



CABINET

5.30pm to 7.15pm

14 November 2012

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

Also present: Councillors Galvin and Wright

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

2. PUBLIC QUESTIONS / PETITIONS

No public questions or petitions were received.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Waters, Deputy leader, declared a personal interest in item *21 as his spouse works for Norse Care ltd.

Cllr Bremner also declared a personal interest in item *21 due to his role as County councillor.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meetings held on 25 July 2012 and 17 October 2012.

5. CITY DEALS

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

The Deputy chief executive (operations) commented on the key issues and highlighted the tight deadline.

In response to members questions, the leader explained that it is difficult to say when figures measuring potential improvements as a result of the city deal would be available. Although the deal will start November 2013, the first submission date is approaching.

RESOLVED to:-

- a) submit an expression of interest for a City Deal covering the Greater Norwich area, in partnership with Broadland and South Norfolk District Councils Norfolk County Council and the Local Economic Partnership; and
- b) authorise the Deputy Chief Executive (operations) in consultation with the Leader of the Council to agree the detail of this submission.

6. NHS NORWICH DRAFT HEALTH AND WELL BEING STRATEGY 2013-18

RESOLVED, to defer item 6 until cabinet on 12 December 2012.

7. AFFORDABLE WARMTH STRATEGY

Councillor Bremner introduced the report and thanked the officers involved.

RESOLVED to:-

- a) approve the council's affordable warmth strategy 2012 – 2015; and
- b) sign up to the local authority 'End fuel poverty commitment'

8. STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Councillor Bremner introduced the report and thanked the officers involved.

RESOLVED to:-

- a) approve the proposed revised Statement of community involvement for public consultation; and
- b) give delegated authority to the Deputy Chief Executive (Operations) in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Development to make minor changes to the Statement of community involvement for public consultation.

9. QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE REPORT

Councillor Arthur, leader of the council, introduced the report, explaining that whilst performance represented a mixed picture, it was, by and large, optimistic.

In response to members questions, the leader of the council explained that although there were still some delays in the processing times for benefit claims, these were being reduced and the relevant teams were doing all they can toward this. The Executive head of business relationship management added significant extra work, including assistance from external resource, has helped reduce the oldest outstanding new claim since the data was collected.

The deputy leader also added that companies going out of business within the city have also presented unexpected spikes in demand from the revenues and benefits team. It has been a turbulent environment in which Department for work and pensions' automated claims have also increased workload.

In response to a members' question, the Deputy chief executive (operations) explained that times for processing planning applications have lengthened as a result large, boundary – crossing applications. Viability studies have also taken a large amount of time in the planning team.

RESOLVED to note progress against the corporate plan priorities.

10. CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING 2012/13 – PERIOD 6

Councillor Waters, deputy leader of the council, introduced the report, highlighting the range of capital programming and illustrating the way in which it reinforces policy and increases income.

Following a suggestion from a member regarding 'green' I.T. procurement, the Executive head of service for strategy, people and democracy explained that a range of work had taken place in the area of efficiencies, including looking at more energy efficient hardware. It was highlighted that instead of having many small printers and copiers, a number of multi function devices were now in place.

RESOLVED to:-

- a) note the financial position as at 30 September 2012 and forecast outturns for 2012/13;
- b) agree the virement within the Housing programme proposed in paragraph 2.4;
- c) note the carry-forwards included within the Housing and Non-Housing capital programmes;
- d) recommend to Council the addition of £0.8m IT infrastructure investment within the non-housing capital plan and programme as set out in paragraph 3.9; and
- e) agree the virement within the Non-Housing Capital Programme proposed in paragraph 3.10

11. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2012/13 – PERIOD 6

Councillor Waters, deputy leader of the council, introduced the report and thanked officers for their work in preparing in the document.

RESOLVED to:-

- a) note the financial position as at 30 September 2012 and forecast outturn 2012/13; and
- b) recommend to Council that the general fund prudent minimum balance is reduced from £5.517m to £4.517m (as per paragraph 19).

12. HOUSING INVESTMENT STRATEGY

Councillor MacDonald, portfolio holder for housing, introduced the report, outlining the background of changes in funding. She also thanked the Citywide board for their work.

RESOLVED to:-

- a) Note potential scope for additional investment of up to £30 million over a five to five year period arising from the HRA re-financing;
- b) Ask officers to develop a revised housing capital plan and programme that makes use of this potential additional funding as well as other funding opportunities;
- c) Agree that the additional options to include with a revised housing capital plan and programme over and above existing commitments are:
 - Providing new council housing;
 - Reconfiguring the sheltered housing stock;
 - Estate renewal;
 - Renewable energy solutions; and
 - Investment in private sector housing; and
- d) Agree that steps should be taken to bring forward new council housing subject to council approval in the short term.

13. PROVISION OF SOCIAL HOUSING AT POINTERS FIELD

Councillor MacDonald introduced the report.

In response to members questions, the planning officer explained that self-build was a very new area for Norwich city council and that funding had been made available for the smaller sites.

RESOLVED to:-

- a) agree to the construction of 7 new council dwellings on land at pointers field subject to planning consent; and
- b) ask council to agree to the inclusion of £800,000 in the housing capital plan.

(Councillor Driver left the meeting at this point.)

14. PROVISION OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING ON PHASE 1 OF THE THREESCORE, BOWTHORPE DEVELOPMENT

Councillor MacDonald introduced the report.

In response to a members' question, the Head of city development services explained that the planning application has been submitted and does include transport provisions.

RESOLVED to:-

- a) agree to the council becoming the provider of 47 social rented dwellings and 8 shared equity dwellings on phase 1 of the Threescore, Bowthorpe development subject to planning consent; and
- b) ask council to agree to an additional allocation of £4,728,000 in the housing capital programme.

15. THE SALE OF SIX SMALL HRA SITES TO A HOUSING ASSOCIATION PARTNER FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Councillor MacDonald introduced the report.

In response to a members' question, the Senior development officer (enabling) explained that whilst concerns regarding tenure mix were understandable, the difference in cost between affordable and council housing is negligible.

RESOLVED to approve the disposal of six small HRA sites (at Bland Road, Bowers Avenue, Edward Street, Gamewell Close, Rosary Road and Watling Road) to Orwell Housing Association to enable at least 20 new, affordable homes in the city.

16. REVISED TENANT INVOLVEMENT FRAMEWORK FOR COUNCIL HOUSING

Councillor Macdonald introduced the report and thanked all those involved in the creation of the framework. In response to member's questions, she confirmed that all stakeholders considered that the framework represents the best structure for moving forward.

RESOLVED to approve the framework for tenant involvement to ensure compliance with the revised regulatory standards on tenant involvement and empowerment (Localism Act 2011)

17. EMERGENCY TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Councillor Macdonald introduced the report and thanked the YMCA Norfolk for its involvement.

RESOLVED to award the contract for the provision of emergency temporary accommodation for young people to YMCA Norfolk.

18. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the items *19, *20, *21 and *22 below on the grounds contained in the relevant paragraphs of schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

***19. RIVERSIDE LEISURE CENTRE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT (PARAGRAPH 3)**

Councillor Arthur, leader of the council, introduced the report and was pleased to note the positive news around the payment of a living wage.

RESOLVED to:-

- a) agree to the exclusion of one tender from the evaluation process as detailed in the report; and
- b) approve the award of the contract as detailed in the report on the basis that the supplier pays staff to national minimum living wage standards.

***20. DISPOSAL OF 41 ALL SAINTS GREEN (PARAGRAPH 3)**

Councillor Waters, deputy leader of the council, introduced the report.

RESOLVED to approve the sale of the freehold interest in 41, 41a & 41b, All Saints Green, Norwich.

***21. JOINT VENTURE FOR THE DELIVERY OF GROUNDS MAINTENANCE, ARBORICULTURAL SERVICES AND STREETS AND OTHER CLEANSING SERVICES (PARAGRAPH 4)**

Councillor Waters, deputy leader of the council, introduced the report, explaining that the proposal had been endorsed by the contracts working party.

Unison explained that whilst they would have preferred provision to have been brought in-house, it does support the recommendations contained in the report.

RESOLVED to:-

- a) enter into a public/public joint venture arrangement for the delivery of grounds maintenance, arboricultural services and streets and other cleansing services;
- b) delegate to the Deputy chief executive (operations) in consultation with the Head of finance, Head of legal and governance and the Deputy leader, authority to agree all necessary arrangement for the establishment of the partnership; and
- c) prepare a detailed business plan on an annual basis for approval by Cabinet in conjunction with the council's budget setting preparation.

***22. PROPOSAL FOR PUBLIC / PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP FOR SERVICE DELIVERY (PARAGRAPH 4)**

Councillor Waters, deputy leader of the council, introduced the report.

Unison considered that the partnership had some advantages but that there should be further consultation on greater union input – particularly in reference to concerns around less-favourable contracts. It requested further information on the localism act and also for the report to be circulated once it was no longer exempt.

RESOLVED to:-

- a) extend the remit of the existing public/public joint venture arrangement with the NPS/Norse as detailed in the report;

- b) delegate to the Deputy Chief Executive (Operations) in consultation with the Head of Finance, Head of Legal and Governance and the Deputy Leader, authority to agree all the necessary arrangements for the establishment of this partnership, including formal staff consultation under the TUPE regulations, detailed contractual agreements and depot and office accommodation;
- c) ask the Deputy chief executive (operations) to make a further report to Cabinet on the detailed governance arrangements for the operational management of the joint venture; and
- d) work with Unison to ensure its input is fed into the development of the partnership.

CHAIR