



**Scrutiny Committee**

**16:30 to 18:25**

**8 December 2022**

Present: Councillors Wright (chair), Brociek-Coulton (vice chair), Carlo, Champion (substitute for Osborn), Driver, Fulton-McAlister (M), Galvin, Thomas (Va) and Thomas (Vi)

Apologies: Councillors, Huntley, Osborn, Padda, Stutely and Young

(Also present Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for resources).

**1. Declarations of interest**

Councillor Thomas (Va) declared an other interest in relation to item 5 (below) in that he was employed by Norfolk Community Law Service.

**2. Minutes**

**RESOLVED** to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meetings held on 13 October 2022 and 17 November 2022.

**3. Exclusion of the public**

**RESOLVED** to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of item \*7 (below) on the grounds contained in the relevant paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

**\*4. NRL Business Plan 2023-2033**

(This item was taken first).

(An exempt minute exists for this item).

(Cllr Fulton-Mc-Alister joined the meeting at this point).

Following discussion a member moved a motion to move to the next item and this was seconded. With 6 voting in favour and 4 against it was:

**RESOLVED** to note the Norwich Regeneration Ltd business plan 2023-2033.

(The public were readmitted to the meeting at this point).

## **5. Recommendations from the update on debt advice and support services**

The chair noted that recommendations on debt advice and support services had been postponed from the last meeting of scrutiny committee.

**RESOLVED** to recommend to cabinet:

- 1) That the council maintains a 100% Council Tax reduction scheme;
- 2) That the council maintain its financial support of the Financial Inclusion Consortium;
- 3) That cabinet lobbies against the punitive elements of the benefit system such as the recovery of overpayments and the Spare Room Subsidy;
- 4) That the council campaigns to encourage everyone to claim what benefits they are entitled to;
- 5) That officers circulate a list to councillors of any additional subsidiary advice agencies that could assist residents;
- 6) That council tax and housing benefit letters when revised are brought to scrutiny committee to be reviewed and that partners such as the tenant improvement panel, leaseholder group, Citizens Advice Bureau and Norfolk Community Law Service are consulted on changes;
- 7) If collected, that information as to why households fall into debt is provided; and
- 8) Illustrate how many people access debt information and by what means; in person, online or by telephone.

## **6. Update from the NHOSC representative**

The council's representative on the Norfolk Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee presented the update from the meeting held on 10 November 2022.

**RESOLVED** to note the update of the NHOSC meeting held on 10 November 2022.

## **7. Scrutiny Committee work programme 2022-23**

Members discussed the work programme and in particular the scope regarding 'welcoming immigrants, refugees and asylum-seekers to Norwich'. The monitoring officer advised regarding the item on Green Financing scheduled for January that UK100 had offered to attend the meeting virtually and committee could hold an informal meeting for this item. Following discussion it was:

**RESOLVED** to:

- 1) Ask the committee officer to bring a terms of reference for 'welcoming immigrants, refugees and asylum-seeker to Norwich' to the January meeting of scrutiny committee; and
- 2) Note that the Equality Information report will move to the January meeting of scrutiny committee.

CHAIR