



CABINET

17:30 to 18:40

12 September 2018

Present: Councillors Waters (chair), Harris (vice chair), Davis, Jones, Kendrick, Maguire, Packer and Stonard

Also present: Councillors Carlo and Wright

1. Public questions/petitions

No public questions or petitions were received.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting on 11 July and the extraordinary cabinet meetings on 25 July and 1 August 2018.

4. Corporate Performance Report for Quarter 1 2018-19

Councillor Waters, leader, presented the report.

He highlighted that the target for resident satisfaction with opportunities to engage with the council was performing under target. This was despite the extensive engagement and consultation activities undertaken recently. The strategy manager said the data would be analysed and further opportunities to better engage with residents identified.

In response to a question from Councillor Carlo, the strategy manager said that he was confident that the data in relation to the target SCL03, percentage of people feeling safe was accurate.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) consider progress against the corporate plan priorities for quarter 1 of 2018-19; and
- (2) suggest future actions and / or reports to address any areas of concern.

5. Norfolk & Waveney Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2018-22

Councillor Packer, cabinet member for health and wellbeing, presented the report.

He emphasised the importance of working closely with partners especially in the context of the pressures on services. He highlighted the impact of welfare reforms on Norwich residents which equated to a loss of £730 per working age adult, a total loss of £68m per year. He noted with concern the impact of funding cuts on the public sector and its ability to deliver health and wellbeing outcomes.

RESOLVED to endorse and support the Norfolk and Waveney joint health and wellbeing strategy 2018-22.

6. Proposed extension to the Syrian vulnerable persons resettlement programme

Councillor Harris, deputy leader and cabinet member for social housing, presented the report. She said cabinet had agreed in July 2016 to support the resettlement of 50 Syrian refugees and that those families had settled well into the city receiving great support from members of the public and voluntary agencies.

The proposal was to support a further 100 refugees to resettle in the city. They would be housed in private rented accommodation and due to the introduction of the benefit cap, housing benefit would not meet the full rent for the accommodation. Therefore, all Norfolk district councils were being asked to contribute financially to this rental shortfall. She stressed that it would be a challenge to find the necessary units of accommodation but said the proposal represented a chance to make a real difference to people's lives.

RESOLVED:

- 1) to house an additional one hundred Syrian refugees over a two year period via the council's LETNCC private sector leasing scheme; and
- 2) subject to a formal agreement on funding, to contribute to the housing benefit shortfall on an equal basis with all Norfolk's district councils, up to a maximum annual cost to the city council of £8,600 per annum for 2018-19 to March 2024.

7. Introduction of a Community Infrastructure Levy Exceptional Circumstances Relief Policy

Councillor Waters, leader, presented the report. He said the council was committed to developing brownfield sites and that the policy would assist development. This was a tool which could be used to provide the homes, communities and jobs that people needed. He said it could only be used on sites which had already been through the planning process.

He noted that initial research had shown that other urban councils were using this as an instrument for regeneration. He said that no sites were imminently going through

the planning process and this provided an opportunity to look at the policy and conduct further research into best practice. On that basis he recommended that the item be deferred to a later meeting of cabinet to enable this research to take place.

In response to a question from Councillor Wright, Councillor Waters said the policy was intended for large complex sites and the intention was that any decision to grant relief would be made by the planning applications committee and not by officer delegation. In response to a question from Councillor Carlo, he confirmed that members of the committee would undertake training on the policy if approved.

RESOLVED to request that a further report is prepared for cabinet, in advance of the council debate, examining how Community Infrastructure Levy Exceptional Circumstances Relief policies have been applied elsewhere and best practice in councils recovering the revenue costs of dealing with such applications.

8. Proposed ban of sky lantern and mass balloon releases from council owned land

Councillor Maguire, cabinet member for safe city environment, presented the report. He said that individuals did not necessarily understand the effect on the environment, wild life and the increased risk of fires resulting from the release of sky lanterns and balloons. He said that technology had changed and the policy had been updated to take account of those changes.

RESOLVED to prohibit the release of sky lantern and mass balloon releases through the terms and conditions of the hire agreement for council owned land.

9. Scrutiny committee recommendations

Councillor Wright, chair of scrutiny presented the report.

Councillor Davis, cabinet member for social inclusion, proposed that endorsing the repealing of the special exceptions on the two child limit for Universal Credit should be included in the recommendations.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) consider the cost implications for residents to call the council free of charge;
- (2) endorse the National Housing Federation recommendations outlined in paragraph 10 of the report and write to the two Norwich MPs to ask them to do the same; and
- (3) endorse the repealing of the special circumstances exceptions on the two child limiting in relation to the following clause :-

‘the Children likely to have been conceived as a result of a non-consensual sexual act (including rape), or at a time when the claimant was subject to ongoing control or coercion by the other biological parent of the child.’

10. Revenue and capital budget monitoring 2018/19 – Period 3

Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for resources, presented the report.

The chief finance officer said a large part of the general fund balance represented funds set aside to mitigate against the risk associated with the council's commercial property acquisition.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) note the forecast outturn for the 2018/19 General Fund, HRA and capital programme;
- (2) note the consequential forecast of the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account balances;
- (3) note the award of additional general fund grants as detailed in paragraph 2;
- (4) approve the general fund virement as detailed in paragraph 3;
- (5) approve the virements of budgets within the capital grants to housing associations budgets as detailed in paragraph 14; and
- (6) note the capital carry forwards approved under delegated authority as detailed in paragraph 17.

11. Treasury Management Full Year Review Report 2017-18

Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for resources, presented the report.

RESOLVED to recommend that council note the report and the treasury activity for the year to 31 March 2018.

12. Adjustments to 2018/19 General Fund Capital Programme

Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for resources, presented the report.

In response to a question from Councillor Carlo the chief finance officer said she did not have the information on what proportion of pooled Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was being spent on the Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NDR) and if the CIL Strategic Pool met the borrowing cost of the four councils' £40 million CIL contributions to the NDR available and agreed to respond later to Councillor Carlo.

Councillor Waters, leader, said CIL amounts had reduced as development had reduced.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) recommend to council, additions to the 2018/19 General Fund capital programme as set out in this report; and
- 2) note changes to the way the capital programme is presented in future budget monitoring reports.

13. Write off of irrecoverable national non domestic rate debt

Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for resources, presented the report.

In response to a question from Councillor Wright, the revenues and benefits operation manager said that the timescales for recovery action were bound by legislation.

RESOLVED to approve the write off of £169,939.27 of NNDR debt which is now believed to be irrecoverable.

14. Mile Cross Depot Redevelopment

Councillor Stonard, cabinet member for sustainable and inclusive growth, presented the report. He said the council had been successfully granted funding from central government to develop the brown field site for housing. This required works to be completed by 2020. A decision was now required if the depot was to be demolished and the land decontaminated by the deadline.

Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for resources, noted that the figures for decontamination of the land were based on a worst case scenario.

In response to a question from Councillor Carlo, the chief executive said that the site held greater value for housing and work to identify a site for in house services to be located was in progress.

RESOLVED to recommend that council approves an increase in the General Fund capital budget of £1.975m (£0.550m in 2018/19 and £1.425m in 2019/20) to undertake the required works at the Mile Cross depot site.

***15 Exclusion of the public**

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of item *16 (below) on the grounds contained in the relevant paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

***16 Payroll provision 2018- 2022 – (paragraph 3)**

Councillor Waters, leader, presented the report.

RESOLVED to approve establishing a co-operation agreement with Sefton Borough Council to deliver payroll services for Norwich City Council for the period 1 October 2018 to 30 September 2022.

CHAIR