



CABINET

17:30 to 18:55

13 June 2018

Present: Councillors Harris (vice chair in the chair), Davis, Jones, Kendrick, Maguire, Packer and Stonard

Apologies: Councillor Waters (other council business)

Also present: Councillors Carlo and Wright

1. Public questions/petitions

One public question was received from Ms Gail Mayhew, Chair of Cathedral Magdalen and St Augustine's Neighbourhood Forum Steering Group:

"The Cathedral Magdalen and St Augustine's Neighbourhood Forum now has 87 members which are a representative cross section of the area's resident and business population as required by the Act, and has secured the support of the Chamber of Commerce, St Augustine's Community Together residents association and a range of organisations in the area. Collectively we want to engage with Norwich City Council on the future planning and regeneration of the north city centre area to the benefit of all, and believe we are in compliance with the regulations to be deemed a neighbourhood forum. If we are not to be designated as a neighbourhood forum then:

a) what mechanism should we adopt to engage collectively and formally with the Council?

and,

b) how will Norwich City Council ensure that the issues and interests of residents and small businesses located within the town centre are properly engaged with by the Council and other city centre organisations in their plan making and other initiatives?"

Councillor Stonard, cabinet member for sustainable and inclusive growth's response:

"Thank you for your question.

The cabinet report acknowledges that the membership of the Cathedral Magdalen and St Augustine's (CMSA) Neighbourhood Forum has changed and expanded. However, unfortunately current membership details are not publicly available so, under the neighbourhood planning regulations, the decision on the designation of the neighbourhood forum must be made on information currently in the public domain.

Response to question (a)

If the CMSA group is not formally designated as a neighbourhood forum, the council would treat it the same way it would with all residents groups which is to support them to identify their goals and how they can impact their neighbourhood positively, link them with other local groups or those elsewhere with a similar agenda and help them run community projects.

Response to question (b)

The city council ensures that the needs and interests of residents and small businesses in the city centre are addressed in plan making and other initiatives in a number of ways:

- The public and local businesses are consulted on the development of statutory local planning documents and other planning initiatives. Such consultation is well-publicised and there is a large database of consultees that any residents or businesses can join.
- The city council is a board member of Norwich BID and the Norwich Chamber of Commerce Council which seek to represent the views of all member businesses within the area (based on Norwich city centre and urban Norwich respectively).
- Engagement takes place through the democratic process, with elected members representing the views of their constituents.
- The city council works with the police and other organisations to help tackle any negative effects of the night-time economy on residents, businesses and visitors within the city centre.
- The city council also runs occasional events which target specific interest groups as appropriate, for example the 2040 Norwich City Vision exercise carried out in 2017-18 and the bi-annual Leader's Business Receptions.
- A regular dialogue with businesses and residents in the city via officers in Planning, Economic Development, Transportation, Housing, Neighbourhoods, Regeneration etc.; including engagement with organisations and sector groups such as the Chamber of Commerce, FSB, FIG, Magdalen Street Traders etc."

In response to Ms Mayhew's supplementary question the cabinet member for sustainable and inclusive growth said Anglia Square was an exciting local initiative and when an application was received it would go through due planning procedure including a full consultation in accordance with planning policy and process. In terms of the CSMA area it was not seen as a coherent area for planning as set out clearly in the report being considered later in the agenda.

2. Declarations of interest

Councillor Harris declared a 'pecuniary' interest in item 6 below 'Applications for a neighbourhood area and neighbourhood forum for the Cathedral, Magdalen and St Augustine's area' in that she was a board member of the Broad's Authority and an 'other' interest in that she was related to a responder to the consultation on the same item.

Councillor Harris declared a 'pecuniary' interest on item 7 below 'River Wensum Strategy' in that she was a board member of the Broad's Authority and stated that as such she would leave the room for items 6 and 7 and not take part in the debate and vote.

Councillors Stonard and Kendrick declared an 'other' interest in item *15 below 'Norwich Regeneration Ltd (NRL) - transfer of land at Rayne Park' in that they were board members of NRL.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meetings held on 14 and 28 March 2018.

4. Performance report 2017-18 with quarter 4

Councillor Harris, cabinet member for social housing, presented the report on behalf of Councillor Waters.

She said that performance in this quarter had been consistent. She highlighted the number of properties reaching the Norwich target standard had increased. The time taken to re let properties was on target and compared favourably to other authorities.

Target SCL3 (percentage of people feeling safe), was under target. This was due to the use of a new methodology. She said that the increasing austerity agenda also impacted this target as a greater number of people were seen to be begging or on the streets with drug and alcohol problems. She noted that even with the pressure on the local police authority, Operation Gravity was producing results.

The strategy manager added that the change in methodology had resulted in higher quality data being received and this had enabled improved partnership working.

Councillor Maguire, cabinet member for safe city environment, said issues in the city were complex. Regarding individuals congregating on the streets this was not always associated with rough sleeping or begging. People gathered on the streets for a number of different reasons such as homelessness, drug and alcohol problems, mental health problems and even loneliness.

New services had been developed to work with vulnerable individuals seen on the streets. The council was a partner in a financial consortium which had achieved £1 million in funding. The service provision was based on the work of a number of

specialist agencies, termed the 'pathways services'. It was headed by St Martins Housing Trust and included in its partners the Salvation Army and Mancroft Advice Project. The NHS were also going to fund a street medic.

The target SCL05 (safe food), was a measure which was being exceeded. Last week was national safe food week and council officers had taken part in a number of initiatives as part of the campaign.

In response to a question from Councillor Carlo, the cabinet member for sustainable and inclusive growth said that the assessment of private developers affordable housing contribution whilst retaining viability was a judgement made by the district valuer. He said the council was in discussion with district valuer's office to look at how to understand and robustly challenge private developer's assessments of affordability. He agreed it was important to maximise the affordable housing on private schemes but this had to be realistic and take account of the scheme, the site and current market considerations.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) note the progress against the corporate plan priorities for quarter 4 of 2017-18; and
- (2) approve proposed performance targets for 2018-19

5. Revenue and capital budget monitoring 2017-18 – Period 13

Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for resources, presented the report.

In response to a question from Councillor Carlo, the director of neighbourhoods said the £100,000 underspend on the CCTV budget was due to the delayed timing of the provision of the new CCTV equipment. The timescale of the delivery of the programme had moved to the new financial year. There had also been savings made on the maintenance costs of the current system. There was limited funding available for installing new CCTV cameras and decisions on where to install new cameras were made in conjunction with the police.

RESOLVED to note:

- (1) the financial outturn for 2017/18 for the General Fund, HRA and capital programme;
- (2) the consequential forecast of the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account balances as detailed in paragraph 8;
- (3) the transfers to earmarked reserves as detailed in paragraph 3 & the impact on earmarked balances detailed in appendix 3; and
- (4) the non-housing and housing capital programme virements as detailed in paragraphs 10 and 11

6. Applications for a neighbourhood area and neighbourhood forum for the Cathedral, Magdalen and St Augustine's area – key decision

(Councillor Harris having declared a pecuniary interest in this item and left the room. Councillor Kendrick took the chair).

Councillor Stonard, cabinet member for sustainable and inclusive growth, presented the report. He said two applications had been submitted to Norwich City Council and the Broads Authority by the Cathedral Magdalen and St Augustine's (CMSA) Neighbourhood Forum. These were an application for designation of a Neighbourhood Area and an application for the Neighbourhood Forum to become the Designated Body to produce a Neighbourhood Plan.

The proposed neighbourhood area fell within the city council and Broads Authority boundaries. It included significant parts of Mancroft and Thorpe Hamlet wards as well as stretches of the River Wensum. It included almost half of the city centre by area and had a population of approximately 4,000. Councillor Stonard noted the design of the required consultation was agreed by both Norwich City Council and the Broads Authority.

Councillor Stonard said it was recommended to refuse the application for the neighbourhood area for the reasons detailed in the report; he highlighted the fact that the area was approximately 50% of the city centre and could lead to a disjointed approach to the delivery of city centre planning policy if granted. It was a disparate area, incorporating very different neighbourhoods, with different characteristics. The implementation of the neighbourhood area could undermine the River Wensum Strategy. The boundaries (particularly the southern boundary which ran down the middle of Prince of Wales Road) were considered to be illogical and made policies difficult to implement.

He explained where an authority refused an application to designate a neighbourhood area as well as giving the reasons for refusal it had to use its powers to designate some or all of the area applied for as part of one or more designated neighbourhood areas. He explained a number of areas had been considered and were detailed in the report and the designation of the northern city centre area as a neighbourhood area was recommended.

The neighbourhood forum application had to be considered in its own right. He highlighted that membership of the forum at the time the application was made was not considered representative of the proposed area with the majority of residents living in Cathedral Close. It was not considered representative of businesses in the area or the wider business community either and this was the reason that the forum was recommended for refusal.

In response to a question from Councillor Carlo, the cabinet member holder for sustainable and inclusive growth said the fact the area may have been the site of the original settlement in Anglo Saxon times did not mean it was relevant as a planning area today. He said the council had assessed the proposal against the relevant regulations. He added that a number of local businesses had questioned the coherence of the proposed area and the undemocratic and unelected nature of the forum.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) refuse the application for designation of the Cathedral, Magdalen and St Augustine's neighbourhood area for the reasons set out at paragraph 57;
- (2) refuse the application for designation of the Cathedral, Magdalen and St Augustine's neighbourhood forum as an appropriate body for neighbourhood planning for the reason set out in paragraph 73;
- (3) designate the northern city centre area as an alternative neighbourhood area for the reasons set out in paragraph 63; and
- (4) delegate power to the Director of Regeneration and Development, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Sustainable and Inclusive Growth to issue the decisions as recommended above, following the decision of the Broads Authority at its meeting on 22 June 2018.

7. River Wensum Strategy - key decision

(Councillor Harris having declared a pecuniary interest for this item had left the room. Councillor Kendrick took the chair).

Councillor Stonard, cabinet member for sustainable and inclusive growth, presented the report. He referred to the strategy vision to 'breathe new life into the river'. He said the river had been an undervalued and underused asset for too long and the aim of the strategy was to change that. The strategy would improve management of the river corridor and make the river vibrant, sustainable and accessed by people for all manner of pursuits.

The planning policy team leader said the strategy was a testament to partnership working; it involved complex issues but having the right partners on board bode well for its delivery.

In response to a question from Councillor Carlo, the planning policy team leader said the River Wensum Strategy applied to a defined area. In terms of the neonicotinoids within the river in its entirety, the Environment Agency would have more information on this.

RESOLVED to adopt the River Wensum Strategy on behalf of the city council.

8. Scrutiny committee recommendations

(Councillor Harris returned to the meeting and took the chair).

Councillor Wright, chair of the scrutiny committee presented the report.

He said the committee at its meeting on 22 March 2018 reviewed the council's debt collection policy. He said it was possible for a customer to see one officer about a debt who was not aware of the customer's debts with another area of the council. As such the scrutiny committee proposed a number of recommendations for cabinet to

consider. The scrutiny work programme for the year was also brought to cabinets attention.

Councillor Kendrick, the cabinet member for resources, thanked the scrutiny committee for their work, he said he attended the meeting on debt collection and had found it very useful and informative. The committee provided a valuable forum to for addressing issues.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) note the recommendations made by the scrutiny committee in March reporting back as appropriate; and
- (2) note the annual work programme.

9. Procurement of various housing upgrades and maintenance contracts - key decision

The chair noted that a revised recommendation had been circulated at the meeting for this item. This was in relation to the installation of Thermodynamic Hot Water Systems.

Paragraphs 18-22 of the report outlined the procurement process and the recommendation was to delegate authority to award the contract for Thermodynamic Hot Water Systems. This was due to the timing of the procurement process and the notification of successful and unsuccessful suppliers prior to the award of contract.

The procurement process had completed and there was only one supplier, Impact Renewable Energy Limited who submitted a tender. This reduced the procurement timetable and meant that the award could be approved by cabinet rather than delegated.

Councillor Harris, cabinet member for social housing, presented the report. She highlighted the work on loft and cavity wall insulation which targeted residents who experienced fuel poverty and the installation of thermodynamic hot water systems which reduced resident's bills.

In response to a question from Councillor Carlo, the director of business services said the Eastern procurement framework narrowed down contractors to those who could meet the requirements of a tender. If only a limited number of contractors were applying they worked with the market to encourage other businesses to join.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) approve the award of the external redecoration contract to Mitie Property Services (UK) Ltd;
- (2) delegate authority to the director of neighbourhoods in consultation with the deputy leader and social housing portfolio holder, to award a contract to the best value supplier for loft and cavity wall insulation;

- (3) approve the award of the lift maintenance contract to Otis Ltd for a period of up to four years; and
- (4) approve the award of the installation of thermodynamic hot water systems contract to Impact Renewable Energy Limited.

10. Procurement of gas supplies for Norwich City Council sites contract – key decision

Councillor Harris, cabinet member for social housing, presented the report.

RESOLVED to approve the award of the gas supplies for Norwich City Council sites contract to Total Gas and Power Ltd for the next four years (commencing 01/04/2019).

11. Procurement of decoration voucher and paint packs for allowance scheme for tenants – key decision

Councillor Harris, cabinet member for social housing, presented the report. She said that when tenants moved in the letting officer determined how many rooms needed redecoration and provided vouchers for the tenant to decorate themselves. This enabled residents to have choice over their decoration and also kept void times to a minimum.

In response to a question from Councillor Carlo, the cabinet member for social housing said access to other suppliers was also available.

RESOLVED to approve the award the contract for the provision of decoration voucher and paint packs for allowance scheme for tenant's requirements for the next two years to:

- (1) B & Q Ltd for decoration vouchers – up to £115,000 per annum.
- (2) Crown Paints Ltd for paint packs - up to £10,000 per annum.
- (3) PPG Johnstones for paint packs - up to £10,000 per annum.

12. Exclusion of the public

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of items *13 to *16 (below) on the grounds contained in the relevant paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

***13. Managing assets (housing) – key decision (paragraph 3)**

Councillor Harris, cabinet member for social housing, presented the report.

RESOLVED to approve:

- (1) the disposal of the freehold interest in the asset on the open market; and
- (2) the capital receipt from the disposal to be reinvested in the housing capital program for improving, repairing and maintaining our housing stock or for enabling new affordable housing.

***14. Managing assets (non-housing) – key decision (paragraph 3)**

Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for resources, presented the report.

RESOLVED to agree the asset disposal described in this report subject to the heads of terms appended.

***15. Norwich Regeneration Ltd - transfer of land at Rayne Park**

(Councillors Kendrick and Stonard had declared an 'other' interest in this item).

Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for resources, presented the report.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) agree to transfer the land shaded green (on plan 1) to Norwich Regeneration Ltd for £1; and
- (2) agree to take back the land shaded brown (on plan 1) from Norwich Regeneration Ltd for £1.

***16. Future provision of contracted services – key decision (paragraphs 3 and 4)**

(An exempt minute exists for this item)

RESOLVED to agree the recommendations as set out in the report.

CHAIR