



**CABINET**

**5.30pm to 7.05pm**

**14 January 2013**

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

Also present: Councillors Stephenson and Wright

Apologies: Councillor Brociek-Coulton

**1. PUBLIC QUESTIONS / PETITIONS**

No public questions or petitions were received.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Waters, Deputy leader, declared an interest in item 15.

Cllr Driver declared a personal interest in item 11.

**3. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2012.

#### **4. CITY DEAL FOR THE GREATER NORWICH AREA**

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

Councillor Stephenson expressed concern at the emphasis being placed on the Norwich Research Park (NRP) and that it would have been better for members to have been involved earlier in the process rather than simply being informed that the NRP formed the focus of the expression of interest. The leader of the council explained that group leaders and cabinet members had been involved throughout the process of compiling the expression of interest.

**RESOLVED**, in partnership with Broadland and South Norfolk District Councils Norfolk County Council and the Local Enterprise Partnership :-

- 1) to submit an Expression of Interest to central government for a city deal covering the Greater Norwich area; and
- 2) to delegate authority to the Deputy Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader, to make any final changes to the expression of interest for submission on the 15 January 2013.

#### **5. TENANCY STRATEGY**

Councillor MacDonald, portfolio holder for housing, introduced the report.

**RESOLVED** to approve the draft tenancy strategy.

#### **6. ANNUAL EQUALITY INFORMATION REPORT**

The head of strategy, people and democracy introduced the report.

In response to a member's question, he explained that the effect of the closure of Remploy factories was being investigated to see if there had been any impact on benefit claimant figures. It was also clarified that, although service access migration had begun, this was at an early stage and it was unlikely to have had a direct impact on the numbers of people accessing services as there are currently no predominantly web-based services at present.

**RESOLVED** to publish the annual equality information report.

#### **7. GREATER NORWICH JOINT CORE STRATEGY (JCS) – SUBMISSION OF AMENDMENTS**

Councillor Bremner, portfolio holder for environment and development introduced the report and drew attention to the need to make some minor changes to the report on representations which will be done before the matter is considered by Council.

A member emphasised that the Greater Norwich Development Partnership is not a decision making body, and as such it is important that city councillors are offered adequate time to properly consider the JCS proposals.

In response to a member's question, the head of planning service explained that full details of the city deal are still being finalised. It supports implementation of the JCS and any deal which speeds growth in the south west sector does not undermine the case for growth in the north east.

**RESOLVED**, having taken account of the information in this report, representations received during the publication period of the JCS and the recommendations of the Greater Norwich Development Partnership Board and the Sustainable Development Panel, cabinet considers it appropriate for council to submit the remitted parts of the Joint Core Strategy to the Secretary of State unchanged from the originally submitted version. Cabinet recommends to council;

- 1) that the Proposed Submission Document is considered to be legally compliant and sound; and
- 2) to submit the "Joint Core Strategy for Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk: proposed submission document" and supporting documents to the Secretary of State under Regulation 22 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012;
- 3) to delegate authority to the deputy chief executive (operations) in consultation with the portfolio holder for the environment and development to approve, in partnership with GNDP partners, the detail of technical documents required to be submitted alongside the JCS.

## **8. NORWICH HOUSING STRATEGY 2013 – 2018 CONSULTATION DRAFT**

Councillor MacDonald, portfolio holder for housing, introduced the report.

**RESOLVED** To approve the draft housing strategy 2013-18 for public consultation

## **9. INSURANCE CONTRACT EXTENSION**

Cllr Waters, Deputy leader, introduced the report.

**RESOLVED** to renew the existing contract for insurance, in accordance with the extension option within the current contract, for the financial year 2013/14.

## **10. NEW COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME**

(Councillor Driver left the meeting at this point, having earlier declared a personal interest in this item).

Cllr Waters, Deputy leader, introduced the report.

**RESOLVED** to :-

- 1) recommend council to approve :

- i. the proposed council tax reduction scheme for 2013/14
  - ii. the proposed revised council tax discounts and exemptions
- 2) to accept the government transitional grant for council tax reduction for 2013/14 and delegate authority to the chief finance officer to apply for the grant.
- 3) Accept the scrutiny committee recommendations to:
- i. set up a working party at a suitable time to look at the options for the 2014/15 scheme and in doing so examine other local authorities approaches; and,
  - ii. include a 'frequently asked questions' section in future consultations.

(Councillor Driver re-joined the meeting at this point.)

## **11. TREASURY MANAGEMENT HALF YEAR REPORT**

Cllr Waters, Deputy leader, introduced the report.

In response to a member's question, the chief accountant explained that a 1.4% rate of interest on an investment of £59.5M may look low, Norwich City Council is in the top section of financial performers locally and 1.4% is actually a comparatively strong figure in the current financial climate.

RESOLVED to recommend council to :-

- 1) note the report and the treasury activity; and,
- 2) approve of the revised prudential indicators.

## **12. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2012 / 13 – PERIOD 8**

Cllr Waters, Deputy leader, introduced the report.

**RESOLVED:-**To note the financial position as at 30 November 2012 and the forecast outturn 2012/13.

## **13. PAY POLICY STATEMENT 2013/14 AND ESTABLISHMENT OF SENIOR PAY REMUNERATION PANEL**

(Senior officers left the meeting during discussion of this item).

Cllr Waters, Deputy leader, introduced the report.

**RESOLVED to:-**

- 1) recommend council to approve the pay policy statement for 2013/14; and,
- 2) approve the establishment of, and terms of reference for, a senior pay remuneration panel from April 2013.

(Senior officers re-joined the meeting at this point).

**14. GOVERNANCE ARRANGMENTS FOR THE PUBLIC / PUBLIC PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NORSE GROUP**

Cllr Waters, deputy leader, introduced the report.

In response to a member's question, the deputy leader advised that it would be ideal if the three liaison boards could be held publically, although commercially sensitive information may well impact on this aim.

**RESOLVED to :-**

- 1) approve the governance arrangements detailed in the report for the enhanced NPS (Norwich) joint venture and its subsidiary companies;
- 2) delegate to the Head of Law and Governance, in consultation with group leaders, authority to appoint the member representatives on the three liaison boards; and
- 3) delegate to the deputy chief executive (operations), in consultation with the relevant portfolio holder, authority to appoint stakeholder representatives to the liaison board.

**15. RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EARLHAM AND ROSARY CEMETERIES**

Councillor gihawi, portfolio holder for play, parks and open spaces, presented the report.

**RESOLVED** to approve the new rules and regulations for the Norwich cemeteries as detailed in appendix 1: 'rules and regulations for the future management of Earlham and Rosary cemeteries.'

**16. Exclusion of the public**

Resolved to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the items \*18, \*19, and \*20 below on the grounds contained in the relevant paragraphs of schedule 12a of the local government act 1972 (as amended).

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## **17. BOWTHORPE HOUSING WITH CARE, DEMENTIA CARE– KEY DECISION (PARAGRAPH 3)**

Cllr Waters, deputy leader, introduced the report.

**RESOLVED** to :-

- 1) enter into a partnership with Norfolk County Council, NPS and Norse Care to provide a housing with care and dementia care facility at Threescore, Bowthorpe subject to:
  - a) provision of sufficient, comprehensive information to justify the disposal of the site at nil value, based on an “open book” appraisal;
  - b) agreeing a suitable arrangement for the land transaction;
  - c) adequate claw back arrangements for the land if the facility were to close or change in future;
  - d) suitable arrangements being in place to allow the Council to have nomination rights for the housing with care units;
  - e) satisfactory rental levels for the proposed units;
  - f) a satisfactory scheme design; and,
  - g) a commitment to use the Building Futures in Norwich scheme to provide training and jobs for local people.
- 2) support an application by Norse Care for funding from the Care and Support Fund, administered by HCA.
- 3) ask the deputy chief executive (operations) in consultation with the Leader and portfolio holder for resources to use delegated powers to finalise the land disposal and partnership arrangements, as outlined in the report, and in accordance with the conditions set out above.

## **18. FUTURE OF THE HOME IMPROVEMENT AGENCY (PARAGRAPH 3)**

Councillor MacDonald, portfolio holder for housing, introduced the report.

The Unison representative said that there was very little to differentiate option two (in-house provision of the whole service) and option five (transfer of the whole service to NPS) – the recommended option. As such, the union’s preference was that the service should be provided in-house. Although at face value this option may appear more costly, he urged councillors to examine this option more closely before finalising a decision.

**RESOLVED** that officers carry out additional work to further test the suggested options to ensure that all alternatives are fully considered and to authorise the deputy chief executive, in consultation with the portfolio holder for housing, to take the final decision whether to transfer the service to NPS Norwich or in-house.

**19. MANAGING ASSETS (NON HOUSING) (PARAGRAPH 3)**

Cllr Waters, deputy leader, introduced the report.

In response to a member's question the head of city development services confirmed that the intention for the parcel of land which forms part of the churchyard at St Peter Parmentergate was to introduce appropriate planting to assist in managing anti-social behaviour.

**RESOLVED** to :-

- 1) approve the release of a covenant to enable the development of land for housing as outlined in this report; and,
- 2) approve the acquisition of the freehold title, of land forming part of a redundant churchyard as outlined in this report at nil cost and a contribution towards the vendor's legal costs

**20. LEISURE MANAGEMENT SERVICES – TEMPORARY CONTRACT (PARAGRAPH 3)**

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

**RESOLVED** to award a temporary contract for leisure management services as detailed in the report.

CHAIR