



CABINET

17:30 to 19:00

12 April 2017

Present: Councillors Harris (vice chair, in the chair), Bremner, Kendrick, Ryan, Stonard and Thomas (T)

Also present: Councillors Schmierer and Wright

Apologies: Councillor Waters (chair)

1. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Public questions/petitions

There were no public questions or petitions at this meeting.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 9 March 2017.

(The chair said that agenda item *12 Review of Staffing Adjustment Policy would be moved to the end of the agenda to allow officers not required to be in attendance for this item to leave the meeting.)

4. Greater Norwich Infrastructure Investment Plan – Key decision

Councillor Stonard, cabinet member for resources and business liaison, presented the report and welcomed the investment in significant infrastructure across the Greater Norwich area. He explained that there was recognition that maintenance should be part of future investment programmes.

The chief executive pointed out that recommendation (2) should be amended to read 2018-19 onwards.

During discussion, the city growth and development manager referred to the report and answered member's questions. She explained that the draft programme had been drawn up in the autumn. Some elements of the report would need updating before the Greater Norwich Growth Board considered the report in May.

The cabinet member for resources and business liaison said in reply to a suggestion from Councillor Wright, that council sponsorship of an academy was outside the

scope of the report and should be taken up with the leader of the council outside the meeting.

In reply to a question from Councillor Schmierer, the city growth and development manager said that investment in the swimming pool at the former Hewett School, which was now an academy, was in the programme for 2018-19 because it was part of the Greater Norwich Investment Programme's work with Sports England, and to provide facilities for a number of clubs that currently used it. Councillor Ryan, cabinet member for customer care and leisure, pointed out that it was important to consider all provision for swimming pools, especially as many pools had closed.

Councillor Bremner endorsed the report and said that he welcomed investment in bus rapid transport corridors and the improvements to the public realm, which made a positive contribution to the vitality of the city centre.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) adopt the Annual Growth Programme for 2017-18 (without any provision for maintenance funding);
- (2) recognise that sufficient maintenance funding (2018-19 onwards) will be necessary as part of future investment programmes in the Greater Norwich area; and;
- (3) recommend the draft Greater Norwich Investment Plan to the Greater Norwich Growth Board (GNGB) for approval.

5. Revenue budget monitoring 2016-17: Period 11

Councillor Stonard, cabinet member for resources and business liaison, presented the report and said that the current financial position was a credit to the chief finance officer and her team.

The group accountant (general fund) confirmed that both funds were in a good position.

In reply to a question from Councillor Schmierer, members were advised that tenant council tax repairs were demand led and that the "profile" could be adjusted for next year.

RESOLVED to note the council's financial position as at 28 February 2017 and the forecast outturn 2016-17.

6. Self and Custom Build – Government initiative, legislation and the Council's proposed approach

Councillor Bremner, cabinet member for environment and sustainable development, presented the report and said that the preferred option had the support of the sustainable development panel.

The chair pointed out that the fees would be reviewed on an annual basis.

RESOLVED to introduce an annual fee and a local connection test for the council's self-build register as described in the report.

7. Procurement for income generation for Norwich City Council by advertising in its three multi storey car parks – Key decision

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

The chief finance officer said that this initiative was part of the transformation programme to identify sources of income generation.

Members of the cabinet thanked the officers involved in this procurement. They considered it was a good deal for the council and achieved the objectives of the transformation programme.

RESOLVED to award the contract for the management of internal advertising space in the council's three multi-storey car parks to Colin Huggins and Donna Titcombe in a business partnership known as Raymar Leisure, trading as Digital Signage Company.

8. Award of Contracts (Housing) – Key decision

Councillor Harris, deputy leader and cabinet member for council housing, presented the report and said that it achieved the corporate priority of decent housing for all.

In response to a question from Councillor Schmierer, the head of strategic property services, NPS Norwich Ltd, gave assurance that the re-procurement of the remaining 50 per cent of the contract values through Eastern Procurement Ltd would be value for money.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) award the contracts as detailed in the report as follows:
 - (a) replacement of kitchens to Foster Property Maintenance Limited (50 per cent of contract value);
 - (b) replacement of bathrooms to Foster Property Maintenance Limited (50 per cent of contract value);
 - (c) replacement windows to Anglian Building Products Limited;
 - (d) replacement doors to Anglian Building Products Limited (50 per cent of contract value); and,
 - (e) Replacement doors to Ashford Commercial Limited (50 per cent of contract value);
- (2) delegate authority to the director of neighbourhoods, in consultation with the deputy leader and cabinet member for council housing, to:

- (a) award the masonry repointing contract at a cost of £750,000 on completion of a mini tender process; and,
- (b) award the contract for the installation of full thermodynamic hot water systems at a cost of £500,000 on completion of a procurement exercise to identify the best value supplier.

9. Exclusion of the public

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration items 10* to 14* (below) on the grounds contained in the relevant paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

10.* Asset and Investment Strategy- Key decision (Paragraph 3)

Councillor Stonard, cabinet member for resources and business liaison, presented the report. He proposed revised wording for recommendation (4) to reflect the outcome of discussions at scrutiny committee on 6 April 2017.

Councillor Wright, chair of scrutiny committee, referred to the report and said that he considered it was a good strategy which would make the most of the council's assets.

The chief finance officer and the head of citywide development referred to the report and answered questions from Councillor Schmierer.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) endorse the criteria based approach to the consideration of asset retention or disposal as set out in paragraph 8 of this report;
- (2) approve the disposal of assets listed in appendix 1 of the report;
- (3) adopt revised guidance for the purchase of new investment property as set out in paragraphs 11 to 19 of this report together with the associated appendices; and
- (4) delegate authority to the director of regeneration and development, in consultation with the chief finance officer and the equivalent number of a quorum of cabinet members, including the cabinet member for resources and business liaison, to invest in income generating assets up to the limit in value described in this report as budgeted for in the council's capital programme.

11.* Grant of Right to Buy One to One Receipts – Key decision (Paragraph 3)

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

During discussion, the senior development officer (enabling) and the chief finance officer, referred to the report and answered questions on the retention agreement

and the government's use of receipts. Members commented that the lack of flexibility was unfair on local councils.

RESOLVED to award £3,661,537 in retained right to buy one for one replacement receipts to registered providers to support the development of 100 new affordable dwellings as described in the report.

12.* Managing Housing (Assets) – Key decision (Paragraph 3)

Councillor Harris, deputy leader and cabinet member for council housing, presented the report. She confirmed that the asset identified in the report was already empty.

RESOLVED to approve:

- (1) the disposal of the freehold interest in the asset identified in this report on the open market; and,
- (2). the capital receipt from the disposal be reinvested in the housing capital programme for improving, repairing and maintaining our housing stock or for enabling new affordable housing.

13.* Procurement of Bill Payment Service – Key decision (Paragraph 3)

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

The chief finance officer explained that whilst the council tried to promote payments by direct debit there were still a lot of residents who used the bill payments service.

RESOLVED to award the bill payments service contract to Allpay Limited.

(Officers left the meeting at this point, with the exception of the chief executive, the chief finance officer, the head of HR and learning, the UNISON branch secretary and the committee officer.)

14.* Review of Staffing Adjustment Policy – Key decision (Paragraph 4)

Councillor Harris, deputy leader and cabinet member for council housing, presented the report, on behalf of Councillor Waters, leader of the council.

The head of HR and learning advised members of the support given to employees going through the staffing adjustment process.

The UNISON branch secretary presented further comments on the staffing adjustment policy. (Copies of the comments were circulated at the meeting.) The chief executive and the head of HR and learning responded to the comments.

Members of cabinet said that they were sympathetic to the trade union's position, but given the financial pressure that the council was under and the need to protect frontline services, it was necessary to review all of the council's costs.

RESOLVED to agree the reduction in the enhancement of redundancy payments from a multiplier of 2.2 to 1.5 and for UNISON and employees to be given 12 weeks' notice of the change.

CHAIR