



Cabinet

17:30 to 19:15

14 September 2016

Present: Councillors Harris (chair), Bremner, Kendrick, Stonard and Thomas

Apologies: Councillors Waters and Ryan

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Waters and Ryan.

2. Public questions / petitions

There were no public questions or petitions.

3. Declarations of interest

A declaration of interest was received from councillor Stonard in respect of item 17(b).

4. Minutes of the meetings held on 13 July 2016

RESOLVED to agree the minutes of the meetings held on 13 July 2016.

5. Four year financial sustainability plan

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

In response to a member's question, the portfolio holder for resources and business liaison gave assurances that all ward councillors would have an opportunity to provide feedback on the review of the corporate plan via upcoming all member briefings.

He went on to explain that efficiency savings and increases in income contained within the transformation programme and financial plans would allow the council to maintain basic services - and remain committed to protecting front line services. The proposed procurement strategy would inject more stability into these processes.

RESOLVED to:

- a) recommend that Norwich City Council pursues the offer of a four year funding settlement by publishing an efficiency plan by 14 October 2016 and sending a link thereto to the Department for Communities and Local Government; and,

- b) recommend the draft financial sustainability plan to council for approval.

6. Procurement strategy 2016 – 2020

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

RESOLVED to approve the new procurement strategy for 2016-2020.

7. Revenue budget monitoring 2016 - 17 – Period 3

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

RESOLVED to note:

- a) the financial position as at 30 June 2016 and the forecast outturn 2016 - 17;
and,
- b) additional unbudgeted grants awarded for 2016 - 17.

8. Revenue budget monitoring 2016 - 17 – Period 4

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

RESOLVED to note the financial position as at 31 July 2016 and the forecast outturn 2016 - 17.

9. Capital budget monitoring 2016-17 – Quarter 1

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

In response to a member's question, the chair explained that the reasons for a reduction in uptake of upgrades to bathrooms and kitchens was being explored, although initial findings showed that reduced uptake may relate to a perception among tenants of potential upheaval during works. She said that engagement with tenants was ongoing to challenge this perception, and reassured members that all upgrades were considered on a case by case basis and included an occupational health visit where appropriate.

RESOLVED to:

- a) note the carry-forward of underspent 2015 - 16 budgets into 2016 - 17;
- b) note the position of the housing and non-housing capital programmes as at 30 June 2016;
- c) note the capital budget virements approved by CLT members, set out in paragraphs 10-11 and 26-27;
- d) approve the proposed capital budget virements set out in paragraphs 20-25;

- e) approve the addition to the non-housing capital programme of spend funded by ring-fenced Section 106 monies as set out in paragraph 12; and,
- f) approve the addition to the housing capital programme of retained one for one right to buy receipts to be awarded to registered providers, as set out in paragraphs 29-31.

10. Treasury management full year review 2015 - 16

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

RESOLVED to recommend that council note the report and the treasury activity for the year to 31 March 2016

11. Quarter 1 2016-17 performance report

The deputy leader of the council presented the report.

RESOLVED to note the progress of the city council against the corporate plan priorities

12. Smaller houses in multiple occupation : Article 4 Directions

The cabinet member for environment and sustainable development presented the report.

Members said that there were a number of positives and negatives to be taken into account when considering the issues relating to houses in multiple occupation (HMOs). There was a consensus that wider consultation was required - and revisiting the work around HMOs was considered vital.

It was noted that increases in student numbers within the city in forthcoming years was extremely likely and that full consideration would need to be given to this issue. It was agreed that a balanced approach, including sustainable, long-term solutions was required.

It was noted that antisocial behaviour procedures were already in place to deal with disruptive neighbours.

Discussion ensued during which members welcomed the recent measures proposed by the University of East Anglia which had led to improvements in relationships between student residents of HMOs and their neighbours. It was noted that the work had provided a single point of contact at the university to enable easy discussion; clear guidance on neighbourliness; and the introduction of potential academic sanctions for situations where persistent antisocial behaviour issues remained.

The chair said that, considering the discussion which had taken place, it had become clear that the paper as it stood would need to be returned to the sustainable development panel for further work to be undertaken.

The cabinet member for resources and business liaison suggested that it would be appropriate to refer the report back to the sustainable development panel for further consideration in light of the need to find an holistic approach to the issues.

As such, the chair suggested the following recommendation:

Ask the sustainable development panel to reconsider the approach for managing HMOs across the city and report back to cabinet in 2017 taking into particular account:

- a) the extent of take up of the voluntary accreditation scheme for HMO properties by the end of March 2017 and its success in raising the standard of housing in the HMO sector;
- b) analysis of the impact of current and planned welfare reform on the housing options for different sections of our community and the impact these measures may have on the demand for HMO accommodation;
- c) published plans for the growth of academic institutions and the implications for student numbers and purpose-built student accommodation; and,
- d) any available information on the number and quality of HMOs in the city, and any updated information regarding best practice in managing HMOs for comparable cities.

This recommendation - having been moved by the deputy leader of the council and seconded by the cabinet member for neighbourhoods and community safety - was **RESOLVED** accordingly.

13. 'A' boards consultation

The cabinet member for environment and sustainable development presented the report.

The head of city development services explained to members that stakeholders would continue to be engaged in an ongoing way to gauge the success of the new measures. He also said that the changes could be revisited in the light of such feedback.

RESOLVED to:

- a) approve the new 'A' boards policy.
- b) to agree that a final decision on the specific dimensions of permissible 'A' boards be delegated to the head of city development services in conjunction with the cabinet member for environment and sustainable development.

14. Risk management

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

RESOLVED to:

- a) note the updated corporate risks and the key controls in place and further actions planned to mitigate risks; and,
- b) approve the risk score of 20 for risk A8 (Housing investment strategy) which exceeds the threshold for the council's appetite for risk.

15. Write off of non- recoverable National Non Domestic Rate debt

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

RESOLVED to approve the proposed write off of £54k of NNDR debt.

16. Exclusion of the public

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

***17(a).Managing Assets (Housing)**

The cabinet member for housing presented the report.

RESOLVED to approve:

- a) the disposal of the freehold interest in the asset on the open market; and
- b) that the capital receipt from the disposal be reinvested in the housing capital program for improving, repairing and maintaining the council's housing stock or for enabling new affordable housing.

***17(b). Managing Assets (Housing)**

The cabinet member for housing presented the report.

RESOLVED to approve:

- a) the disposal of the freehold interest in the asset on the open market; and
- b) that the capital receipt from the disposal be reinvested in the housing capital program for improving, repairing and maintaining the council's housing stock or for enabling new affordable housing.

CHAIR