



CABINET

17:30 to 18:40

12 September 2012

Present: Councillors Arthur (Chair), Waters, Bremner, Brociek-Coulton and MacDonald

Also present: Councillor Galvin, Councillor Wright

Apologies Councillor Gihawi, Councillor Driver

1. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 11 July 2012.

2. FINANCIAL INCLUSION STRATEGY

Councillor Waters, Portfolio holder for resources and Deputy leader, introduced the report and expressed gratitude to the partners who had contributed to the financial inclusion work.

In response to member's question, he explained that businesses within the city are sympathetic and understand the rationale behind paying the living wage. He emphasised that Norwich City Council needs to carefully examine each of its contracts as they come up for renewal and consider the contractor's commitment to paying the living wage.

Thanks were given to Bob Cronk and Boyd Taylor for developing and finalising the report.

RESOLVED to :-

- 1) approve the council's Financial Inclusion Strategy 2012 – 2015
- 2) thank Bob Cronk and Boyd Taylor for developing and finalising the report.

3. COLLECTIVE ENERGY SWITCHING

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

In response to a member's question, he explained that the concept of collective energy switching would be promoted appropriately to target as many people as possible living within the city.

One member expressed concern that, once consumers switch, energy prices might then rise over time. The Executive head of strategy, people and democracy explained that the idea is to get people used to the idea of switching providers to save money. It has been shown that, having joined a switching programme, people do get in the habit of switching.

Councillor Bremner further explained that within the switching scheme, a green tariff option would be made available to allow for a low carbon choice.

RESOLVED to:-

- 1) establish a collective energy switching scheme for the City
- 2) delegate authority to the Executive head of strategy, people and democracy to sign a contract with the chosen switching partner in liaison with the cabinet member for environment and development.

4. GRANTS TO VOLUTARY ORGANISATIONS

Councillor Waters, Portfolio holder for resources and Deputy leader, introduced the report.

He said that the figures under the financial implications heading of the report should be amended to:

The cost of these services for 2012-13 is £30,00 with **£11,000** allocated from the core grants and £19,000 from the financial inclusion budgets. The sum in the report totals £40,000. The cost of these services for **2013/14** is £65,000 with £25,000 allocated from the core grants budget and £40,000 allocated from the financial inclusion budget.

RESOLVED to approve the grant allocations for the period October 2012 to March 2014.

5. AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR EXTERNAL RECORATION TO COUNCIL HOUSING PROPERTIES

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

The Leader of the council thanked all those involved in preparing the report and accompanying information.

RESOLVED to approve the award of a three year contract (with an option to extend for a further two year period) for external decoration .

6. ESTABLISHMENT OF EASTERN PROCUREMENT CONSORTIUM AS A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE

Councillor Waters, Portfolio holder for resources and Deputy leader, introduced the report.

In response to a member's question regarding paragraph 23, the Head of property services explained the intention is as stated – work will not be carried out for any organisation that is not a member of the company.

RESOLVED :-

- 1) to approve the proposed incorporation of EPC as a Company Limited by Guarantee; and
- 2) that the Council becomes a member of the new company

7. NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS RE-PROCUREMENT

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

RESOLVED to :-

- 1) continue to use Norfolk County Council's contracts to deliver highways agency agreement services, excluding tree and verge maintenance, following the County Council's re-procurement of such services in April 2014;
- 2) ask officers to bring forward the review of the present highways agency agreement with a view to renewing in April 2014 to align and coincide with the county council's proposed re-procurement of highways services;
- 3) ask officers to develop proposals for a highways ranger type service for the city as part of any highways agency agreement review and re-procurement of highway services; and

- 4) use the option of Norfolk County Council's contracts to deliver highways type works including winter maintenance on council owned land which is not adopted following the County Council's re-procurement of such services in April 2014.

8. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING

Councillor Waters, Portfolio holder for resources and Deputy leader, introduced the report.

RESOLVED to note the financial position as at 31 July 2012 and forecast outturn 2012/13.

9. QUARTER 1 2012/13 PERFORMANCE REPORT

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

RESOLVED to note progress against the corporate plan priorities.

10. DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME FOR 2012/13

Councillor Waters, Portfolio holder for resources and Deputy leader, introduced the report and thanked all members of the cross-party working group for their involvement.

He said that comments had been received from the Leader of Norfolk County Council, and Norfolk Police Authority recommending option two. However, the cross-party working group was recommending option one..

RESOLVED to :-

- 1) note the updated medium term financial strategy.
- 2) note the list of current savings options for 2013/14 and carry out further work to develop these savings.
- 3) to agree the proposed approach to consultation on the development of the council's budget for 2013/14.
- 4) to agree that option one forms the draft council tax reduction scheme for wider consultation, having taken into account the views of Norfolk County Council and Norfolk Police Authority, and;
- 5) to agree the proposed process for the budget and wider council tax reduction scheme consultation and the core consultation document.

11. GOLDSMITH STREET REDEVELOPMENT

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

RESOLVED to:-

- 1) dispose of the site at Goldsmith Street to Orbit Housing Association for redevelopment as a 100% affordable housing scheme; and
- 2) delegate to the deputy chief executive, in consultation with the relevant portfolio holder, authority to deal with all matters relating to the final tenure split between 'affordable rent' and low cost home ownership to enable the development to proceed.

12. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

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

13. DEVELOPMENT OF THE BUDGET AND COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME FOR 2012/13 – ANNEX B (PARA 3)

In response to a member's question, the Deputy chief executive explained that shared services allows for offsetting and reshaping of savings opportunities. He explained that he was confident that the shared services arrangement would deliver significant savings.

RESOLVED to note Annex B of item 10 – Development of the budget and council tax reduction scheme for 2012/13

14. MANAGING NON-HOUSING ASSETS (PARA 3)

Councillor Waters, Portfolio holder for resources and Deputy leader, introduced the report.

RESOLVED to approve the sale of the freehold title of 3 to 5 St John Maddermarket

11. SUPPORT SERVICE REVIEW (CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS) (PARA 3)

Councillor Waters, Deputy leader of the council, introduced the report.

RESOLVED to approve the outcome of the contract negotiations as detailed in the report.

CHAIR