

**Cabinet****17:30 – 18:50****8 February 2017**

Present: Councillors Waters (chair), Harris (vice chair), Kendrick, Ryan, Stonard and Thomas (Va)

In Attendance: Councillor Schmierer

**1. Apologies for absence**

An apology was received from Councillor Bremner

**2. Public questions/petitions**

There were no public questions.

**3. Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. Minutes**

The democratic services manager said that item 9 of the previous minutes needed to be changed to insert the words "...in the two months since the referendum." after "...raw data indicated a rise in reporting of hate incidents and hate crimes."

**RESOLVES**, subject to the amendment above, to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 18 January 2017.

**5. Corporate Plan refresh 2017-18**

The Leader of the Council introduced the report and added that the refreshed corporate plan emphasised that the council was committed to supporting a more equal society with opportunities for all. It would need to continue to be a creative council, working with key partners in the city, to overcome the challenges of financial constraints imposed by central government and the uncertainty of Brexit.

The chief executive added that the council had done well to maintain frontline services and deliver on its corporate priorities whilst making significant savings. However, the future challenges it faced meant that it would become increasingly difficult to meet future aspirations.

Councillor Schmierer said that in line with the Paris Climate Change Agreement the council needed to be ambitious with climate change targets and asked if there was

confidence that air pollution in the city would have reduced in three years' time? The Strategy manager, said that this was a transitional year with revised targets and the corporate priorities, including performance measures, would be reviewed after one year. The Leader of the Council said that the council would continue to do its best to deliver climate change targets in the context of what happens at the national and international level.

**RESOLVED** to recommend council to approve the 2017-2018 refresh of the 2015-2020 Corporate Plan.

## **6. General Fund Revenue Budget and Non-Housing Capital Programme 2017-18 to 2021-22**

The cabinet member for resources and business liaison introduced the report. He said the recommendations reflected the financial constraints imposed on the council by the continued reduction in revenue support grant and the reduction in New Homes Bonus in the provisional financial settlement for 2017/18 which the government had presented to parliament.

The chief finance officer said that usually the provisional financial settlement was known when cabinet considered the budget proposals and the final settlement was then known in advance of budget council. She said there was uncertainty this year whether the government would provide the final settlement in the same timescale and council might be in a position of not knowing the final figures at budget council.

**RESOLVED** to exclude the public to enable debate on Appendix 5, which appears on the agenda as item \*15, because it would disclose information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person as in paragraph 3 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

Following the debate the public were invited back into the committee room.

The cabinet member for resources and business liaison proposed that line 21 of the transformation plan 2017-18 to 2018-19 in Appendix 3 be re-worded slightly to more accurately reflect what this item represented. He suggested the following revised words – “rationalisation of the property portfolio and investment in new assets to increase returns”. With all cabinet members in agreement this was **RESOLVED** accordingly.

**RESOLVED**, subject to the amendment above, to recommend to council:

- (1) that the council's budgetary requirement for the 2017-18 financial year be set to £16.152m (paragraph 6.1 of the report);
- (2) that the proposed general fund budgets for 2017-18 and transformation plan for 2018/19 be approved, taking into account the savings, income and other budget movements set out in the report (paragraph 6.3 and and Appendix 3);
- (3) that the council's council tax requirement for 2017-18 be set at £9.029m and that council tax be set at £249.01 for Band D, which is an increase

of £5 (2.05%) (paragraph 7.1) the impact of the increase for all bands is shown in table 7.2;

- (4) that the precept on the council tax collection fund for 2017-18 be set at £8.732m calculated in accordance with Sections 32-36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011 (paragraph 7.1);
- (5) that the prudent level of reserves for the council be set at £4.161m in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief finance officer (paragraph 8.11);
- (6) that the proposed non-housing capital programme 2017-18 to 2021-22 (paragraph 10.3) be approved; and,
- (7) that cabinet delegates to the director of regeneration and development and the chief finance officer, in consultation with the cabinet member for resources and income generation, the authority to agree the asset maintenance programme and the final scheme details, including any adjustment to the financial allocations of the section 106 works, provided that this investment is contained within the total budgetary provision shown in Table 10.3.

## **7. Housing Rents and Budgets 2017-18**

Councillor Harris, the cabinet member for council housing, introduced the report. She added that clearly she was unhappy at having to recommend a 1% rent reduction as imposed by government. Despite providing modest savings for tenants this would have severe implications for the council's housing stock in the future when the council's own tenants' forum had already indicated it understood and supported slight rent increases moving forward.

In reply to a question from Councillor Schmierer, the associate director of operations at Norfolk Property Services confirmed that there were measures in place to make him confident that £800,000 per annum was a sufficient budget for supported independent living.

The cabinet member for council housing commented on the proposed cuts by Norfolk County Council on its supporting people budget. She said the council needed to work with other partners and organisations to engage with the county council to highlight how these savings could lead to huge increased cost pressures elsewhere.

**RESOLVED** to exclude the public to enable debate on Appendix 3, which appears on the agenda as item \*16 because it would disclose information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person as in paragraph 3 of schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.

Following the debate the public were invited back into the committee room.

**RESOLVED to:**

- (1) recommend to council, for the 2017-18 financial year, to:
  - (a) implement the minimum 1% rent reduction in accordance with legislation set down in the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016. (paragraph 5.8).
  - (b) approve the proposed Housing Revenue Account budgets (paragraph 3.1).
  - (c) approve the prudent minimum level of housing reserves (paragraph 6.6).
  - (d) approve the proposed housing capital programme 2017-18 to 2021-22 (paragraph 8.1).
  - (e) approve that garage rents increase by 2% (paragraph 5.12)
- (2) note that service charges will be determined under delegated powers in compliance with the constitution (paragraph 5.13).

**8. Neighbourhood Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)**

The Leader of the Council introduced the report.

In response to a question from Councillor Schmierer, the City growth and development manager said that criteria would be set to look at crowdfunding projects and the impact on the community was part of CIL requirements for project assessment. This would include consideration to ensure that communities less able to make bids had a "level playing field". She emphasised this was a pilot scheme with a relatively small amount of funding aimed at making CIL funding go further.

**RESOLVED to:**

- (1) approve proposals for Community Infrastructure Levy neighbourhood funding for 2017-18 as follows:

	£
Contribution to Crowdfunding pool:	50,000
Match for Norfolk Parish Partnership fund :	20,000
Mile Cross cycle/pedestrian links:	25,000
Car Club:	5,000
- (2) agree the proposed changes to the process for allocating funding for the neighbourhood element of CIL. These include:
  - (a) Allocation of 50,000 as match for a Crowdfunding pot into which community groups may bid; and,
  - (b) Allocation of 20,000 as match for Norfolk County Council's Parish Partnership transport fund.

## **9. Revenue budget monitoring 2016-17 – Period 9**

Councillor Stonard, the cabinet member for resources and business liaison, introduced the report.

**RESOLVED** to note:

- (1) the financial position as at 31 December 2016 and the forecast outturn 2016-17; and,
- (2) additional unbudgeted grant awarded for 2016-17.

## **10. Capital budget monitoring 2016-17 – Quarter 3**

The cabinet member for resources and business liaison introduced the report.

**RESOLVED** to:

- (1) note the position of the housing and non-housing capital programmes as at 31 December 2016;
- (2) approve the addition to the non-housing capital programme of spend funded by ring fenced grant from Norwich Town Close Estate charity, as set out in paragraph 9 of the report; and,
- (3) approve the proposed capital virements within the housing capital programme as detailed in paragraphs 15-18 of the report.

## **11. Procurement of Various Housing Stock Upgrade Contracts – KEY DECISION**

(A supplementary report comprising the completed integrated impact assessment was circulated at the meeting.)

The cabinet member for council housing introduced the report.

In reply to a question from Councillor Schmierer, the head of service—operations at Norfolk Property Services said that United Living had been a new contractor this year having recently been added to the EPL framework. The contractor had been responsive to the need to understand what the council required from contractors and would not be recommended as the proposed contractor for a second year if it had not responded accordingly.

**RESOLVED** to:

- (1) award the contract for electrical rewires, upgrades and periodic inspections to United Living; and,
- (2) delegate authority to the director of neighbourhoods, in consultation with the cabinet member for council housing, to award to the best value supplier for domestic heating upgrades after a mini tendering exercise is complete.

**12. Award of Contracts for Structural Repairs to Council Homes- KEY DECISION**

The cabinet member for council housing introduced the report.

**RESOLVED** to:

- (1) award the following structural repair and improvement contracts –
  - (i) Somerleyton Gardens and Wilberforce Road – concrete repairs and deck membrane replacement to Thomas Sinden Ltd;
  - (ii) West Pottergate – concrete repairs and deck membrane replacement to JB Specialist Refurbishments Ltd;
  - (iii) Omnia Ph.4 (William Mear Gardens) – concrete repairs and staircase replacement to Thomas Sinden Ltd

**13. Pedalways – Appropriation of Council Owned Land for Adoption as Highway– KEY DECISION**

Councillor Kendrick, the cabinet member for neighbourhoods and community safety, introduced the report.

**RESOLVED** to approve the appropriation of sections of pathway and associated infrastructure on city council-owned land for adoption as public highway to form part of the pedalway network.

**14. Exclusion of the public**

**RESOLVED** to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration items 15 to 19 (below) on the grounds contained in the relevant paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

**15.\* General fund Revenue Budget 2017-18 and Non Housing Capital Programme 2017-18 to 2021-22 – Appendix 5 (Paragraph 3)**

**RESOLVED** to note that this item was considered during item 6 above.

**16.\* Housing Rents and Budgets 2017-18 – Appendix 3 (Paragraph 3)**

**RESOLVED** to note that this item was considered during item 7 above.

**17.\* Managing Assets (non-Housing) (A) - KEY DECISION (Paragraph 3)**

The cabinet member for resources and business liaison introduced the report.

**RESOLVED** to:

- (1) agree in principle to dispose of the parcel of land as set out paragraph 15 of this report on the basis of conditions described in paragraphs 25-27; and,
- (2) ask the director of regeneration and development to present a further report to cabinet following negotiations to confirm the disposal and the proposed terms.

**18.\* Managing Assets (Housing) (B) - KEY DECISION (Paragraph 3)**

The cabinet member for council housing introduced the report.

**RESOLVED** to approve:

:

- (1) the disposal of the freehold interest in the land detailed in plan No S6722-1; and,
- (2) that the capital receipt from the disposal be reinvested in the housing capital program for improving, repairing and maintaining our housing stock or for enabling new affordable housing.

**19.\* Managing Assets (Housing) (C) - KEY DECISION (Paragraph 3)**

The cabinet member for council housing introduced the report.

The head of city development services said that since the report had been drafted an opportunity had arisen to sell the property to a partner organisation who would restore the property and hope to sell at a profit taking on all development risk. Any profit would be shared with the council on a 50/50 basis. The offer would only be accepted if it exceeded an independent valuation of the property.

**RESOLVED** to:

- (1) approve the disposal of the freehold interest in the asset; and,
- (2) reinvest the capital receipt from the disposal in the housing capital program for improving, repairing and maintaining our housing stock or for enabling new affordable housing

CHAIR