



## CABINET

5.35pm to 6.55pm

13 February 2013

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

Also present: Councillors Stephenson and Lubbock

### 1. PUBLIC QUESTIONS / PETITIONS

One public question had been received in advance of the meeting.

#### **Mr Anish Kaul to the cabinet member for environment and neighbourhoods:**

“From Q3/2010 until Q1/2012, figures from the DEFRA waste statistics indicate that Norwich City Council's Residual Waste per Household flat-lined at around 100kg per household per quarter. By how many kilograms do the council expect to reduce this figure by enhancements to the food collection system in the 2013-14 and the two subsequent years 2014/15, and 2015/16? In addition, how many additional kilograms reduction per household does the council expect that new MRF contract will produce from the same annual periods?”

#### **Councillor Driver, cabinet member for environment and neighbourhoods, replied:**

“Thank you for your question about recycling. The first part of your question concerns the council's food waste collection service. This service is designed to collect all food waste from the home, including leftovers from meals, food that has gone past its use by date, kitchen waste and pet food. Experience has shown that when people use the food waste service they realise how much they are throwing away and consequently do make efforts to reduce the amount of food waste they have. This then affects the proportion of food waste that is in the waste stream. The council's efforts have been focussed on encouraging those who do not use the service to take part. Participation rates are increasing and have risen from 28% to just over 40%. This has had the effect of maintaining the amount of food waste collected. There are no plans to enhance the service other than carrying on introducing facilities to all our communal site and a number of schools.

The second part of your question concerns the impact of the new contract for handling recyclable waste. Contract negotiations for a new materials recycling facility are ongoing. The award of the contract expected in April 2013. The commencement date for the new facility is April 2014. Since differing solutions are being considered it is not possible to provide a definitive answer to this part of your question.”

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were made.

## **3. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED** to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2012.

## **4. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2012 - 13 – PERIOD 9**

Councillor Waters, deputy leader, introduced the report.

**RESOLVED** to note the financial position as at 31 December 2012 and the forecast outturn 2012- 13.

## **5. CAPITAL BUDGET MONITORING 2012-13**

Councillor Waters, deputy leader, introduced the report.

**RESOLVED** to note the:-

- (1) financial position of the housing and non-housing capital programmes as at 31 December 2012;
- (2) forecast outturns for 2012 -13; and,
- (3) estimated carry-forwards to 2013 -14.

## **6. CORPORATE PLAN 2012 - 2015**

Councillor Arthur, leader of the council, introduced the report. She referred to the recommendations of the scrutiny committee and endorsed those made at its meeting of 10 January 2013 (as contained in the report), but not those made at its meeting held on 7 February 2013.

Councillor Stephenson said that the scrutiny committee recommendations from 7 February 2013 were intended to clarify the waste and recycling measures that the council currently uses. It had considered the measures confusing and overly

complex, suggesting instead that measures around residual waste could prove more helpful and strengthen the corporate plan.

Councillor Lubbock said that the suggested alterations to the recommendations were made to acknowledge changes in people's recycling habits. She suggested that the sustainable development panel (SDP) could examine whether the performance indicators used to judge recycling rates were appropriate. Cabinet agreed that the waste performance indicators should be reviewed by the SDP.

**RESOLVED** to:-

- (1) agree the proposed amendments to the Corporate Plan 2012-2015 within the report, including the recommendations of the scrutiny committee made at its meeting on 10 January 2013;
- (2) not accept the recommendations of the scrutiny committee made at its meeting on 7 February 2013; and,
- (3) recommend the Corporate Plan, as amended, to council as the overarching policy framework for 2013-14.

**7. GENERAL FUND REVENUE BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

Councillor Waters, deputy leader, introduced the report.

**RESOLVED** for the 2013 - 14 financial year, that :-

- (1) the council's Budgetary Requirement be set to £20,616,854 and that the budgets set out are approved, taking into account the savings, income and other budget movements;
- (2) the prudent level of reserves for the council is set at £4.35 million in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief Finance Officer;
- (3) the council's Council Tax Requirement is set at £7,561,645;
- (4) council tax should be set at £230.27 for Band D, which is an increase of 1.95%;
- (5) the precept of the collection fund for 2012/13 is calculated in accordance with Sections 32-36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 as amended by the Localism Act 2011 as per the statutory determination;
- (6) the non-housing capital plan 2013/14 to 2017/18 and the non-housing capital programme 2013/14, is approved; and,
- (7) cabinet delegates to the deputy chief executive (Operations), in consultation with the deputy leader and resource portfolio holder, the authority to agree the asset maintenance programme and the final scheme details, including any adjustment to the financial allocations of the section 106 works, provided that this investment is contained within the total budgetary provision.

## **9. HOUSING RENTS & BUDGETS 2013 - 14**

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

Councillor Stephenson questioned what the 5.1% rent increase - in addition to what had been specified in the report - would be spent on and whether it would be simply used to fund borrowing. The portfolio holder for housing explained that this had been discussed at the citywide board and the tenant's forum and that the increase would be used for both spending and to fund borrowing as this was intertwined.

**RESOLVED** to :-

- (1) approve the Housing Revenue Account budgets set out in paragraph 3 and Appendices 1 and 2;
- (2) approve the council housing rent increase set out in paragraph 26 and Appendix 3;
- (3) approve the prudent minimum level of housing reserves set out in paragraph 63 and Appendix 4;
- (4) approve the housing capital plan 2013-14-2017/18 set out in paragraph 69, and the housing capital programme 2013-14 set out in paragraph 71; and,
- (5) determine service charges under delegated powers in compliance with the constitution, as set out in paragraph 41.

## **10. TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2013 - 14**

Councillor Waters, deputy leader, introduced the report.

**RESOLVED** to recommend to council that it approves the:-

- (1) Capital Prudential Indicators and Limits for 2013/14 to 2015/16;
- (2) Borrowing Strategy 2013/14 to 2015/16;
- (3) Treasury Prudential Indicators, including the Authorised Limit;
- (4) Minimum Revenue Provision policy statement; and,
- (5) Investment Strategy 2013/14 (including the criteria detailed in the annual investment strategy).

## **11. QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE REPORT**

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

Councillor Stephenson suggested that the target for recycling be swapped for a target based around residual waste. The executive head of strategy, people and democracy said that the data for residual waste is collected and can be supplied at member's request.

**RESOLVED** to note the progress against delivery of the corporate plan priorities and key performance measures for quarter 3 of 2012 - 13.

## **12. ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL STATEMENT**

Councillor Bremner, portfolio holder for environment and development, introduced the report.

Councillor Stephenson suggested that the layout of the document meant it was not easy to compare with the environmental strategy and questioned whether it would be possible to align the two more closely. Also it would be good to see more numbers and statistics to allow for closer monitoring of progress. She then asked why the carbon reduction figure had changed from 6% to 4%, given that the motion from council had been to maintain 6% every year.

The executive head of strategy, people and democracy welcomed the suggestions around the presentation of the data. He said that the carbon reduction targets were agreed at full council as part of the 2012-15 corporate plan.

**RESOLVED** to accept the annual environmental statement.

## **13. HOUSING BLUEPRINT AND VISION - KEY DECISION**

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

Councillor Stephenson asked if internal communal areas were included in the blueprint. The head of housing explained that the Norwich standard focuses primarily on the inside of homes.

**RESOLVED** to approve the housing service blueprint and vision 2013 -2015.

## **14. PERMITTED DEVELOPMENT RIGHTS FOR CHANGE OF USE FROM OFFICE TO RESIDENTIAL**

Councillor Bremner, portfolio holder for environment and development, introduced the report.

**RESOLVED** to:-

- (1) seek an exemption for parts of the city from the forthcoming introduction of permitted development rights; and,

- (2) ask the deputy chief executive (Operations) to use his delegated powers – in consultation with the portfolio holder for environment and development - to agree the detail of the case for submission to government by 22 February 2013.

#### **15. AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR PHASE 2 STRUCTURAL REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO OMNIA TYPE PROPERTIES – KEY DECISION**

Councillor MacDonald, portfolio holder for housing, introduced the report and specified that the amount mentioned in the report at recommendation a) had been increased to £735,000 (rather than the stated £650,000)

##### **RESOLVED to:-**

- (1) approve the commitment to spend £50,000 from the 2012/13 housing capital budget and a further £735,000 from the 2013/14 housing capital budget for Phase 2 structural repairs and improvements to Omnia type properties; and,
- (2) delegate to the deputy chief executive - in consultation with the portfolio holder for housing - authority to award the contract subject to a satisfactory evaluation process and the successful tender prices being within the investment plan forecasts.

#### **16. CO-OPERATIVE COUNCIL**

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

Councillor Lubbock suggested that cabinet look as broadly as possible at a wide range of other areas of potential good practice to be adopted, rather than singularly focussing on the co-operative council network.

##### **RESOLVED to :-**

- (1) become a member of the Co-operative Councils' Network
- (2) explore how co-operative approaches and policies can be further developed as part of the ongoing work to reshape the council, in line with the council's blueprint, through the transformation programme.

#### **17. COMMUNITY RIGHT TO CHALLENGE PROCESS**

The chair considered that this matter was of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration under the localism act 2011 to ensure that the council meets its obligation.

Councillor Waters, deputy leader, introduced the report.

**RESOLVED** to approve the proposed process and governance arrangements for assessing any challenges received under the community right to challenge.

**17. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC**

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

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**\*18. MANAGING ASSETS (NON-HOUSING) (PARA 3)**

Councillor Waters, deputy leader, introduced the report.

**RESOLVED** to approve the sale of the freehold title of 16-20 Ber Street, 20/20A Princes Street and 52/52A Colgate.

**\*19. PROPERTY SERVICES RESTRUCTURE (PARA 2)**

Councillor Waters, deputy leader, introduced the report.

**RESOLVED** to approve the payment relating to redundancy costs as set out in the report..

CHAIR