



Cabinet

16.30 to 18.00

9 June 2021

Present: Councillors Waters (chair), Harris (vice chair), Jones, Kendrick, Packer and Stonard

1. Public Questions/Petitions

There were no public questions.

2. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2021 subject to the following corrections:-

Item 5 - Norwich City Services Business Plan – KEY DECISION

The period of the Business plan to be amended to 2021-24

The following resolutions were omitted from the minutes:-

Item 8 - Development of Three Score Phase 3

RESOLVED to –

(2) Delegate the decision to direct award RG Carter Ltd the construction contract for the development of social housing at Three Score phase 3, subject to the limits set out in the exempt appendix, to the executive director of development & city services

Item 15 - Award of the contract for the replacement of the district heating plant at Alnwick Court – KEY DECISION

RESOLVED to delegate approval to the Executive director of community services in consultation with the portfolio holder for social housing to award the contract for the replacement of the district heating plant, buried underground network pipework and internal dwelling heating systems at Alnwick Court sheltered housing scheme at an

estimated value of £450,000. The final award value will be within existing allocated budget.

Item 16 - Award of a contract for the roofing upgrades and repairs programme to Council dwellings – KEY DECISION

RESOLVED to approve the award of a contract for the delivery of the roofing upgrades and repairs programme to Aspect Group Services Limited for the period 1 June 2021 to 31 March 2024, subject to annual budget setting and satisfactory performance and quality being met.

Item*22 - Managing assets (non-housing)

The minute is amended to state that Councillor Harris declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting during consideration of this item

4. Equality, diversity, and inclusion policy 2021-22

Councillor Davis, cabinet member for social inclusion, presented the report and referred, in particular, to the objectives of the policy with regard to development of an equality, diversity and inclusion strategy; redesign of council services and reshaping of teams, understanding of communities and celebration of diversity and the recruitment of a diverse and representative workforce.

In response to a question from Councillor Bogelein, Councillor Davis said that she anticipated that training would be compulsory but would check this with officers

RESOLVED to approve the Equality, diversity and inclusion policy 2021-22 as set out in the report.

5. Customer experience and digital strategy 2021-24

Councillor Harris, deputy leader and cabinet member for social housing, presented the report. She referred, in particular to the objectives of the strategy to deliver effective and positive experiences for the council' customers through collaborative working within the Council. The Council's covid recovery plan had committed the council to consider how services could be delivered differently to enable the council to become more resilient, modern and flexible. The improvement of digital services and increasing take up would enable focus to be given to those who did not have access to these channels or who had complex and varying needs.

The chair commended the authors on the excellent work in producing the report.

Councillor Bogelein expressed concern about the difficulties experienced by some residents in reporting drug related anti-social behaviour incidents in the city. The executive director of community services agreed to provide a reply on this issue to Councillor Bogelein.

RESOLVED to:-

- (1) approve the Customer Experience and Digital Strategy 2021-24 subject to additional wider consultation on the principles, with final sign off delegated to the Executive Director of community services, in consultation with the cabinet members for social housing and resources, following consideration of any changes needed in response to consultation;
- (2) ask the Executive director of community services to check if there could be information/ contact details (inc. phone numbers) put in Citizen of any orgs who could help people who are digitally excluded by providing assistance in accessing grants for mobile data/ broadband, and the opening times of the digital hubs

6. Budget monitoring provisional outturn 2020/21

Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for resources presented the report and commented, in particular on the medium-term financial challenge which the Council faced, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, and the underspend in the Housing Revenue account, which had also been due to delays in non-essential repair work and retendering of some contracts.

The chair commented on the highly unstable financial climate in which the Council was operating currently and that the impact of the pandemic would be an ongoing issue for some time.

Councillor Harris, deputy leader and cabinet member for social housing, highlighted the numerous aspects of service delivery which had been affected by current climate, particularly delays in deliveries of supplies and contractual work.

Councillor Bogelein asked a question raised by residents who were concerned about the environmental impact of the tennis courts at Heigham Park and had requested an urgent review of the project. Councillor Packer, cabinet member for health and well-being said that there had been a number of reports to committees highlighting the benefits of this project and he did not consider that a further review was warranted. , The Executive director of corporate and commercial services, pointed out that provision for this project had already been agreed within the capital programme and the council had agreed to award the contract for the project.

RESOLVED to

- (1) note the financial outturn for 2020/21 for the General Fund, HRA and capital programme;
- (2) note the consequential balance of the General Fund and Housing Revenue Account balances;
- (3) note the transfers to earmarked reserves and the subsequent impact on balances;

- (4) delegate to the executive director of corporate and commercial services, in consultation with the executive director of development and city services, executive director of community services and the cabinet member for resources, the approval of carry-forwards of unspent 2020/21 capital budgets still required, to the 2021/22 capital programme.

7. Corporate performance and risk report, quarter 4 2020-21

Councillor Waters, leader of the council, presented the report which detailed the progress against delivery of the corporate plan priorities, key performance indicators and update on corporate risk for quarter four of 2020-21. He commended the authors of the report on producing a thorough review which highlighted the ways in which the authority had adapted to the financial and resource challenges of the Covid pandemic.

Referring to performance indicator 51 (income clients have gained through money/debt advice), Councillor Davis said that an incredible amount of work had been done by the relevant team in meeting demand from tenants moving to Universal Credit during the pandemic.

Councillor Harris, deputy leader and cabinet member for social housing also commended officers on the excellent performance of the team dealing with homelessness highlighted in performance indicator 61.

Councillor Waters, leader of the council, then referred to the corporate risk register. This also highlighted the impact of the pandemic, the effects of Brexit, both positive and disruptive, and cyber security issues affecting IT systems on a regular basis.

Councillor Bogelein requested a review of the indicators on neighbourhood safety to ensure they were more specific and would require a more detailed review of the council's work in this area. In response, the Senior strategy officer said that the methodology had already been reviewed and the response rate had improved.

RESOLVED to

- (1) note the progress on the key performance indicators for quarter 4 and the corporate risk register; and
- (2) ask officers to circulate the list of safeguarding councillors and champions

8. 5-Year air quality action plan for Norwich

Councillor Waters, leader of the council, presented the report and referred to the action measures to be progressed during the period 2020-25.

The public protection officer said that the targets within the action plan were based on nitrogen oxide.

In response to a question from Councillor Davis, Councillor Stonard, cabinet member for sustainable development, said that the fact that there had be no fines issued for vehicle idling was evidence that this element of the policy was proving effective.

Councillor Davis expressed concern about the number of old buses operational in the Norwich area and asked what steps were being taken to encourage the use of modern vehicles with low emissions. The public protection officer said that First Bus had agreed to remove all but Euro 5 and Euro 6 buses by 2023.

Councillor Bogelein was concerned that insufficient emphasis given to domestic wood burning within the action plan and suggested that adoption of the plan should be delayed to allow further discussion on these concerns., The executive director of development and city services, said that the plan set a benchmark not a limit on the Council's aspirations for dealing with air quality issues.

RESOLVED to approve the air quality action plan and agree that it be submitted to the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

9. Award of a contract for district heating at the Devonshire Street area of Norwich

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

Councillor Bogelein expressed concern that the Council was investing in another gas heating scheme rather than a renewable energy scheme.

RESOLVED to approve the award of a contract for district heating at the Devonshire Street area of Norwich to Gasway Services Limited, from 8 September 2021 to 31 October 2022 as detailed in the report.

10. Exclusion of the public

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of items *11 to *14 (below) on the grounds contained in the relevant paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

***11. Corporate Performance and Risk Report, Quarter Four 2020-21 – Exempt Appendix (Paragraph 3)**

Councillor Waters, leader of the council, presented the report.

RESOLVED to note the exempt appendix to the report.

***12. Managing assets (housing and non-housing) (Paragraph 3)**

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

RESOLVED to approve the disposal of the land identified in the report to Broadland Housing Association to support the development of affordable homes and to secure the promotion and improvement of the economic, social and environmental well-being of the City of Norwich.

***13 Managing assets (housing) (Paragraph 3)**

Councillor Harris, executive member for social housing, presented the report

RESOLVED to approve the disposal of the land and building identified in the report.

***14 Managing assets (non-housing) (Paragraph 3)**

Councillor Kendrick, executive member for resources, presented the report

RESOLVED to approve the disposal of the land identified in the report.

CHAIR