

# **Communities Committee**

Minutes of the Meeting Held on Wednesday 16 January 2019 10:00am, Edwards Room, County Hall, Norwich

### Present:

Mrs M Dewsbury – Chairman

Mr T Adams Ms J Barnard Mr D Bills Ms K Clipsham Mr N Dixon Mr R Hanton Mr H Humphrey Dr C Jones Mr K Kiddie Mr B Long – Vice-Chairman Ms S Squire Mr J Ward

The Chairman welcomed Tim Adams to his first Communities Committee meeting since replacing Mrs S Butikofer as a Member of the Committee.

The Chairman announced that agenda item 8 (Emergency Services Collaboration) would be considered under the Committee's remit as the Fire & Rescue Authority and that following a request to join the Committee, the Police & Crime Commissioner, Lorne Green had been invited to attend and join in the discussion for that item. The Chairman advised that, if the recommendations in the report were agreed by the Committee, the formal process of the Police & Crime Commissioner becoming a substantive Member of the Committee could begin, with the final decision being made by full Council.

### 1. Apologies and substitutions

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Ms C Rumsby (Ms K Clipsham substituted).

# 2 To agree the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 7 November 2018.

2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 7 November 2018 were agreed as an accurate record by the Committee and signed by the Chairman.

### 3 Declarations of Interest

3.1 No declarations were made.

### 4 Urgent business

4.1 There were no items of urgent business.

# 5 Public Question Time

5.1 No public questions were received.

### 6 Local Member Issues / Members Questions

- 6.1 The response to the Local Member question asked by Ms A Kemp is attached at Appendix A.
- 6.2 As a supplementary question, Ms Kemp said it was essential the Road Safety Partnership pilot a scheme of safety cameras in Norfolk, including Vancouver Avenue and Hardwick Road and asked if the Committee would refer the setting up of a speed camera pilot, including Vancouver Avenue and Hardwick Road to the Partnership.

In response, the Executive Director for Communities and Environmental Services said that there was an established protocol in place to assess sites suitable for installing speed cameras. The Committee was also advised that the Environment, Development and Transport Committee would be considering the relationship between the road safety camera partnership and Norfolk County Council to ensure sites were assessed and approved. He also added that drivers had an obligation to behave in an appropriate manner by driving to the road conditions, whether in a residential area or on major routes.

The Chairman advised that the next meeting of the Road Casualty Reduction Partnership would be held in January and that this was the appropriate body for consideration of this issue.

### 7 Verbal update/feedback from Members of the Committee regarding any Member working groups or bodies they sit on.

- 7.1 The Chairman advised that the next meeting of the Road Safety Reduction Group would be held on 22 January 2019.
- 7.2 The Chairman also advised that there would be a meeting of the Integrated Risk Management Plan Working Group at 1.30pm on Wednesday 16 January.
- 7.3 The Chairman had attended a meeting of the SCAMS Steering Group on Monday 14 January 2019 where the Group had agreed, after the success of last year's conference, to hold a second SCAMS conference in 2019. The Group had also considered a range of scams, together with ways of working with the police and other agencies, to develop an app to publicise scams and provide information on how to recognise them.

# 8 Emergency Services Collaboration – joint update from the Chief Fire Officer and Chief Constable.

8.1 As the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Authority, the Committee received the report by

the Executive Director of Community & Environmental Services asking it to approve the Emergency Services Collaboration Agreement as well as approving the request from the Police & Crime Commissioner for membership of the Fire & Rescue Authority.

- 8.2 The Committee welcomed Assistant Chief Constable (ACC) Paul Sandford and Police & Crime Commissioner Lorne Green to the meeting.
- 8.3 During the presentation of the report, the Committee noted that the first meeting of the Emergency Services Collaboration Board had taken place on Tuesday 8 January 2019 where the Board had agreed to hold monthly meetings in future.
- 8.4 ACC Paul Sandford advised that early indications from the emergency services collaboration were good and that opportunities were being identified. Once those opportunities had been identified, an action plan would be created.
- 8.5 Members welcomed the collaboration of the blue light services, particularly with regard to the 'One Public Estate' and the co-locating of premises.
- 8.6 Lorne Green, Police & Crime Commissioner thanked the Chairman for inviting him to attend the meeting. He added that, following a recent public consultation, 61% of the public who had responded had expressed a wish to see an improvement in emergency services collaboration. He also said he was pleased that the Collaboration Board had now been formally established and looked forward to seeing tangible benefits.
- 8.7 The Collaboration Board had agreed to create an action plan, although there was a need to prioritise all the current activities in the first instance to ascertain the starting base.
- 8.8 The Police & Crime Commissioner stated that his first and foremost priority was to protect the emergency services, together with their budgets. He added that he also wanted to engage with members of the public to hear their views as he valued their opinion and wanted to ensure everyone had an opportunity to share their opinions on the emergency services.
- 8.9 In response to questions from the Committee, the following points were noted:
- 8.9.1 The inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) of the Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service would be taking place between 4-8 February 2019, with a strategic briefing in advance on 24 January. It was expected that the initial debriefing would take place on 13 February.
- 8.9.2 Plans were in place to co-locate the emergency control room at OCC Wymondham. There had been a delay with the upgraded software installation which was being worked out with the suppliers before implementation to ensure we avoid any issues. Although this means the project could not be delivered to the original timescale, it was progressing. The co-location could eventually lead to the freeing up of the Whitegates building at Hethersett.
- 8.9.3 If the Committee agreed the recommendation to approve the request of the

PCC to join the Committee, it would be presented to full Council at its meeting in April 2019 for consideration and approval and could take effect with the new system of governance from May 2019.

# 8.10 The Committee **RESOLVED** to:

- 1. **Approve** the Emergency Services Collaboration Agreement as set out in Appendix B of the report, as the basis on which to progress further work with Norfolk Constabulary.
- 2. **Approve** the request from the Police & Crime Commissioner for membership of the Fire & Rescue Authority, for the reasons set out in paragraph 4.3 of the report.

# 9 Mobile Library Service – Feedback from the rural service delivery pilots.

- 9.1 The Committee received the report by the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services setting out the outcomes of a trial of pop up libraries that took place in a number of rural locations in October/November 2018. The report also explored the notion of libraries in other locations, including public houses.
- 9.2 In response to questions from the Committee, the following points were noted:
- 9.2.1 Although it would be too expensive for Norfolk County Council to operate popup libraries, there could be some scope to offer advice to local communities who wanted to set up their own services. A Member of the library service would be attending the Norfolk Association of Local Councils conference which could provide an opportunity to inform town and parish councils about how local communities could address issues such as social isolation through events similar to those run in libraries.
- 9.2.2 Members considered that some work should be undertaken to ascertain the viability of community groups running pop up libraries in rural areas.
- 9.2.3 Although it was not possible to ascertain whether the people that had visited the pop-up libraries continued to use the mobile library once the pilot had finished, there had been some excellent engagement with the pilots.
- 9.3 The Committee **RESOLVED** to:
  - 1. **Acknowledge** the results of the trial in relation to feasibility, cost and customer satisfaction.
  - 2. **Agree** the pop-up concept is only pursued as part of a wider corporate agenda in targeted areas defined by having a local need. The library would be part of a wider offer.
  - 3. **Agree** not to actively pursue implementing library offers into alternative premises at present due to lack of evidence of their success elsewhere and the agreed continuation of a county-wide mobile library offer.

# 10 Future Vision for the Wensum Lodge Site, Norwich

10.1 The Committee received the report by the Executive Director of Community & Environmental Services setting out the proposal to sympathetically redevelop

Wensum Lodge in Norwich which would support skills development and economic growth within the county, as well as seeing the transformation of an underutilised site into a thriving cultural asset, benefiting both creative businesses and individuals. The proposal also aimed to bring in additional funding to the county, both in terms of the short-term capital investment and support for the growing cultural sector.

- 10.2 The Committee received a presentation from Hannah Wooller, Hudson Architects, titled "Wensum Lodge, Creative Hub for Norwich", a copy of which is attached at Appendix B.
- 10.3 The Assistant Director, Community, Information and Learning, invited Members of the Committee to visit the Wensum Lodge site and asked them to contact her to make arrangements if they wished to accept the invitation.

Ms S Squire left the meeting at 10.55am.

- 10.4 In response to questions from the Committee, the following points were noted:
- 10.4.1 Members welcomed the opportunity to make Wensum Lodge into a major cultural attraction in the centre of Norwich.
- 10.4.2 There were many opportunities to make the site more accessible for community use, all of which were being explored, with various organisations being asked for feedback on how they would like to see the site utilised.
- 10.4.3 Members were reassured that accessibility was a major consideration and that provision would be made for accessible toilets as part of the project.
- 10.4.4 Members recognised that this was a very exciting opportunity, particularly as there was nothing like it elsewhere in Norfolk. The University of Arts as well as Norwich City Council had been very supportive of the project.
- 10.4.5 There were a couple of dedicated disabled parking spaces at the Wensum Lodge site, with on-street parking available nearby. There was also parking available at the sports centre at Wensum Lodge, which was currently priced at £5 per day, with public car parks at Rouen Road,King Street and Riverside.
- 10.4.6 Issues such as lighting in the area surrounding Wensum Lodge were recognised as needing attention.
- 10.4.7 There was some scope for involving schools and the local community in the project and all opportunities, including interior decoration, would be explored. It had been decided to wait until the Committee had agreed the project before any contact had been made with local schools and other groups.
- 10.4.8 Most of the administration staff had now moved out of the Maltings building and into County Hall, with the building now being used mainly for storage purposes.
- 10.4.9 Some Members expressed concern that there was sparse financial information contained in the report, and although the vision was impressive, buildings such as Wensum Lodge tended to cost a lot of money to renovate and modify to

bring up to accessibility standards, with high revenue costs. The Assistant Director, Community, Information and Learning said that survey work had intentionally not been carried out until the Committee had agreed the project could proceed to the next phase. The Committee was reassured that there could be interest from other funding partners and the site was currently financially viable.

The Assistant Director, Community, Information and Learning would present a business case to Members, once the extent and cost of the structural work was ascertained.

The Executive Director Community & Environmental Services reassured the Committee that the project was being carried out with particular attention paid to costs and that if the project did not come out cost effective, other options would need to be explored.

- 10.4.10 Discussions with the Corporate Property Team were underway to ascertain if the existing training facilities at County Hall could be utilised for IT courses and other administration courses. As County Hall was a brisk 10 minute walk from Wensum Lodge, opportunities would also be explored about making the county hall car park available for people attending the venue.
- 10.4.11 The Music House was the only Grade 1 listed building at the site.
- 10.5 The Committee **RESOLVED** to:
  - **Approve** the proposed vision for the redevelopment of Wensum Lodge site as a creative hub.
  - Agree the next steps to carry out surveys and feasibility studies.

# 11 Strategic and Financial Planning 2019-20 to 2021-22 and Revenue Budget 2019-20.

- 11.1 The Committee received the report by the Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services setting out proposals to inform Norfolk County Council's decisions on council tax and contributing to the Council setting a legal budget for 2019-20 which would see its total resources targeted at meeting the needs of residents.
- 11.2 The following points were noted during the discussion:
- 11.2.1 Some Members expressed concerns about the proposed reduction in opening hours at the Norfolk Record Office which could restrict members of the public visiting to carry out their research. Disappointment was also expressed that no alternative proposals had been considered.

The Executive Director of Community & Environmental Services introduced Gary Tuson, County Archivist (Head of Service) who gave some feedback from the last meeting of the Norfolk Records Committee, which had fully discussed and agreed the proposals. The Executive Director also reminded Members that there was an obligation for Norfolk County Council to set a balanced budget and if Members did not wish to agree the proposed savings, alternative savings options would need to be identified.

11.2.2 The County Archivist advised that the Records Committee had fully considered the proposals at its meeting on Friday 11 January 2019 and advised the Committee about the steps which were being taken to raise income for the service and Norfolk County Council. He added that the majority of the proposals recognised that the pattern of use at the record office had changed, with fewer people using microfilm technology and more people using digital photography which in turn had generated additional income for the service.

The Norfolk Archives and Heritage Development Foundation (NORAH) Strategy 2019-20 included some income generation ideas, one of which was around conservation of some 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century deposition books which could offer an exciting opportunity for students to carry out indexing work on them.

- 11.2.3 Some Members considered that it was unfair to ask a service which had demonstrated they could add revenue streams to offer up additional savings. In response, the County Archivist reassured Members that the service was always open to suggestions to increase revenue.
- 11.2.4 Some concern was expressed about the number of staff redundancies made recently in the Millennium Library and the lack of information available to Members about the loss of 5 FTE staff at the Library. In response the Assistant Director Community, Information and Learning advised that the £60k additional savings had been reported to Communities Committee, although there had not been a public consultation as no change to the service had been proposed. A review of staffing arrangements had taken place to ensure the needs of the service was being met, and a full internal consultation had been held to gather staff views.

The Head of Libraries clarified that there were 40 FTE staff working at the Millennium Library with approximately 13 members of staff affected by the proposed management changes. The management team had been streamlined resulting in in the loss of some managers, leaving 8.5 FTE managers working at the Library.

Staff consultation on the proposed changes had been held in November 2018 and although some staff had been anxious about the proposed changes, workshops had been held with them to ascertain their views on how savings could be made. Consequently, it had been proposed to make some changes to management; open the first floor of the library on Sundays; and increasing the pay grade of some front-line staff to reflect the work they carried out, particularly around literacy and supporting people in communities.

The results of the staff consultation were available for Members to view on the intranet and a link to the consultation would be circulated to the Committee.

11.2.5 The Assistant Director, Community, Information and Learning reassured

Members that staff at the Millennium Library had not been asked to work on a Sunday without being paid and anyone who worked on a Sunday would be remunerated for the hours they worked. The reason for asking for volunteers on a Sunday was to find out if there were any staff who were prepared to work on a Sunday due to their family and other commitments.

The Head of Libraries and Information added that the ground floor at the Millennium Library already opened between 10.30 and 4.30 on a Sunday and the proposal was to use open technology to open the first floor of the Millennium Library in response to public demand.

- 11.2.6 The Committee was reassured that the proposed cuts to the Strategic Arts Development Fund were manageable and that the Arts Council was looking for a commitment to supporting services not just the actual amount of any grant.
- 11.2.7 The proposal to support delivery of the MATCH service had been presented to the Adult Social Care department, who had carried out a complete review of the service. Members were reassured that, while the MATCH service was delivered by NCLS it was wholly commissioned by Adult Social Care. This support was moving to day service providers, but it had not yet been commissioned. Members were reassured that the individuals using the service would have better opportunities under the new offer.
- 11.2.8 Regarding the increase in the employer contribution rates for Fire Service pensions, following the announcement by HM Treasury that provisional results of the valuations of the public services pension schemes, it was expected that employer pension contribution rates would have to increase from April 2019. It was clarified that this was a fundamental change in the rate and the £1.3m was one-off funding based on an assumption of the amount which would be received from the Government.
- 11.3 Each recommendation was separately voted on as follows:
  - 1. Consider the content of the report and the continuing progress of change and transformation of Communities services. **This recommendation was unanimously agreed.**
  - 2. Consider and agree the service specific budgeting issues for 2019-20 as set out in section 5 of the report. With 8 votes in favour, 4 votes against and 0 abstentions, this recommendation was agreed.
  - 3. Consider the comment on the Committee's specific budget proposals for 2019-20 to 2021-22 including the findings of public consultation in respect of the budget proposals set out in Appendix 1 of the report. This recommendation was unanimously agreed.
  - 4. Consider the findings of equality and rural impact assessments, attached at Appendix 2 of the report and in doing so, note the Council's duty under the Equality Act 2010 to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.
  This recommendation was unanimously agreed.
- Consider and agree any mitigating actions proposed in the equality and rural impact assessments. With 8 votes in favour, 4 votes against and 0 abstentions, this recommendation was agreed.
- Consider the advice of the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services, and recommend to Policy & Resources Committee that the Council's budget includes an inflationary increase of 2.99% in council tax in 2019-20, within the council tax referendum limit of 3.00% for the year. With 8 votes in favour, 4 votes against and 0 abstentions, this recommendation was agreed.
- 7. Agree and recommend to Policy & Resources Committee the draft Committee Revenue Budget as set out in Appendix 3 of the report:
  - a. Including all of the savings for 2019-20 to 2021-22 as set out.

For consideration by Policy & Resources Committee on 28 January 2019, to enable Policy & Resources Committee to recommend a sound, whole-Council budget to full Council on 11 February 2019. With 8 votes in favour, 4 votes against and 0 abstentions, this recommendation was agreed.

 Agree and recommend the Capital Programme and schemes relevant to this Committee as set out in Appendix 4 to Policy & Resources Committee for consideration on 28 January 2019 to enable Policy & Resources Committee to recommend a Capital Programme to full Council on 11 February 2019. With 8 votes in favour, 4 votes against and 0 abstentions, this recommendation was agreed.

# 12 Finance Monitoring

- 12.1 The Committee received the report by the Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services providing it with financial monitoring information for the services reporting to Communities Committee for 2018-19.
- 12.2 The following points were noted in response to questions from the Committee:
- 12.2.1 The reduction in opening hours at Cromer Museum had occurred as a result of the removal of funding by North Norfolk District Council. North Norfolk District Council had agreed to fund additional opening times at the museum in 2017 on a trial basis.

The Committee was reassured that there were no proposals to cut opening

hours at any other museums in the foreseeable future.

12.2.2 The Deputy Chief Fire Officer reassured the Committee that financial management within the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service was important. He added that a recent recruitment campaign had been successful in attracting a number of new staff, although this then led to an increase in training and staff costs. The Deputy Chief Fire Officer added that a deep dive exercise would be carried out to ascertain future pressures on the service.

The Executive Director of Community & Environmental Services shared the Committee's concerns about the forecast overspend and that staff were working to predict how much the service would be overspent. He reassured the Committee that the financial management was the subject of increased scrutiny.

- 12.2.3 At its meeting on 16 January 2019, the Integrated Risk Management Plan Working Group would be considering a range of issues that would need to be budgeted for in future.
- 12.2.4 The Committee noted that there had been an excellent response to the recent recruitment campaign for retained fire fighters.
- 12.2.5 The money for the Domestic Violence Project had been a one-off spend for a specific pilot project in Norwich, looking at medium risk domestic abuse cases. There had been no commitment to continue with the project in the future.
- 12.2.6 Members asked that when the contract for the Castle Museum Keep project was confirmed, consideration be given to encouraging employers to offer apprenticeships.
- 12.2.7 Following a suggestion that when applicants for apprenticeships were reviewed, user groups could be involved, the Assistant Director, Culture and Heritage agreed to check with the Procurement team to ascertain if this would be appropriate.
- 12.3 The Committee **RESOLVED** to:
  - a) **Note** the 2018-19 revenue budget and forecast out-turn position for this Committee.
  - b) Note the Capital programme for the Committee.
  - c) **Approve** the tender evaluation criteria to assess bids to be the construction contractor for the Norwich Castle Gateway to Medieval England project, as set out in Appendix A of the report;
  - d) Delegate the award of the contract for the Norwich Castle Gateway to Medieval England Project, to the Executive Director of CES and Executive Director of Finance & Commercial Services, in consultation with the Chairman of Communities Committee and the Chairman of the Joint Museums Committee.
  - e) **Note** the balance of reserves brought forward to 2018-19 and the planned use of reserves for 2018/19.
- 13 Risk Management

- 13.1 The Committee received the report by the Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services providing it with the Communities committee departmental risks, reported as at January 2019, following the latest review conducted during December 2018. The reporting of risk was aligned with, and complemented, the performance and financial reporting to the Committee.
- 13.2 In presenting the report, the Risk Manager drew the Committee's attention to the significant change to risk score for RM14344 (Potential change of governance in the Fire and Rescue Service). The score was moving in the right direction, and monitoring would continue. It was hoped the risk would move to a target score of 8 by the end of March 2019.

# 13.3 The Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to **Note**:

- a) the reconciliation report, which detailed the significant changes to the Communities department level risks;
- b) the departmental level risk reported by exception to this Committee.
- c) A summary of the departmental risks that fell under the remit of the Committee.
- d) The list of possible actions, suggested prompts and challenges presented for information.
- e) The background information to put the risk scoring into context.

# 14 Performance Management

- 14.1 The Committee received the report by the Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services based upon the revised Performance Management System, implemented from 1 April 2016.
- 14.2 The following points were noted in response to questions from the Committee:
- 14.2.1 There had been some changes to the way data had been collected during recent years and this was in line with other local Councils.
- 14.2.2 Some Members asked for copies of the analysis carried out by the police into the causes of accidents to ascertain if there was any assistance the County Council could offer.
- 14.2.3 Members requested the increase in the amount of transactional level metadata available and being accessed (Norfolk Record Office) target of 5.3k should be relooked at as it appeared incorrect.
- 14.2.3 The Director of Public Health advised that no additional information about Teenage Pregnancy to that already circulated to the Committee was yet available. An update would be circulated when it became available.
- 14.2.4 It was anticipated that an update on the recently recommissioned Drug and Alcohol service would be available approximately twelve months from the commencement of the new service.

### 14.3 The Committee **RESOLVED** to **note**:

 The performance data, information and analysis presented in the report and determine whether any recommended actions identified are appropriate or whether another course of action is required.

#### 15 Forward Plan and Decisions taken under delegated authority

- 15.1 The Committee received the report by the Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services setting out the Forward Plan for Communities Committee.
- 15.2 As the Communities Committee in March would be the last meeting of the Committee in its current format, the Executive Director of Community & Environmental Services advised that any items on the forward plan outstanding would be passed to the relevant committee under the new structure.

### 15.3 The Committee **RESOLVED** to **note**:

- 1. The Forward Plan at Appendix A of the report.
- 2. The delegated decision set out in section 2 of the report.

The meeting concluded at 1pm.

Chairman

### Communities Committee Wednesday 16 January 2019

#### 6 Local Member Question

### 6.1 Question from Ms A Kemp

Reducing KSI's in Norfolk- Call for Speed Camera Pilot

The Performance Indicator for the number of people killed or seriously injured on Norfolk's roads is on red alert, at 6.2%, and above the national average of 2.9%.

KSI indicators do not reflect true impact: they under-record the seriousness of accidents, long-term physical and psychological effects; exclude warning signs of repeated near-misses and property damage, missing opportunities for prevention, and do not include fatal accidents after 5 years.

Will the Committee set up a speed camera pilot, including Vancouver Avenue and Hardwick Road where I recently called meetings, after two serious accidents after a history of interventions?

#### Reply by the Chairman:

Requests for installation of safety camera systems will be addressed in the normal manner. This involves analysis of collision and traffic data over the area in question. Should collision data indicate factors associated with speed, and traffic data confirm poor compliance, then a recommendation may be made to the Safety Camera Partnership to consider camera enforcement.

Appendix B

















































