



### CABINET

5.30pm to 6.40pm

14 December 2011

Present: Councillors Arthur (chair), Waters (vice chair), Bremner, Brociek-Coulton, Gihawi and MacDonald

Also present: Councillors Stephenson and Lubbock

Apologies Councillor Westmacott

#### 1. MINUTES

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2011 subject to the removal of Councillor Bremner from being shown as present.

#### 2. QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE REPORT

Councillor Arthur, leader of the council, introduced the report.

Councillor Stephenson asked about a question to council last week on the maximum time to process council tax benefit claims as opposed to the average reported. The deputy chief executive officer said that this information would be available next week.

Councillor Lubbock said that it was good that the time to re-let homes had been improved due to process improvements but thought that the small changes that had been made should have been done a long time ago which raised concerns about how many other basic improvements might have been missed.

Councillor Macdonald explained that a few specific voids had skewed the figures and that the service since the contractor was changed to Lovell's had been much improved.

**RESOLVED** to:-

- (1) note progress against the corporate plan priorities
- (2) stop detailed reporting of completed corporate priorities as shown in paragraph 3.1

#### 3. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING

Councillor Arthur, leader of the council, introduced the report.

In reply to a question from Councillor Stephenson, Councillor Waters explained that all pension contributions had been posted against the HR and Learning budget and would be redistributed and therefore the HR and learning budget would come back in line.

**RESOLVED** to note the financial position on the revenue account for the period April 2011 to September 2011.

#### **4. REVIEW OF RISK MANAGEMENT STRATEGY**

Councillor Waters, deputy leader and cabinet member for resources, introduced the report.

Councillor Stephenson said that she thought it was a good document as far as it went but climate change had not been included and asked why. Councillor Waters explained that the environmental issues were included in the next report on the agenda.

**RESOLVED** to approve the council's updated risk management strategy

#### **5. REVIEW OF CORPORATE RISK REGISTER**

Councillor Waters, deputy leader and cabinet member for resources, introduced the report and acknowledged the hard work by the audit committee and formally recorded his thanks to them.

**RESOLVED** to approve the council's corporate risk register and actions to mitigate the risks

#### **6. INTERIM STATEMENT ON THE OFF-SITE PROVISION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Councillor Bremner, cabinet member for planning and transport introduced the report.

**RESOLVED** to endorse the interim statement attached as appendix 2 of the report, publish it on the website and agree regard should be had to it in determining planning applications with immediate effect.

#### **7. REVISED PRIVATE HOUSING SECTOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE POLICY**

Councillor Bremner, cabinet member for planning and transport introduced the report.

**RESOLVED** to agree the council's policy for offering private sector financial assistance, as detailed in annex A.

## **8. COMPENSATION POLICY FOR HOUSING REPAIRS**

Councillor Macdonald, cabinet member for housing introduced the report.

**RESOLVED** to approve the new compensation policy for housing repairs

## **9. AWARD OF CONTRACTS FOR THE PROVISION OF TENANTS' DECORATION ALLOWANCE SCHEME**

Councillor Macdonald, cabinet member for housing introduced the report.

**RESOLVED** to:-

- (1) approve the commitment to add additional suppliers to the tenants' decoration allowance scheme provider list.
- (2) delegate authority to the director of regeneration and development, in consultation with portfolio holders, to award the contract subject to a satisfactory evaluation process.

## **10. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY – DETAILED PROPOSALS AND DRAFT REGULATIONS FOR REFORM- RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION**

Councillor Arthur, leader of the council, introduced the report.

Councillor Lubbock raised concerns about the lack of community groups and hoped that when the community infrastructure levy (CIL) was implemented that Norwich could have groups who could use and spend this money.

Councillor Stephenson had concerns that money raised through CIL would not be used on city projects and asked how it would be recorded that money raised in Norwich was spent in Norwich. She highlighted specific concerns about projects such as the northern distributor road.

Councillor Arthur explained that the infrastructure in and around Norwich affects people in the city and one of the partners in the Greater Norwich development Partnership Norwich city council would ensure that Norwich residents would not be disadvantaged.

The city growth and development manager explained that this was a consultation and that no decisions were currently being made at this stage. The council needs to ensure it has the flexibility to spend CIL on affordable housing. She confirmed that there would be a requirement to publish the financial position on CIL.

**RESOLVED** to respond to the Communities and Local Government consultation on the Community Infrastructure Levy detailed proposals and draft regulations for reform as detailed in Appendix 1 with the exception of questions 9 and 11 which should be based on paragraphs 7-10 of this report.

## **11. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of items 12-17 below on the grounds contained in the relevant paragraphs of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

### **\*12. ACCESS AGREEMENT- DEVELOPMENT SITES (PARA 3)**

Councillor Waters, deputy leader and cabinet member for resources, introduced the report.

The city growth and development manager said that in discussions with two prospective developers would continue if cabinet agreed the report.

**RESOLVED** to:-

- (1) agree to enter into an access agreement (in line with the draft Heads of Terms attached in Appendix 1) with the landowners and prospective developers of the sites as detailed in the report.
- (2) delegate the detailed negotiation of the legal agreement to the Director of Regeneration and Development in consultation with the Head of Legal Services and the portfolio holder

### **\*13. COLLABORATION OPPORTUNITY FOR MAJOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT (PARA 3)**

Councillor Arthur, leader of the council, introduced the report.

**RESOLVED** to agree, in principle, to the future use and development potential of a council asset in order to secure significant external investment as defined in the report.

### **\*14. YMCA LOAN ARRANGEMENTS (PARA 3)**

Councillor Bremner, cabinet member for planning and transport introduced the report.

**RESOLVED** to give financial support to the YMCA as detailed in the report.

### **\*15. AWARD OF HOUSING REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE CONTRACT (PARA 3)**

Councillor Waters, deputy leader and cabinet member for resources, introduced the report and highlighted an abnormally low bid that had been received and explained that this had instigated further investigation. He asked Councillor Stephenson and Councillor Lubbock if they were happy as contracts working party members to support the recommendations and they both confirmed that they were.

The head of procurement and service improvement referred to paragraph 45 in the report and said that further questions had been asked as a result of the response. After consideration of all the information subsequently provided there was still serious doubt about the viability of that bid.

**RESOLVED** to agree to award the contract as detailed in the report having excluded one tender from the evaluation process.

The chair agreed the following 2 items to be taken together.

**\*16 AND \*17 RESTRUCTURE OF PUBLIC PROTECTION SERVICE AND  
RESPONSE TO THE FIRST PHASE OF STAFFING CONSULTATION ON  
PROPOSALS WITHIN THE COUNCIL'S SAVINGS PROGRAMME (PARAS 1 & 4)**

(The UNISON representative attended for this item.)

The head of strategy and programme management introduced the report.

**RESOLVED** to approve the recommendations as set out in annex A of the report.

CHAIR