

CABINET**17:30 to 18:10****8 October 2014**

Present: Councillors Arthur (chair), Bremner, Driver, Harris and Stonard

Also present: Councillor Boswell

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Waters.

2. PUBLIC QUESTIONS / PETITIONS

There were no public questions or petitions.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held 10 September 2014.

5. REVIEW OF THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION – CODE OF GOVERNANCE

The portfolio holder for neighbourhoods and community safety presented the report.

RESOLVED to recommend council to adopt changes to appendix 19 of the council's constitution to include:

- 1) the additional governance requirements from the CIPFA statement on the role of the chief financial officer in local government be added to the council's code of governance; and
- 2) paragraph 4.3 of the code of governance is updated to bring it in line with the Accounts and Audit (England) Regulations 2011.

6. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2014-15: PERIOD 05

The leader of the council presented the report.

RESOLVED to note the financial position as at 31 August 2014 and the forecast outturn 2014-15.

7. DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2015-2020 AND TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME 2015-16

The leader of the council presented the report and tabled the scrutiny minutes containing the scrutiny committee's recommendations regarding the draft corporate plan.

The executive head of strategy, people and neighbourhoods clarified that, as per previous years, the scrutiny recommendations provide him with delegated authority in respect of certain matters.

In response to a member's question, the leader of the council explained that the savings options elements of the report that were not considered at the scrutiny committee would come back to scrutiny at a later date following full public consultation.

In response to the same concerns regarding scrutiny of the transformation programme, the executive head of strategy, people and neighbourhoods explained that the programme options had already been considered by a cross-party working group. In addition to this, he clarified that the scrutiny committee set their work programme at the beginning of the civic year, and as such had ample opportunity to place the item on their work programme. He added however that at this stage what was being asked of cabinet was to agree for work to continue, prior to the final report making its way through the usual pathway of scrutiny, cabinet and council meetings.

In response to a member raising issues regarding the timeliness of notification of the items inclusion on the cabinet agenda, the executive head of strategy, people and neighbourhoods stated that the transformation programme is considered within the same timeframe each year. Whilst he accepted that the notification for the item to be considered at the meeting could have been longer, he emphasised that scrutiny members were certainly aware of the item as it was included in the initial topics list that they were given to consider when setting their work programme.

The leader of the council concluded by emphasising that although previous opportunities to scrutinise the corporate plan and transformation programme had existed, further opportunities for such scrutiny would arise following the public consultation phase.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) agree that further work is carried out on the draft corporate plan framework for 2015-20, including public consultation;

- 2) agree that further work is carried out to progress the current list of proposed savings and income options for 2015/16; and,
- 3) agree the proposed approach to public consultation on the development of a new corporate plan and the council's budget for 2015-16 and delegate authority to the executive head of strategy, people and neighbourhoods in liaison with the leader of the council to finalise the consultation document.

8. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of the items *9 to *11 below on the grounds contained in the relevant paragraphs of schedule 12a of the local government act 1972 (as amended).

9. DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN 2015-2020 AND TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME 2015-16 ANNEX C (EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 3)

The leader of the council presented the item which was an appendix to the report at item 7.

RESOLVED to note the appendix in conjunction with item 7.

10. MANAGING ASSETS (GENERAL FUND) (EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 3)

The portfolio holder for environment, development and transport presented the report.

In response to a member's question, he explained the pragmatic approach of property management within Norwich City Council. The chief executive officer added that the best use of cash tied up in a difficult to let premises was to release such capital by selling the properties.

The head of city development services explained that assets owned by the council are not disposed of without significant consideration. He said that a matrix is applied to each property to ensure options are thoroughly explored prior to any consideration of disposal.

RESOLVED to approve the disposal of land and property from the general fund as described within the report.

11. LAND TO BE DEVELOPED FOR THE AFFORDABLE HOMES PROGRAMME (EXEMPT UNDER PARAGRAPH 3)

The portfolio holder for housing presented the report, drawing members' attention to the updated document forming pages 89 and 90 of the report. He highlighted those changes which had taken place between the initial publication of the agenda and the new documents presented; adding that having to reissue these tables with updates highlighted the flexibility of the approach taken by the city council.

In response to a member's question, he stressed that during the process of any potential decommissioning of properties, the same excellent work and care which had been taken during previous decommissioning procedures would also be applied here.

The senior development officer (enabling) explained that consultation would always take place with counsellors regarding any potential decommissioning. This would allow the development of appropriate consultations for each site. She added that final numbers may be subject to slight changes as the amount of housing presented within the report is based on initial planning findings.

RESOLVED to progress the sites listed in tables 1 and 2 of the report for development for affordable housing.

CHAIR