

Policy and Resources Committee

Minutes of the Meeting Held on 31 May 2016
10:00am Edwards Room, County Hall, Norwich

Present:

Mr C Jordan (Chairman)

Mr S Agnew
Mr M Baker
Mr M Castle
Mrs H Cox
Mr A Dearnley
Mrs J Leggett
Mr I Mackie

Mr S Morpew
Mr G Nobbs
Mr A Proctor
Mr B Spratt
Mr B Stone
Dr M Strong
Mrs A Thomas

Substitute Member Present:

Mr M Kiddle-Morris for Mr I Monson
Mr J Timewell for Mr D Roper

Also Present:

Mr B Borrett
Mr S Clancy
Mr J Dobson
Mr T Jermy

Mr R Smith
Mrs M Stone
Ms S Whitaker
Mr A White

1.1 Apologies for Absence

1.2 Apologies for absence were received from Mr I Monson and Mr D Roper.

2A Minutes

2A.1 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 March 2016 were confirmed by the Committee and signed by the Chairman.

With reference to Paragraph 2B.2 of the previous minutes, Mr Spratt asked to be informed if a Member would be attending the final of the European "Business of the Year Award" event in Milan on 17 June 2016.

With reference to Paragraph 10.4 of the previous minutes, it was noted that a decision regarding a second enterprise zone was not expected before September 2016.

2B Chairman's Announcements

(A) The Chairman agreed that the Committee could receive a presentation from Norwich City Community Sports Foundation.

(B) Update on Devolution.

2B.1 Presentation from Norwich City Community Sports Foundation.

The Committee received a short presentation from Mr Steve Bramble and Mr Paul Knowles of the Norwich City Community Sports Foundation (NCCSF) about the work of the NCCSF in engaging with some 38,000 people in Norfolk and in providing excellence in sports coaching and in helping with sports education at some 220 Norfolk schools. During the presentation Mr Bramble and Mr Knowles spoke about the NCCSF's approach to Norfolk County Council and Norwich City Council to attempt to secure the Horsford Playing Fields and former Manor House as a site on which to coordinate NCCSF activities (details of which could be found at page 67 of the agenda).

2B.2 Devolution.

The Chairman said that there had been significant developments with regard to the devolution agenda since the Policy and Resources Committee had received a report on this matter in March 2016 and in particular since the change of Leader following the Council AGM on 9 May 2016.

2B.2 The Chairman reminded Members that in March 2016 the Committee had authorised the Leader, with key officers, to continue to represent Norfolk's best interests in the next stages of the process of designing a scheme of governance and a business plan. At Full Council in April 2016, despite concerns about the requirement for an elected Mayor, Members had voted, by 70 to seven, to continue negotiations with the Government. To assist with that process, Andy Wood, the former Head of the New Anglia LEP, had been appointed as the Independent Chair for the East Anglia Leaders' Group. Andy Wood was negotiating directly with the Government on the County Council's behalf on the detail of the deal, such as on the amount of money that would be made available.

2B.3 Since the time of change of Leader at the County Council, there had been a number of meetings with East Anglian Leaders and others and discussions had led to a proposal for delivery of the original deal on the basis of two combined authorities and two mayors – the so-called 'brother and sister' deals for Norfolk & Suffolk, and Cambridgeshire & Peterborough. This would mean all 23 councils and both LEPs would be involved in the process, while making sure decisions were brought closer to home than had previously been the case. There would still be an overarching structure to join up the two combined authority areas. Individual working groups were developing the functions – such as transport infrastructure, housing and so on - all of which had Norfolk input and representation.

2B.4 In reply to questions about the revised timetable for when the devolution proposals would be considered by Full Council, the Chairman and the officers involved in

these negotiations added that a special Council meeting was convened for 27th June 2016 when Members would be asked if they wished to endorse the deal document and the scheme of governance and to agree for the governance arrangements to go out to public consultation. The results would then be reported at the end of August 2016 and, following that, the Council would be expected to have a final debate on the subject at Full Council in October 2016 after which the Secretary of State could be asked to “sign off” on the order.

2B.5 The Chairman explained that he considered it very important that Members were fully briefed by officers on the proposals and, with that in mind, the Chairman said he would be writing later today to all Members offering a number of dates and times to attend briefing sessions. Details about these sessions would be included on Members’ Insight.

2B.6 Note: further details could be found on the devolution website: eastanglia.devo.co.uk which included the answers to a number of regularly asked questions about how the deal could work.

3 **Declarations of Interest**

3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4. **Item of Urgent Business**

4.1 There were no items of urgent business.

5 **Public Question Time**

5.1 Two public questions (and supplementary questions) were received relating to the Syrian Refugee Crisis. The questions together with the answers that were provided during the meeting can be found as an appendix to these minutes.

6 **Local Member Issues—Great Massingham School**

6.1 Mr J Dobson said that Great Massingham School was no longer receiving an equitable deal regarding broadband provision. He wanted to see a system of subsidies introduced to restore the level of equity in broadband financing resources for schools such as Great Massingham that had existed previously. He said that this matter was examined by the Broadband for Schools Working Group, however, the Group had been unable to come up with a solution. He suggested that the Broadband for Schools Working Group should be reconstituted to re-examine the issue.

Please also see minute 15 regarding the outcome of the Broadband for Schools Working Group.

Section A – Items for Discussion and Decision/Action

- 7 **Revenue Budget 2016-17 – Proposals for Allocation of Transitional Funding and Rural Services Delivery Grant**
- 7.1 The annexed report (7) by the Executive Director of Finance was received.
- 7.2 The Committee received a report by the Executive Director of Finance that provided a summary of the proposals for the use of Transition Grant funding and additional Rural Services Delivery Grant held in the budget for 2016-17, in respect of the services which fell under its responsibility.
- 7.3 The Committee noted that at the next meeting Members would be able to consider the outcomes of all Service Committees' recommendations in order to consider and approve a balanced package of proposals to the County Council for approval in July 2016.
- 7.4 After considering the report in some detail Members asked for more information to be provided at the next meeting about how each of the proposals contained in the appendix to the report would result in significant financial savings and service improvements. In particular, the Committee wanted to receive further information about how the additional funding for the IT service would reduce the number of outstanding ICT incidents and improve overall ICT performance.
- 7.5 **RESOLVED:**
- That the Policy and Resources Committee:
1. Note the proposals, and proposed priority ranking, relating to services which fall under its responsibility;
2. Note the slightly amended timetable for the approval of proposals for the whole Council, in July.
- 8 **Queen's Speech - May 2016**
- 8.1 The annexed report (8) by the Head of Business Intelligence and Corporate Planning which provided an outline of some of the key Bill's announced in the Queen's Speech delivered on 18 May 2016 was received.
- 8.2 Dr M Strong drew the Committee's attention to the various aspects of the Digital Economy Bill. She said that it was importance Members were kept informed at future meetings about developments regarding the suite of measures that were contained in this Bill.
- 8.3 **RESOLVED:**
- That the Policy and Resources Committee note the report.
- 9 **Medium Term Financial and Service Planning 2017-18 to 2019-20**
- 9.1 The annexed report (9) (with the supplementary agenda) by the Executive Director

of Finance and the Head of Business Intelligence and Corporate Planning was received. The report provided an update on the Council's budget process, and guidance to Service Committees on the actions required to support a balanced budget for 2017-18.

- 9.2 The report included the draft County Council Plan that provided strategic direction for the Council, to guide and shape choices about investments and priorities for the coming medium term period – 2016-2019. The report also established a framework for the Council to meet the Government's requirements for the adoption of an Efficiency Plan, which would ensure the Council was positioned to gain access to the funding guarantees offered by the Government for the period to 2019-20.
- 9.3 The Committee noted that the main aim of the Medium Term Financial Strategy was to ensure a four year balanced budget to aid forward planning and help mitigate financial risk.
- 9.4 Members drew attention to the assumptions regarding Council tax increases that were contained within the report and in particular the assumption in 2017-18 of a CPI increase in council tax above the 2% Adult Social Care precept. It was noted that a reduction in this increase would require additional savings to be found. It was pointed out that while the 2017-18 budget included £5.000m for wider social care pressures, there was a risk that this would not be sufficient for all of the pressures faced in these areas, adding to the £8.827m budget gap for 2017-18. In particular, local negotiations with Health partners in respect of the Council's share of the Better Care Fund had not yet been completed, with funding of £7.900m at risk. The Committee would be kept informed of developments regarding the Better Care Fund at future meetings.
- 9.5 **RESOLVED:**
- That the Policy and Resources Committee:
1. Confirm the priorities, measures and targets set out in the County Council Plan and recommend these to Full Council;
 2. Note the budget gap of £8.827m forecast in the Council's current Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2017-18;
 3. In order to help close the 2017-18 budget gap as set out in section 3 of this report, request for Service Committees to consider during the June / July Committee cycle:
 - a) which of their savings identified for 2018-19 have the capacity to be brought forward, and
 - b) to identify alternative new savings for 2017-18;
 4. Approve the proposed timetable and process for adoption of an Efficiency Plan.

10 **NORSE Group Business Plan 2016-2020**

- 10.1 The annexed report (10) report by the Managing Director of the Norse Group Ltd was received. The report included the Norse Group Business Plan for 2016-2020

for sign-off by the Committee in accordance with the new governance arrangements.

- 10.2 In reply to questions, the Managing Director of Norse Group Ltd said that the Shareholder Committee received regular reports about the Norse Group's financial performance and business development opportunities and had arrangements in place to deal with the financial challenges to its operating costs such as the introduction of the Living Wage and the pension deficit.

10.3 **RESOLVED:**

That the Committee confirm the Business Plan reflects the aspirations of the Shareholder.

11 **Disposals and leasing of properties**

- 11.1 The annexed report (11) by the Executive Director of Finance was received.

- 11.2 The Committee received a report by the Executive Director of Finance that recommended approval for the dispose of two land holdings by private treaty in pursuance of the Council's economic and social priorities. In addition, the report recommended that the Committee formally declare a further 80 properties surplus to Council requirements so that the Head of Property could continue with the assessment of options for development or immediate disposal for each asset. Final decisions on the method of disposal of each asset would be subject to a further decision process in accordance with Financial Regulations.

- 11.3 The Executive Director of Finance confirmed that the local Member protocol had been applied in respect of all of the parcels of land included in the report and that he would be happy to answer any local Member questions about the disposal of each of these assets if Members were to email him after the meeting.

- 11.4 The Committee was reminded of the presentation about the Horsford Playing Fields and former Manor House that they had received from Norwich City Community Sports Foundation at the start of the meeting. The Executive Director of Finance said that the Norwich Rugby Club and the parish councils in the surrounding area had also shown an interest in the site. Hellesdon Parish Council had drawn attention to a growing deficit of formal recreation spaces in the surrounding area and had indicated that they might be prepared to bid for the playing fields if they were offered on the open market.

- 11.5 It was moved by Mr G Nobbs, seconded by Mrs H Cox:

"That the Committee approve the first of the two options set out in the report in respect of the Horsford Playing Fields and former Manor House (currently leased), namely, the sale of the land to Norwich City Community Sports Foundation, subject to final terms to be agreed by the Executive Director of Finance in consultation with the Chair of P&R."

- 11.6 On being put to the vote there were 8 votes in favour and 8 votes against the

motion and on the casting vote of the Chairman the motion **FELL**.

11.7 It was then:

RESOLVED (with 15 votes in favour and 2 votes against)

That the Policy and Resources Committee:

1. Formally declare Carrow House surplus to council requirements and instruct the Head of Property to bring forward options and recommendations for development or disposal to a future P&R Committee meeting.
2. Formally declare Kings Street Stores surplus to council requirements and instruct the Head of Property to bring forward options and recommendations for development or disposal to a future P&R Committee meeting.
3. Formally declare the 11 other service buildings and sundry land holdings (Appendix 1 to the report) surplus to council requirements and instruct the Head of Property to bring forward proposals for development or disposal at future P&R Committee meetings.
4. Formally declare the 67 former Highway landholdings (Appendix 2 to the report) surplus to council requirements and authorise the Head of Property to implement a programme of property disposals to maximise income for the council.
5. Approve disposal of a part or the whole of Land at London Road, Attleborough to Eastern Attachments Ltd. at full market value and terms to be approved by the Executive Director of Finance in consultation with the Chair of this Committee.
6. That in respect of the Horsford Playing Fields and former Manor House (currently leased): approve the marketing of the land for recreation use and invite financial bids with proposals for the development of facilities so that the decision can take account of community benefits.

12 **Potential Use of Cash Balances**

12.1 The annexed report (12) by the Executive Director of Finance was received.

12.2 The Committee received a report by the Executive Director of Finance that explained the process whereby the Leader, in conjunction with the Executive Director of Communities and Environmental Services and the Executive Director of Finance, together with the LEP, had agreed in March 2016 on a conditional offer for the use of the County Council's cash balances that was presented to the Baxter Healthcare Board of Directors in March 2016.

12.3 The proposal (explained in detail in the report) for the use of cash balances offered a grant of up to £4m to support experimental development projects linked directly to Baxter Healthcare's Thetford operation.

12.4 It was pointed out that the offer would be subject to the provision of a satisfactory business case, demonstrating conclusively that the grant would not contravene EU

State Aids regulations.

- 12.5 The collective offer which had already received the agreement of the LEP met with the formal approval of the Committee at this meeting.

12.6 **RESOLVED:**

That the Policy and Resources Committee:

1 Endorse the conditional proposal made in February 2016, by the Leader, Executive Director of Communities and Environmental Services and the Executive Director of Finance, to provide a line of credit to the New Anglia LEP in order to fund the proposed £4m grant package to Baxter Healthcare. Any payments the Council make will be repayable within 5-10 years, with interest at a rate to be agreed:

- Initially to be ready to assist if required with the proposed £2.005m grant package towards the Research and Development element of the planned investments announced by the company.
- To be ready to assist, if required, with the provision of an additional £2m grant package to support further Research and Development activity that may emerge as part of future investments in the next 3 years, subject to a separate business case.

2 Recommend to full Council that this project is added to the capital programme.

3 Delegate to the Executive Director of Finance to agree the detail of the loan arrangement with the LEP.

13 **Internal and External Appointments**

- 13.1 The annexed report (13) by the Executive Director of resources was received.

13.2 **RESOLVED:**

That Policy and Resources Committee make appointments to those external bodies, internal bodies and Champions position as set out below.

Local Government Association

1. LGA General Assembly (4) – 2 Cons, 2 Lab

Cliff Jordan (4 votes)
Alison Thomas (1 vote)
George Nobbs (1 vote)
Mike Sands (1 vote)

2. County Council Network (4) 2 Cons, 1 Lab, 1 Lib Dem

Cliff Jordan
Alison Thomas
George Nobbs
Marie Strong

3. East of England Local Government Association (1) and 1 named substitute

Cliff Jordan

George Nobbs (substitute)

4. LGA Coastal Issues Special Interest Group (1)

Michael Baker

Outside Bodies

1. Greater Norwich Growth Board (1)

Steve Morphew

Internal Committees/Boards/Panels etc

1. Joint Consultative Negotiating Committee (7)

Deputy Leader – Alison Thomas

3 Cons – Andrew Proctor, Tom FitzPatrick, Tony Adams

1 Lab – Emma Corlett

1 UKIP – Michael Baker

1 Lib Dem – John Timewell

2. Member Support & Development Advisory Group (10)

4 Cons – Colin Foulger, Judy Leggett, Tom Garrod, Tony White

2 Lab – David Collis, Julie Brociek-Coulton

2 UKIP – Jonathan Childs, Denis Crawford

1 Lib Dem – Eric Seward

1 Green – Richard Bearman

3. Norse (2)

Shareholder Representative – Barry Stone

Member Director – Ian Mackie (serves on Norse Group Board, NPS Board and NCS Board)

4. Norse Shareholder Committee (7)

Shareholder Representative – Barry Stone

3 Cons – Roger Smith, Bill Borrett, Wyndham Northam

1 Lab – Mick Castle

1 UKIP – Toby Coke

1 Lib Dem – John Timewell

5. Norse Care Liaison Board (2)

Member Director of Norse Board – Ian Mackie

Chairman of Adult Social Care Committee – Bill Borrett

6. Strategic Equalities Group (6)

Deputy Leader (and Chairman) – Alison Thomas

1 Cons – Martin Storey

1 UKIP – Jonathan Childs

1 Lib Dem – Tim East

1 Green – Elizabeth Morgan

Alexandra Kemp

7. Treasury Management Panel (9)

4 Cons – Ian Mackie, Brian Iles, Cliff Jordan, Andrew Proctor

2 Lab – Steve Morphew, Sue Whitaker

2 UKIP – Toby Coke, Michael Baker

1 Lib Dem – Brian Watkins

8. ESCO – Energy Saving Company (1)

Deputy Leader – Alison Thomas

9. Constitution Advisory Group (9)

5 Cons – Andrew Proctor, Alison Thomas, Shelagh Gurney, Bill Borrett, Roger Smith

1 Lab – Steve Morphew

1 UKIP – Toby Coke

1 Lib Dem – Marie Strong

1 Green – Richard Bearman

14 **Syrian Refugee Crisis-Norfolk Response**

- 14.1 The annexed report (14) (that formed part of the supplementary agenda) was received.
- 14.2 The Committee received a report by the Head of Business Intelligence and Corporate Planning that updated Members on the outcome of discussions with the Home Office on Norfolk's proposed Syrian Vulnerable Persons Resettlement (VPR) Scheme.
- 14.3 Members placed on record their thanks to Jo Richardson, the report author, for the work that she continued to put into the Council's actions to develop a robust Norfolk response to the Syrian refugee crisis.
- 14.4 The Committee considered the potential financial implications of participating in the VPR scheme. In particular, the Committee considered the importance of maintaining pressure on the Government for more sound estimates about the potential costs, the possibility of other organisations, including the Norfolk District Councils assisting the County Council in meeting a financial shortfall, and the need for a report to be taken to Children's Services Committee, setting out the

implications of the Minister for Immigration's recent update on new arrangements for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, to enable Children's Services Committee to fully consider this matter and agree any appropriate actions.

- 14.5 Mr G Nobbs, duly seconded by Mr Morpew, moved the recommendations contained in the report with the additional words:

"That in the meantime the County Council urgently hold discussions with the various organisations involved, including the District Councils, to explore ways of meeting the financial shortfall of £400,000."

On being put to the vote this was **AGREED**, there being 15 in favour and 2 votes against. It was then:

- 14.6 **RESOLVED:**

That Policy & Resources Committee:

1. After taking into account the potential cost implications for Norfolk authorities recommend that a decision be made by Full Council about Norfolk County Council participation in the Syrian Vulnerable Person's Resettlement Scheme.
2. That in the meantime the County Council urgently hold discussions with the various organisations involved, including the District Councils, to explore ways of meeting the financial shortfall of £400,000.
3. That having noted the new arrangements for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and the Child at risk programme announced by the Immigration Minister, to seek the advice of the Children's Services Committee on the County Council's response.

15 **Broadband for Schools Member Working Group**

- 15.1 The annexed report (15) of the Broadband for Schools Member Working Group was received.

- 15.2 The Committee was assured that each school had been advised as to what was considered to be the best deal for them under the County Council's Broadband for Schools contract and that the new arrangements meant that most schools were likely to see reduced costs and an improved service.

- 15.3 **RESOLVED:**

That the Policy and Resources Committee note:

That, after having carefully considered the motion approved by the County Council in April 2016 that relates to the broadband for schools contract, and having carefully considered the issues that it raises, the Broadband for Schools Working Group was unable to recommend to Policy and Resources Committee a workable, equitable and transparent solution.

Section B – Items for Report

16 Finance Monitoring 2015-16 Outturn

- 16.1 The annexed report (16) by the Executive Director of Finance was received.
- 16.2 The Committee received a report by the Executive Director of Finance that gave Members an overview of the overall financial position of the Council, including the budgets for which this Committee was directly responsible. The report also included the Annual Treasury Management Report which formed an important part of the overall management of the Council's financial affairs.

16.3 RESOLVED:

That the Policy and Resources Committee:

1. Note the Revenue outturn of an underspend of £0.052m on a net budget of £318.428m;
2. Note the General Balances of £19.252m at 31 March 2016, including the 2015-16 underspend of £0.052m;
3. Note the transfers to reserves of CES underspends set out in Appendix 1 paragraph 6.8 to the report, as reported to 11 May 2016 Communities Committee and 20 May 2016 EDT Committee;
4. Note the financial information in respect of Resources and Finance budgets which are the responsibility of this Committee, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report;
5. Note the expenditure and funding of the 2015-15 and future capital programmes as set out in Appendix 3 to the report;
6. **Endorse and recommend to County Council**, the Annual Treasury Management Report 2015-16 as set out in Appendix 4 to the report.

17 Delivering Financial Savings 2015/16

- 17.1 The annexed report (17) by the Executive Director of Finance was received.
- 17.2 The Committee received a report by the Executive Director of Finance that provided details of the outturn position in respect of the delivery of the 2015-16 savings agreed by the County Council at its meeting on 16 February 2015.

17.3 RESOLVED:

That the Policy and Resources Committee note:

- a) the final total shortfall of £13.676m in 2015-16, which has been addressed through actions taken within service budgets, as detailed in paragraph 2.8 of this report;
- b) the budgeted value of 2015-16 savings projects rated as RED of £18.865m, of which £5.023m were delivered;
- c) the savings shortfall on AMBER rated projects of £0.204m; and

- d) the over-delivery of GREEN and BLUE rated projects totalling £0.370m.
- 18 **Notifications of Exemptions under Contract Standing Orders**
- 18.1 The annexed report (18) by the Executive Director of Resources was received.
- 18.2 **RESOLVED:**
- That as required by paragraph 9.12 of the Council's Contract Standing Orders, Policy and Resources Committee note the exemptions that were granted under paragraph 9.11 of Contract Standing Orders by the Head of Procurement and Head of Law in consultation with the Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee that are over £250,000.
- 19 **Asset Management Plan**
- 19.1 The annexed report (19) by the Executive Director of Finance was received.
- 19.2 The Committee received a report by the Executive Director of Finance that summarised progress over the past year against the Asset Management Plan 2015-18 work plan and highlighted changes to service requirements as well as other developments in asset management that had implications for property priorities going forward.
- The Executive Director of Finance confirmed to the Committee meeting that the reference to the Kings Lynn incinerator on page 209 was an error and that the document would be amended accordingly.
- 19.3 **RESOLVED:**
- That the Policy and Resources Committee:
1. Agree the priority areas outlined in paragraph 7 of the report to form the basis of the new AMP Work Plan 2016-19.
 2. Instruct the Head of Property to prepare and publish a new AMP document for 2016-19 incorporating the updated context, priorities and work plan.
- 20 **County Hall Programme**
- 20.1 The annexed report (20) by the Executive Director of Finance was received.
- 20.2 The Committee received a report by the Executive Director of Finance that provided details about the completion of the county hall programme, details of the challenges that remained and how these were being overcome. The report also highlighted the need for future ongoing investment in the maintenance of the building to ensure that the benefits of the major investment made by the County Hall Programme were delivered over the next 25 years.
- 20.3 **RESOLVED:**

- a. To note the completion of the County Hall Programme.
- b. To commission a further report on future planned maintenance at County Hall.

21 Decisions Taken Under Delegated Authority

21.1 The Committee received a report (21) by the Managing Director that set out decisions taken in relation to property matters by officers under the “hierarchy of decision making” since the report to the previous meeting.

21.2 RESOLVED:

To note the report.

The meeting concluded at 12.15 pm

Chair

Appendix A

Public Questions - Syrian Vulnerable Person's Resettlement Scheme

Jim Elliott

Question to P&R committee:

Will the Leader and this committee agree that Norfolk as a compassionate county has failed to meet European and international humanitarian commitments to Syrian and other refugees and that by bringing 50 orphans to live in suitable accommodation for the next 5 years of their development prior to them returning home to a safe environment (if it was deemed to be safe by the United Nations) or having their permit to stay extended would show that we can act compassionately now that only an estimated £400,000 shortfall is needed over a 7 year period (it has taken since last September to get this report and it seems that it could be another 2 months possibly before Full Council is informed and debates this issue)

Response to question:

“No, Norfolk has not failed to meet any national, international or indeed moral commitments to refugees. We have engaged fully with Government in the design and costing of a scheme that will ensure any refugees, if or when they reach Norfolk, will be supported by a carefully tailored programme to meet their highly specialist needs.

Furthermore, the question is confused, as the resettlement of Syrian refugees is separate and distinct from initiatives recently announced by central Government to accommodate unaccompanied asylum-seeking children in the UK. The Minister for Immigration wrote to the Council on 13 May setting out preliminary details of these new initiatives. This Committee is therefore seeking the advice of Children's Services Committee on the County Council's response."

Supplementary Question

Will Norfolk today commit that by 1st August 2016 it will agree to take 50 unaccompanied children from Greece, Italy or France who were registered there before 20 March 2016 (paragraph 3.2.1 (v) on page 110 of the agenda refers).

Response to question:

No, will have to wait and see what the Committee decides about the Syrian refugee crisis later in the meeting.

Jean Thirtle

Question to P&R committee:

The council made a commitment to bring 50 Syrian refugees to Norfolk, subject to receiving appropriate funding from central government. You are now saying that you may have to reconsider this decision because what the government is prepared to pay falls short of your cost estimate by £400,000. Are you saying that if you feel unable to provide the ideal level of support, as set out and costed in your proposal to the Home Office, you think it is better to do nothing and leave these people - including children, pregnant women and the elderly - to spend another winter sleeping in fields, at railway stations and in squalid camps in Greece?"

Response to question:

"The Government scheme to resettle Syrian refugees will bring people from camps around the Syrian border – not from Greece. To date, the Government has sufficient pledges from councils to house the numbers of refugees that the UK is receiving. The Home Office remain keen that places like Norfolk retain the option of accepting refugees in future years of the programme – when the need for places may become more urgent."

Supplementary Question:

Other areas of the country have agreed to take more refugees than Norfolk: will Norfolk take similar numbers of refugees to those of other counties?

Response to question:

Will have to wait to see what commitment Norfolk County Council makes when it decides on this matter.

APPENDIX B

Two questions pertaining to the properties to be declared surplus were asked during the meeting:

1. Litcham car parking space; is the rent being received?

The rent is 20p a year, so the rent is not being invoiced. NCC's interest in the car parking space was transferred to the Parish Council. We can instruct NPS to terminate the licence, which would incur fees but provide final resolution.

2. Income generated from surplus properties; is this market rate?

The spreadsheet below answers this question.

| Parish | Site Name | Notes | Occupied? | Occupation documented? | Rent - £/yr |
|-------------|---|-------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------|-------------|
| Aylsham | Drill Hall | Current arrangement is ending | Y | Y | n/a |
| Belton | Land adjoining New Road | To neighbours as garden extensions | Y | Y | £1 |
| Diss | Land at Church Street carpark | part of SNDC car park | Y | Y | £225 |
| East Ruston | Meadow adjoining Weavers Way carpark | grazing | Y | Y | £79 |
| King's Lynn | Land and gatehouse at Austin St | Of land only to KLWNBC | Y (part) | Y | n/a |
| Northrepps | Former Cromer High Station | For car parking | Y | Y | £2,210 |
| Norwich | King Street Store | For car parking & storage | Y | Y | £9,900 |
| Stibbard | Land at Fulmodeston Road (for village sign) | For Village sign by Parish Council | Y | Y | n/a |
| Thetford | Warehouse | For display/storage by local museum | Y | Y | £4,500 |
| Trimingham | Campsite | For cabin by charity | Y (part) | Y | £600 |

For the most part the licences were entered into to protect NCC's interest, rather than generate an income, and they generally date back quite a few years.



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