



CABINET

5:30 pm to 6:45 pm

10 July 2013

Present: Councillors Arthur (chair), Waters (vice chair), Bremner, Kendrick, Sands (M), Stonard

Also present: Councillors Stephenson and Wright

1. APOLOGIES

No apologies were received.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were declarations of interest for the item 'Scrutiny review of community space' from Councillor Kendrick and Councillor Arthur.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 12 June 2013.

4. STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT 2013

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

In response to a member's question, Councillor Stonard said that whilst the comments made by 'Mr JB' on page 25 of appendix 1 to the report were valid, they refer to substantive planning documents and therefore are unlikely to effect any change (as per the officer response in the final column). He concluded by saying that he would see what, if anything, could be done to pursue these suggestions.

RESOLVED to approve the adoption of the revised Statement of Community Involvement.

5. HOUSING STRATEGY 2013 - 2018

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

A member suggested that it would be useful to have reports provided to cabinet or the scrutiny committee regarding the level of enforcement action being taken against landlords.

RESOLVED to approve the draft housing strategy.

6. REVIEW OF HOUSING REPAIRS POLICIES – KEY DECISION

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

In response to a member's question, the NPS head of property services explained that timescales and attendance at housing repair appointments is scrutinised via contract monitoring procedures. He confirmed that there should be no instances where jobs are not attended and that any which may fall behind schedule are properly investigated. Any tenant with issues could always call the customer contact team where team members are able to check the full history of call outs regarding any given property.

RESOLVED to approve the 'responsive maintenance policy' and the 'planned and cyclical maintenance policy' for tenants and leaseholders of the council.

7. ICT – DESKTOP REFRESH – KEY DECISION

Councillor Waters, deputy leader and portfolio holder for resources, introduced the report.

RESOLVED to delegate to the executive head of business relationship management, in consultation with the deputy leader and resources portfolio holder, authority to award a contract for the provision of desktop hardware and software.

8. AWARD OF CONTRACTS FOR STRUCTURAL REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS – KEY DECISION

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

RESOLVED to delegate to the deputy chief executive, in consultation with the portfolio holder for housing, authority to award the following contracts:

- (1) Contract A structural repairs;
- (2) Contract B structural repairs; and

(3) Contract for phase 3 of the staircase renewal,

subject to a satisfactory evaluation process and the successful tender prices being within the investment plan forecasts.

9. THE AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR MIXED DRY RECYCLABLES PROCESSING SERVICE – KEY DECISION

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

Members stated that the suggested approach to mixed dry recyclables was very positive and that the council should continue to link with the Norfolk Waste Partnership to find further ways of minimising refuse.

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) award to Norse Commercial Services Ltd (“Norse”) a ten year contract for the recycling of dry recyclable material (being the enhanced contract with glass) pursuant to the procurement process carried out, on the basis that such contract be entered into between the District Councils of the Norfolk Waste Partnership and the joint venture company;
- (2) approve the entry into a joint venture shareholders’ agreement between the seven Norfolk District Councils and Norse for the purposes of establishing a joint venture company (the “JVC”) to be the contractor under the recycling contract;
- (3) approve the entry into such ancillary arrangements as shall be necessary, pursuant to the establishment of the JVC and the award of the recycling contract to the JVC; and,
- (4) delegate to the deputy chief executive (operations) (in consultation with the chief finance officer, head of law & governance and the deputy leader) authority to agree all necessary arrangements for the establishment of the joint venture.

At this point, Councillor Arthur, leader of the council, left the meeting in accordance with her disclosure of interest at the beginning of the meeting (although this was declared as an ‘other’ interest, she decided to leave the meeting for the entirety of the item). Councillor Kendrick remained. Councillor Waters, as cabinet vice chair, took the chair.

10. SCRUTINY REVIEW OF COMMUNITY SPACE

Councillor Kendrick, portfolio holder for neighbourhoods and community safety, introduced the report.

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) thank the many volunteers that run the council's community centres;
- (2) endorse in principle the recommendations from scrutiny committee;
- (3) allocate council officer time (subject to the detailed assessments and resource implications of each recommendation highlighted in the report) to explore in more detail and in conjunction with community space volunteers, partners and other agencies, how the recommendations might be implemented; and,
- (4) report progress to the scrutiny committee in due course.

11. NPS NORWICH LTD BUSINESS PLAN

Councillor Waters, deputy leader and portfolio holder for resources, introduced the report.

RESOLVED to agree the 2013 - 14 NPS Norwich Ltd business plan

12. ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE

Councillor Kendrick, portfolio holder for neighbourhoods and community safety, introduced the report.

RESOLVED to approve the proposals for dealing with requests to register assets of community value, and to enhance reporting and administrative procedures.

13. CONSIDERATION OF THE LOCAL TRANSPORT BODY'S LONG LIST OF TRANSPORT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS - KEY DECISION

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

Members discussed the need to encourage the use of cycling where possible and raised the issue of developing 20mph zones in the city to assist with this.

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) endorse the transport improvement schemes included in the draft long list that directly benefit Norwich and to ask that the importance of the economic and environmental benefits to the city of Norwich of those schemes - and their wider economic and jobs growth potential for the whole of the Greater Norwich area - be recognised in the prioritisation process;
- (2) request that the following schemes are added to the list;
 - (a) £3.8m funding for improvements to the pink pedalway on the cycle network
 - (b) £5m funding for implementation of improvements to other pedalways identified in the agreed cycle network
 - (c) £6m for NATS city centre improvements, including Westlegate, Golden Ball Street, Rose Lane and Prince of Wales Road

14. SHELTERED HOUSING - OUTCOMES OF STATUTORY CONSULTATION WITH TENANTS.

Councillor Bremner, portfolio holder for housing, introduced the report. In response to a member's question, he explained that where possible, friendship groups would be taken into consideration when re-housing tenants.

In response to a member's question, the head of housing said that Lakenfields had not been offered to let to new tenants for at least 18 months whilst the sheltered housing review was undertaken. She added that the housing service had been finding the properties difficult to let anyway.

RESOLVED to approve:-

- (1) that authority is given to the deputy chief executive (operations), in liaison with the portfolio holder for housing, to decommission Lakenfields and Britannia Court from the sheltered housing stock;
- (2) that, following the decommissioning process, the deputy chief executive (operations) undertakes an options appraisal of these sites to determine their future use, and reports back to cabinet at a later date as to the future viability of these sites; and,
- (3) to use the housing revenue account reserves to offset the cost of the home loss and disturbance payments and council tax in regard to the decommissioning of Lakenfields and Britannia Court.

15. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

***16. LEGAL ACCESS AGREEMENT WITH NORWICH CITY FOOTBALL CLUB FOR RIVERSIDE WALK CONSTRUCTION**

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

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) authorise the council to enter into a legal agreement with Norwich City Football Club to permit construction and public use of a section of riverside walk on its land;
- (2) authorise the council to enter into a legal agreement with ATB Laurence Scott, should this be deemed necessary; and
- (3) recommend to council the allocation of up to £260,000 Sustrans funding for delivery of this section of the riverside walk.

***17. REVIEW OF SHED LEASEHOLDS ON AN AREA OF LAND IN THE HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT**

Councillor Waters, deputy leader and portfolio holder for resources, introduced the report.

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) approve the repossession of 7 shed leaseholds on an area of land in the HRA for planning purposes;
- (2) authorise the deputy chief executive (operations) to make compulsory purchase orders under Section 226 (1) (a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended by the Planning & Compulsory Purchase Act 2004) and the Acquisition of Land Act 1981 to secure the compulsory acquisition of the 7 shed leaseholds in accordance with the proposals set out in the report; and,
- (3) authorise the appointed solicitor to take all the ancillary or necessary steps, including the publication and service of all statutory notices and presentation of the council's case at any public inquiry, to secure the confirmation of the compulsory purchase orders.

***18. Managing Assets (Housing) 1**

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

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) approve the option to resettle the council tenants and to dispose of the freehold interest in the assets on the open market; the method of disposal being delegated to the head of city development services;
- (2) approve that the capital receipt from the disposal be reinvested in the housing capital program for improving, repairing and maintaining the council's housing stock or for enabling new affordable housing; and,
- (3) delegate to the deputy chief executive (operations) authority to take all necessary and ancillary steps to achieve the above.

***19. MANAGING ASSETS (HOUSING) 2**

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

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) approve the option to resettle the council tenants and to dispose of the freehold interest in the assets on the open market; the method of disposal being delegated to the head of city development services;
- (2) approve that the capital receipt from the disposal be reinvested in the housing capital program for improving, repairing and maintaining our housing stock or for enabling new affordable housing; and,
- (3) delegate to the Deputy Chief Executive (Operations) authority to take all necessary and ancillary steps to achieve the above.

***20. REQUEST FOR FLEXIBLE RETIREMENT**

Councillor Waters, deputy leader and portfolio holder for resources, introduced the report.

RESOLVED to approve the payment of costs relating to a request for flexible retirement.

CHAIR