towards the achievement of its business and service objectives. It is therefore committed to the principles of achieving value for money in treasury management, and to employing suitable comprehensive performance measurement techniques, within the context of effective risk management.

Borrowing policy

The council values revenue budget stability and therefore, all other things being equal, will borrow the majority of its long-term funding needs at long-term fixed rates of interest. However, short-term and variable rate loans may be borrowed to either offset short-term and variable rate investments or to provide value for money. The council will also evaluate debt restructuring opportunities of the existing portfolio.

The council will set an affordable borrowing limit each year in compliance with the Local Government Act 2003, and will have regard to the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities when setting that limit.

Investment policy

The council's primary objectives for the investment of its surplus funds are to protect the principal sums invested from loss, and to ensure adequate liquidity so that funds are available for expenditure when needed. The generation of investment income to support the provision of local authority services is an important, but secondary, objective.

The council will have regard to the Communities and Local Government Investments and will approve an investment strategy each year as part of the treasury management strategy. The strategy will set criteria to determine suitable organisations with which cash may be invested, limits on the maximum duration of such investments and limits on the amount of cash that may be invested with any one organisation.

Integrated impact assessment



NORWICH
City Council

The IIA should assess **the impact of the recommendation** being made by the report
Detailed guidance to help with completing the assessment can be found [here](#). Delete this row after completion

Report author to complete	
Committee:	Council
Committee date:	22 September 2020
Head of service:	Hannah Simpson
Report subject:	Full Year Treasury Management Report
Date assessed:	26 August 2020
Description:	This report is to inform members of the actual treasury activity for the year and compares that to the treasury management indicators set in the Treasury Management Strategy for 2019-20.

	Impact			
Economic (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Finance (value for money)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The report has no direct financial consequences however it does report on the performance of the Council in managing its borrowing and investment resources
Other departments and services e.g. office facilities, customer contact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ICT services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Economic development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Financial inclusion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Social (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Safeguarding children and adults	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<u>S17 crime and disorder act 1998</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human Rights Act 1998	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Health and well being	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

	Impact			
Equality and diversity (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Relations between groups (cohesion)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Eliminating discrimination & harassment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Advancing equality of opportunity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Environmental (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Natural and built environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Waste minimisation & resource use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pollution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sustainable procurement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Energy and climate change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(Please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Risk management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Recommendations from impact assessment	
Positive	
Negative	
Neutral	
Issues	

Report to Council
22 September 2020
Report of Director of place
Subject Future Housing Commissioning

Item

8

Purpose

To consider an adjustment to the 2020/21 HRA capital programme, to increase the budget allocation to support the development of new council housing.

Recommendation

Council are asked to approve:

- 1) An increase in housing capital budget provision of £180,000 to support design, technical studies, project management and planning consultancy for the Mile Cross Depot site.
- 2) An increase in housing capital budget provision of £2.74m to support development of the Mile Cross Depot;and
- 3) Rents for properties designed and constructed to deliver an enhanced environmental performance are set at 5% above formula rent to assist with the additional costs of developing such properties and reflecting the savings for tenants in energy bills.

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority Great neighbourhoods, housing and environment

Financial implications

£2.92m to support the Mile Cross Depot Site to be funded from:

- £0.18m Business Rates Pooling 2020
- £0.822m Retained RTB one for one receipts
- £1.918m HRA borrowing or reserves.

Ward/s: Multiple Wards

Cabinet member: Councillor Harris - Deputy leader and social housing

Contact officers

Graham Nelson, Director of place	01603
Andrew Turnbull, Interim housing development manager	01603 989607
Shaun Flaxman, Senior finance business partner	01603 987574

Background documents

None

Report

Background

1. The relaxation of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) borrowing cap gives the council opportunities to consider increasing the provision of new council homes. Since 2012 Government refinancing of Housing Revenue Accounts (HRA) the council has embarked upon a programme of council house building.
2. To date 191 new council homes have been provided. These have included the purchase of dwellings required under S106 agreements at Rayne Park and Brazen Gate, development of small sites at Eglington Mews and Riley Close, our first Passivhaus development at Hansard Close, the conversion of a former area housing office at Bullard Road and the award winning Goldsmith Street development
3. In November 2019 Cabinet approved the Norwich council housing strategy 2020-2026 that stated our council housing ambition to:

“provide good quality, well maintained affordable homes to meet local housing needs within a safe, clean and well cared for neighbourhood.

We want to make a difference to peoples’ lives by promoting independent living and to build sustainable communities, where people take responsibility for their own lives and those of their families”.

One of the primary goals of the strategy is to meet housing need through the delivery of new homes.

4. On 29 July 2020 Cabinet considered a report on future housing commissioning and approved to
 - a. Note the appraisal for the delivery options and agree next steps:
 - i. Further work to model the financial capacity of the HRA to deliver an on-going pipeline of sites; and
 - ii. To procure specialist advice to assist determination of preferred delivery option and provision of tax and legal advice as needed.
 - b. Approve the outline business cases, programmes and funding required for 2020/21 for progression of three sites including:
 - i. Agreeing a virement of opportunities fund for design on Three Score phase 3 and Argyle St as detailed in the exempt appendix to this report. A virement for Mile Cross design costs were approved by cabinet in June;
 - ii. Recommending to Council to agree capital expenditure of £2.74m on the former Mile Cross depot and also an increase in the budget of £0.18m for design fees in order to utilise funding from business rates pooling as detailed in the exempt appendix to this report.
 - c. Appropriate the land at Three Score phase 3 from the General Fund to the HRA under the Housing Act 1985, part ii, Section 19 (1) for the purposes of providing social housing, subject to a full valuation of the land.

- d. To approve that rents for properties developed to enhanced environmental standards are set at 5% above formula rent to assist with the additional costs of developing such properties and reflecting the savings for tenants in energy bills.
 - e. Approve the procurement of a registered provider partner to develop additional affordable homes on city council sites for a 5-year period. The first tranche of sites is expected to deliver approx. 25 homes.
5. Officers have identified a number of city council owned sites in both the HRA and General Fund that are suitable for development. Three key sites have been identified to take forward immediately that can deliver approx. 260 new homes over the next 5 years. These are:
- a. Mile Cross depot site (approved at cabinet in June 2020) - 156-200 homes
 - b. Argyle Street, former housing subsequently demolished – 14 homes
 - c. Three Score Phase 3, adjacent to the Rayne Park development – 90 homes

HRA Business Plan

6. The HRA business plan models the long-term financial viability of the HRA. The two key outputs from the business plan are the period over which the HRA would have the ability to repay all of its borrowing; and the maximum level of debt held at one time.
7. Historically, the ability to repay all borrowing over a 30 year timescale was utilised as a measure of the financial viability of the HRA. This is a notional measure as there is no requirement to repay borrowing over that period, but it acts as a measure of the payback period on the investments made. However, councils and registered providers are now considering extending their borrowing periods well beyond 30 years to better reflect the lifespan of the assets, and in some cases they have no plans to repay any borrowing in the foreseeable future. To reflect this, the council has extended the business plan projections to 60 years to enable further investment opportunities to be explored, such as additional new build schemes and the consideration of renewing rather than upgrading some housing stock.
8. Additionally, total HRA borrowing was restrained by a government imposed borrowing cap (£237m). However, in 2018, in order to facilitate an increased level of new social housing, the government's borrowing cap was removed. The borrowing capacity therefore now falls within the remit of the Prudential Code.

Key assumptions within the business plan

9. The 'base' 2020/21 HRA business plan, includes all estimated costs of maintaining and upgrading the current housing stock over the next 60 years and forecasts that existing borrowing could be repaid within 24 years.
10. Given the length of time over which the business plan is based, there are a number of key assumptions and a degree of estimation uncertainty. The key assumptions included in the 'base' business plan include:
11. The HRA will only borrow when necessary and will first seek to utilise existing reserves as set out in the Capital Strategy. The HRA holds £207.5m of existing borrowing, of which £179.6m is historic and placed externally at rates varying

from 2.92% to 9.63%. As it is impossible to predict future interest rates, a prudent assumption of 4.5% increasing to 5% is applied throughout the plan.

12. Future rental income assumes that existing government policy will continue to be applied (CPI as at preceding September plus 1%); Rental income for new dwellings is assumed to reflect that of existing dwellings of a similar property size and type.
13. In order to maintain a prudent approach and mitigate against the risk of real costs (building, maintenance & management) increasing at a higher rate than the recorded CPI of the preceding September, the model assumes a difference of +0.75% for the first 10 years, reducing to +0.5% thereafter throughout the plan.

Borrowing Capacity

14. Although the government removed the HRA borrowing cap in 2018, and the council may now determine how much it will borrow to fund HRA capital expenditure, it still has to demonstrate that the overall borrowing of the council (HRA & GF) is affordable, prudent and sustainable as required by CIPFA's Prudential Code. It is important to note that because the prudential code applies to total borrowing, the capital ambition of both the HRA and general fund need to be considered in tandem. The current level of borrowing in the HRA is £205m and £116m for the general fund.
15. For the purposes of the modelling, a guideline HRA borrowing limit of £350m has been applied. In setting this level, consideration has been given the level of interest payments, the gearing ratio (borrowing level to the HRA asset value of £809m) and current general fund borrowing. This level will continue to be reviewed in light of the general fund capital ambition, forecast interest rates and the changing HRA asset base.
16. Any long-term financial forecast will include a number of risks and uncertainties and the HRA business plan is no exception. As already explained, a number of assumptions are made, but some elements can change, such as unforeseen upgrade and maintenance costs, increases in development costs and changes in government rent policy. It is important these risks are considered when looking at borrowing levels and repayment periods.

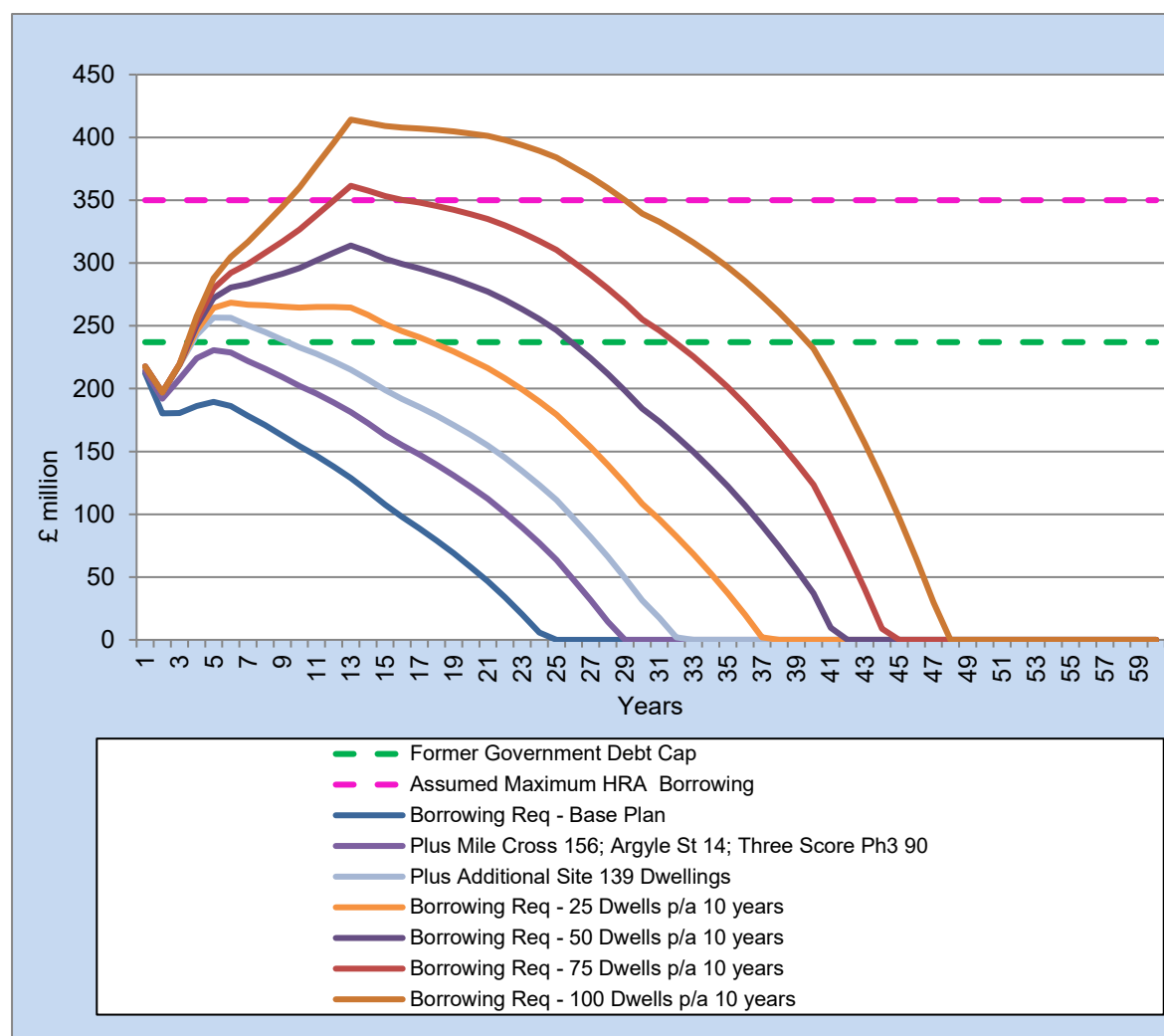
Modelling

17. The chart below sets out a number of potential scenarios and the associated impact on the repayment of HRA borrowing. The outputs from the model show that the proposed schemes at Mile Cross, Argyle Street and Threescore would increase the borrowing of the HRA to £231m (which remains below the previous debt cap) and extends the repayment period to 28 years. These schemes are therefore considered affordable by the HRA. Adding a further potential scheme of 139 dwellings into the plan, increases the borrowing to £257m and further extends the repayment period to 32 years.
18. When further pipelines of sites are included, the model shows that in order to maintain HRA borrowing below the assumed limit of £350m, between 50 and 75 new homes per year could be delivered over a 10-year period, once the development of 399 new homes included within existing schemes is complete.

However, the repayment of HRA borrowing would extend to between 41 and 44 years.

19. The chart also highlights the impact of building 100 new homes per year over a 10-year period, which would increase borrowing well beyond the assumed £350m limit to £414m, with the repayments period extending to 47 years (The graph shows reaching zero in year 48 but the debt is paid off in the year before). However, the potential exists to increase the number of new dwellings, if savings can be identified elsewhere within the HRA.

HRA Borrowing Requirement Scenarios



Recommendations

20. In order to progress the three sites at pace Cabinet approved the virement of budgets for design services to take forward Three Score Phase 3 and Argyle Street and had previously approved a budget for Mile Cross.
21. For the Mile Cross depot site a bid was made in late 2019 for Business Rates Pooling (BRP) funding to provide 50% of the £360,000 costs for design, project management, technical studies and planning advice, which has now been approved. Cabinet approved match funding in June through a virement from the opportunities fund, however the BRP element needs to be approved as an

adjustment to the council's budget. It is therefore requested that Council approves the recommendation from cabinet an uplift in the council's housing capital budget of £180,000 in order to utilise the BRP funding.

22. In addition, through the work undertaken to date to demolish buildings on the site and de-contamination works, we are aware that there are further issues with the ground at Mile Cross. In order to de-risk the site for redevelopment further technical studies will be undertaken and it is recommended that a package of ground works be brought forward in the programme to inform the foundation strategy of the development. In the cost plan £2.74m is included for these works and Council are asked to approve an uplift in 2020/21 housing capital budget for this amount.
23. Within the MHCLG guidance on rent setting for local authorities there is flexibility to set rents at up to 5% above formula rent for individual properties.
24. In July 2016 cabinet and council approved that rents for Passivhaus properties are set at 5% above formula rent to assist with the additional costs of developing such properties and reflecting the savings for tenants in energy bills.
25. Council are asked to approve that we take advantage of this flexibility for the development of any new homes that meet enhanced environmental standards as well as Passivhaus (equivalent to an average £4 per week additional rent). This will assist with offsetting the additional development cost, and bring down the payback period of the individual scheme, particularly as the evidence shows that residents would make significant savings on fuel bills.

Integrated impact assessment



NORWICH
City Council

The IIA should assess **the impact of the recommendation** being made by the report
Detailed guidance to help with the completion of the assessment can be found [here](#). Delete this row after completion

Report author to complete

Committee:	Council
Committee date:	22 September 2020
Director / Head of service	Graham Nelson, Director of Place
Report subject:	Future Housing Commissioning
Date assessed:	11 September 2020

	Impact			
Economic (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Finance (value for money)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Provision of more council homes will improve overall affordability of the housing stock. This represents a prudent use of financial resources to meet corporate priorities. A balance will need to be found for the delivery of additional homes against the overall costs within the HRA that doesn't impact negatively on the council's overall borrowing and prudent financial management of the HRA.
Other departments and services e.g. office facilities, customer contact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ICT services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Economic development	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The delivery of new affordable housing will provide employment opportunities, opportunities for local contractors and businesses and will generate local spending for the benefit of the wider economy. Providing more housing is important in supporting sustainable economic growth and prosperity.
Financial inclusion	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Providing additional social rented housing at enhanced environmental standards will advance financial inclusion by helping to improve housing affordability and reduce fuel poverty.
Social (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Safeguarding children and adults	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Building more council homes to meet changing needs will help provide accommodation for vulnerable adults and children.

	Impact			
<u>S17 crime and disorder act 1998</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human Rights Act 1998	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Health and well being	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The provision of sufficient and decent quality housing is essential to ensuring decent levels of health and well being.
Equality and diversity (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Relations between groups (cohesion)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Eliminating discrimination & harassment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Advancing equality of opportunity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Environmental (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Natural and built environment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Provision of high quality new homes will enhance the built environment.
Waste minimisation & resource use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pollution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

	Impact			
Sustainable procurement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Procurement of design and construction services will include opportunities for local contractors and suppliers. We would also seek opportunities for local apprenticeships and training.
Energy and climate change	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	There is opportunity for the new homes to be designed and built to a higher environmental standard than building regulations, which will bring benefits to both the environment and tenants, when compared with standard build types. The focus will be on reducing energy and water demands to help reduce fuel bills for residents and to assist the council with meeting the commitments to the climate change agenda
(Please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Risk management	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<p>There are risks with all developments around cost, quality and time but these will be carefully managed throughout delivery and minimised or mitigated wherever possible.</p> <p>Ground conditions on developments are always a major risk, but these can be mitigated and a significant sum has been included within appraisals to deal with these issues along with a contingency.</p>

Recommendations from impact assessment

Positive

Overall this report will provide more council homes which will improve overall affordability of the housing stock. The investment priorities represent a prudent use of financial resources to meet corporate priorities and will provide local employment opportunities.

Negative

Overall borrowing of the council will increase and extend the payback period of the HRA business plan. This will be managed in conjunction with the S151 Officer to keep within recommended prudent levels and programmes of delivery amended accordingly. Site risks will be mitigated wherever possible and contingencies included within cost plans.

Neutral

Issues

Report to Council
23 June 2020
Report of Director of resources
Subject Schedule of Committee Meetings

Item

9

Purpose

To consider a schedule of meetings for the remainder of the civic year 2020-21

Recommendation

To approve a schedule of meetings for the remainder of the civic year 2020-21

Corporate and service priorities

The report helps to meet the corporate priority of a healthy organisation

Financial implications

None

Ward/s: All Wards

Cabinet member: Councillor Kendrick - Resources

Contact officers

Stuart Guthrie, Democratic and elections manager 01603 989389

Anton Bull, Director of resources 01603 212326

Background documents

None

Report

1. A report was put to members in June 2020 to agree a pared down schedule of meetings during the lockdown period. This report only went up to September 2020.
2. Attached at appendix A is an updated schedule of meetings for the remainder of the civic year 2020-21. Members are asked to note these and put them into their diaries.
3. The Annual General Meeting of council due to be held in May this year was cancelled and a date for this is being kept under review. Dates for SDP and CEEEP are still being discussed and members will be updated with the final dates once these have been confirmed.
4. Please note that the start times in the appended table relate to virtual meetings and may be changed if meetings can be held in person. Meetings will continue to take place remotely.
5. Members are reminded that the “6 month rule” is still in place and this schedule gives all members opportunities to attend committee meetings.

Integrated impact assessment



NORWICH
City Council

Report author to complete

Committee:	Council
Committee date:	22 September 2020
Director / Head of service	Anton Bull
Report subject:	Committee meetings
Date assessed:	10 September 2020

	Impact			
Economic (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Finance (value for money)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Other departments and services e.g. office facilities, customer contact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
ICT services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Economic development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Financial inclusion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Social (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Safeguarding children and adults	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<u>S17 crime and disorder act 1998</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Human Rights Act 1998	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Health and well being	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

	Impact			
Equality and diversity (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Relations between groups (cohesion)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Eliminating discrimination & harassment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Advancing equality of opportunity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Environmental (please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Transportation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Natural and built environment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Waste minimisation & resource use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Pollution	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sustainable procurement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Energy and climate change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
(Please add an 'x' as appropriate)	Neutral	Positive	Negative	Comments
Risk management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

Recommendations from impact assessment	
Positive	
Negative	
Neutral	
Issues	

Committee	Day of meeting	Time	2020				2021				
			Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Council	Tue	18:00	22	-	24	-	26	23	16	-	
Cabinet	Wed	16:30	9	14	11	9	13	10	10	-	-
Scrutiny	Thu	16:30	17	15	19	17	21	4	18	-	-
Audit	Tue	16:00	-		24	-	12	-	9	-	-
Planning applications	Thu	09:30	10	8	12	10	14	11	11	8	
Licensing	Thu	16:30	3	-	26	-	-	-	4	-	-
Regulatory sub	Mon	14:00	14	12	9	14	11	8	8	12	
Licensing sub	Adhoc		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Standards	Tue	10:00	-	13	-	-	-	2		-	-

Committee	Day of meeting	Time	2020				2021				
			Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Norfolk Records	Norfolk County Council	10.30	-	30	-	-	-	5	26	-	-
Norfolk Joint Museums	Norfolk County Council	14:00	-	30	-	-	-	5-	26	-	-
Norfolk Parking Partnership Joint	Norfolk County Council	14:00	30			22			30		
Transforming Cities Joint	Norfolk County Council	14:00	8	14		17		18		14	

Committee	Day of meeting	Time	2020				2021				
			Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May
Sustainable development panel	Schedule tbc	9:30		1							-
Climate environment emergency executive panel	Schedule tbc	9:30									-
Constitution working party	Adhoc	16:30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cross party working group – CT	Adhoc	16:00	22-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cross party working group – budget ⁵	Adhoc	16:30	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Twinning	Thu	16:00	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	-	-
Mousehold Heath Conservators	Fri	14:00		-	-	-	15	-	19	-	-
Norwich area museums	Tue	14:00	8	-	-	8	-	-	2	-	-

Motion to Council
22 September 2020

Item

Subject Private rented sector

10(a)

Proposer Councillor Jones

Seconded Councillor Davis

A secure home is at the heart of all of our lives. It gives security, enables aspiration and gives children a stable home in which to grow up. Residents living in the private rented sector should have the security to build their lives and futures, and to become an active part of their community, just as residents in other housing tenures should expect. Nationally one-in-four private rented homes are classed 'non-decent', meaning they are damp, cold, in disrepair and unsafe to live in and private tenants collectively pay £10bn per year in private rents to landlords letting sub-standard homes. Over 1.7 million private renters pay more than a third of their income in rents.

This Council **RESOLVES** to:

- 1) support the national and local campaign to introduce a national private renters' charter including a right to an affordable home, a right to a secure home, and a right to a decent home.
- 2) ask the cabinet member for Safer, Stronger Neighbourhoods to:
 - a) call for the Prime Minister to honour the commitment to abolish 'Section 21' of the Housing Act 1988 and continue the ban on Covid-19 related evictions during such high levels of economic uncertainty.
 - b) call on the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to increase the local housing allowance for under 35s to the standard limit
 - c) write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to:
 - i. Abolish Section 21 of the Housing Act 1988 which allows eviction without the landlord having to establish fault on the part of a tenant and continue the ban on Covid-19 related evictions during such high levels of economic uncertainty.

- ii. Introduce open-ended tenancies to help to make renting more secure and protect tenants from unfair evictions
- iii. Cap rents at the Local Housing Allowance rate.
- iv. Implement no rent increases until March 2021 and introduce a Coronavirus Home Retention Scheme to make grants available to cover the rent of the most financially vulnerable.
- v. remove the Ministerial veto on local licensing schemes for private landlords and call on the government to give councils discretionary powers to licence all private rented housing within its boundaries; and
- vi. introduce a property 'MOT' consisting of annual, independent checks of private rental properties, tough fines including repayment of rent to tenants, and fresh local enforcement powers.

3) write to local MPs to ask for their support to in pressing the Government to act.

Motion to Council
22 September 2020
Subject Action on fly-tipping
Proposer Councillor Schmierer
Seconded Councillor Price

Item
10(b)

Across Britain, fly-tipping figures soared by 300 per cent during the lockdown. Fly-tipping increased in Norwich with over 1,700 mattresses dumped in the city in 2018-19, more than almost anywhere else in the UK.

Disposing of bulky items is currently expensive or inconvenient, collection costing £23.50 for one item and £30 for three items, while getting them to the Mile Cross recycling centre is only possible with vehicle ownership.

Other councils are conducting similar reviews of the cost of providing community tips, to make it easier for people to dispose of rubbish legally.

Council therefore **RESOLVES** to ask cabinet to:

- 1) investigate the cost and logistics of both introducing “community skips” in key locations across the city or regular fly-tipping “amnesties” as well as kerbside collections
- 2) evaluate the current kerbside collection system, especially whether the costs and the service are suitable to the needs of residents, taking into account the impact of the planned creation of a new recycling centre in the north of Norwich to replace the existing one at the Mile Cross depot
- 3) continue to provide information to residents about how to dispose of their waste legally and, where possible, increase the provision of this information
- 4) investigate working with partners and other councils to ensure greater enforcement action is taken against those who fly-tip in Norwich
- 5) work with the Norwich Car Club to ensure that larger vehicles are available to residents who need to take bulky items to a recycling centre.

Motion to Council
22 September 2020
Subject Changes to the planning system
Proposer Councillor Carlo
Seconder Councillor Neale

Item
10(c)

'Planning for the Future', if implemented, would replace the planning system for England. In his foreword to the White Paper, the Prime Minister wants to, "tear it down and start again". Local people's input on planning would be limited to the plan-making stage. Planning permission would be 'automatically secured' for growth areas. Permitted development would be expanded to allow more conversion of commercial buildings to residential units. Shelter says it is a myth that the planning system is stopping homes being built and that more money for social housing is required not planning reforms.

This council **RESOLVES** to:

- (1) Respond to the 'Planning for the Future' consultation, with input from local councillors, and robustly challenge plans to de-regulate the planning system and to instead make the case that a progressive, democratic, planning system underpins the delivery of healthy communities and sustainable development.
- (2) Write to the Prime Minister in support of Shelter's call to the Government to use the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review to increase spending on social housing which would better address housing needs than de-regulation of the planning system.
- (3) Publicly announce support of the Town and Country Planning Association's Healthy Homes Bill and write to Norwich's two Members of Parliament asking them also to publicly announce support of the Bill which would give the government a duty to ensure that any new housing meets decent homes principles set out in an Act such as adequate living space, access to natural light and low carbon emissions.