



**MINUTES**

**CABINET**

**5.00 p.m. – 6.10 p.m.**

**29 September 2010**

Present: Councillors Morphew (Chair), Arthur, Bremner, Brociek-Coulton, Sands, Waters and Westmacott

Also Present: Councillors Jeraj and Wright(R)

Apologies: Councillor MacDonald

**1. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENT**

The Chair referred to the decision made at the meeting of Council on 28 September 2010 to change the name of the Executive to Cabinet. He also explained the changes to the presentation of reports and configuration of the meeting room.

**2. PETITION**

Matthew Hills presented a petition on behalf of the residents of Alexandra Road requesting that the car park behind Numbers 27 and 29 Alexandra Road should be made available to all residents.

Councillor Arthur, Cabinet Member for Housing, responded on behalf of the Council. She referred to complaints which had been received that the car park in question had been misused and was constantly over filled. It had been decided to enforce the valid traffic regulation order in force in the area which restricted eligibility to apply for permits for the car park to eight properties, all of which were currently or had previously been owned by the Council. Signs had been restored to the car park and residents eligible for a permit had been written to and advised that they would need to apply for a permit in order to continue to park in that location. Offending vehicles were given an advisory notice advising that they would need to seek alternative parking arrangements from the date that the enforcement was due to start.

Since cars had been receiving these notices, the Council had received a number of complaints from the residents of Alexandra Road stating that the car park was not at capacity and that they should have the right to continue to park there. Complaints had also been made about the lack of consultation prior to the change. There was also reference to an informal arrangement to be able to use the car park, made when traffic calming was installed in the area, but the Planning section had no record of this.

The Council has responded to all complaints regarding the current situation and the car park had also been monitored for a period of a week over two time periods to ascertain the actual usage of the car park.

Councillor Arthur explained that consultation would now be carried out with all local residents based on three options for the future use of the car park.

### **3. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the Executive meeting held on 28 July 2010.

### **4. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT – QUARTER 1 2010/11**

Councillor Waters, Cabinet Member for Resources, Performance and Shared Services, introduced the report and referred, in particular, to improvements made to the presentation of the statistics. Further consideration would be given by Cabinet and Scrutiny members to the development of future reports on the Council's performance against its key objectives.

The Director of Transformation explained that the introduction of new software had improved the visibility of performance data. He said that there had been satisfactory performance against the Council's 27 priorities stated in the Corporate Plan. Where commitments had not fully been met, there was adequate time for corrective action. The Chief Executive Officer explained that the new style of report had improved its presentation online which should result in the need for fewer printed copies in future.

Councillor Waters said that the report would be considered by the Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 21 October 2010.

**RESOLVED** to –

- (1) agree to the development of future reporting methods through joint work with the Scrutiny Committee;
- (2) note the Council's progress against the Corporate Plan priorities during the first quarter of 2010/11.

## **5. FORMATION OF WAR MEMORIAL TRUST**

The Chair introduced the report and referred to the preparations for the creation of a War Memorial Trust to raise funds to ensure that the City's war memorials were properly maintained. He said that the Lord Lieutenant of Norfolk had agreed to become a trustee and that it was intended that appropriate appointees be identified following consultation with interested parties.

Councillor Jeraj asked whether consideration had been given to the specific costs for year on year maintenance of the war memorials. The Chair said that a maintenance plan would be prepared but added that it was hoped that there would be limited maintenance costs for the new war memorial in view of the quality of materials which had been used.

Councillor Bremner welcomed the establishment of the War Memorial Trust and referred to the importance of the restoration project for the people of Norwich. He said that it was important that other memorials within the City were included within the remit of the Trust and hoped that individuals would be encouraged to make contributions to ensure the ongoing maintenance of the memorials. In response to a question from Councillor R Wright, the Chair said that it was intended that negotiations would be held with the group leaders concerning representation.

**RESOLVED** to authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to establish a trust for the purposes of maintaining and promoting war memorials within the City.

## **6. NORWICH AND HCA STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP – REVISED INTERIM BUSINESS PLAN**

Councillor Arthur, Cabinet Member for Housing, introduced the report. She referred to the benefits which were to be delivered by the strategic partnership and commented that it had been recognised as a model example nationally. She expressed thanks to officers who had made significant efforts in the development of the partnership.

The City Growth and Development Manager explained that the report updated progress in respect of the partnership since its previous report to the Executive in September 2009.

The Chair referred to the timescales for the partnership's objectives which continued to be met. He also said that the Partnership's contractual agreement with the HCA provided considerable guarantees during the difficult economic climate.

**RESOLVED** to approve the revised interim Business Plan for the Norwich and HCA Strategic Partnership as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.

## **7. NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL LOCAL ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT CONSULTATION**

The Economic Development Officer (Policy and Projects) presented the report and answered a number of questions.

During discussion, Councillor Waters, Cabinet Member for Resources, Performance and Shared Services, expressed concern about the quality of the County Council's assessment which had failed to highlight the specific economic characteristics of the City. The Economic Development Officer (Policy and Projects) said that, in view of the large number of factual inaccuracies in the assessment report, it was hoped that a case could be made to challenge its contents.

**RESOLVED** to approve the Greater Norwich Local Economic Assessment and the Norwich City Council response to the Norfolk Local Economic Assessment and Executive Summary and the Greater Norwich Executive Summary.

## **8. FUTURE BURIAL PROVISION FOR NORWICH**

Councillor Waters, Cabinet Member for Resources, Performance and Shared Services, introduced the report. He said that the recommendations would allow time to consider further options in the future.

The Public Protection Manager referred to the various options considered by the Task and Finish Group and to information which had been received concerning proposals for additional burial space proposed to be located to the north of the City.

**RESOLVED** to ask the Public Protection Manager to explore options for maximising the existing burial space in the City's cemeteries, in liaison with external professional service advisers.

## **9. VARIATIONS TO THE CURRENT TENANCY AGREEMENT**

Councillor Arthur, Cabinet Member for Housing, introduced the report and referred to the considerable number of positive comments which had been received about the presentation and wording of the Council's tenancy agreement. In response to a question from Councillor R Wright, Councillor Arthur said that research had identified that tenants preferred to be communicated with via letters.

**RESOLVED** to vary the Council's tenancy agreement as set out in Appendix 1 to the report by serving formal notice of variation on all current secure and introductory tenants to be effective from 29 November 2010.

## **10. PROPOSED REVISIONS TO CAR PARK FEES AND CHARGES**

Councillor Waters, Cabinet Member for Resources, Performance and Shared Services introduced the report.

The Strategic Parking Officer referred to the current levels of competition within the market and the reasons for the recommended increases.

**RESOLVED** to –

- (1) approve the revised fees and charges as set out in Appendix C and Appendix D to the report to take effect from 8 November 2010;

- (2) agree to absorb the increase in VAT from 17.5% to 20% due to take effect from 4 January 2011 and not to increase fees and charges accordingly;
- (3) authorise the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to undertake the necessary statutory procedures to introduce the new fees and charges, by means of a variation under Section 35C of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984.

#### **11. nplaw MANAGEMENT BOARD**

**RESOLVED**, having considered the report of the Head of Legal and Democratic Services, to approve the appointment of the Cabinet Member for Resources, Performance and Shared Services and the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to the nplaw Management Board.

#### **12. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of item 13 below on the grounds contained in the relevant paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

#### **\*13. COMPULSORY REDUNDANCIES (PARAGRAPH 1)**

**RESOLVED**, having considered the report of the Chief Executive Officer , to approve the deletion of posts, and redundancy of postholders, as set out in the report.

CHAIR