



## **Environment, Transport and Development Overview and Scrutiny Panel**

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 January 2012**

#### **Present:**

Mr A Byrne (Chairman)

Mr A Adams

Mr R Bearman

Mr B Bremner

Mrs M Chapman-Allen

Michael Chenery of Horsburgh

Mr N Dixon

Mr P Duigan

Mr T East

Mr M Hemsley

Mr B Iles

Mr M Langwade

Mr P Rice

Dr M Strong

Mr J Ward

Mr A White

Mr R Wright (Vice-Chairman)

#### **Cabinet Members present:**

Mr H Humphrey

Mr G Plant

Mrs A Steward

Community Protection

Planning and Transportation

Economic Development

#### **Deputy Cabinet Member present:**

Mr J Mooney

Mr B H A Spratt

Environment and Waste

Planning and Transportation

#### **Other Members present:**

Mr T Garrod

### **1. Apologies**

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Dr A Boswell (Mr R Bearman substituted) and Mr B Borrett.
- 1.2 Mrs Steward and Dr Strong sent apologies for their late attendance due to the fact they were attending the 'Say Yes to better broadband in Norfolk' campaign at the Forum.

### **2. Minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2011**

The minutes of meeting held on 9 November 2011 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

**3. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**4. Matters of Urgent Business**

There were no matters of urgent business.

**5. Public Question Time**

There were no public questions.

**6. Local Member Issues/Member Questions**

See Appendix A of the minutes.

**7. Cabinet Member Feedback on Previous Overview and Scrutiny Panel comments**

- 7.1 Members received the annexed note (7) by the Cabinet Members for Planning & Transportation, and Environment & Waste.
- 7.2 The Cabinet Member for Planning & Transportation said that the Council had received an additional £8.6m from the Government to spend across the County and the Deputy Leader had proposed that this additional money should be allocated to three areas: (i) looked after children, (ii) apprenticeships and (iii) highways maintenance. Members of this Panel were requested to put forward proposals and recommendations with regard to how this additional funding should be used for apprenticeships and highways maintenance.
- 7.3 The Cabinet Member for Planning & Transportation said that it had been proposed that £3.5m be allocated to highways maintenance as there was a backlog of work required and good roads were important for all of Norfolk's residents.
- 7.4 With regard to the proposed funding for apprenticeships, the Cabinet Member for Planning & Transportation advised members that this proposed scheme would see a greater number of apprenticeships available for young people in Norfolk. Young people were already working with training providers and if this proposal was implemented the authority could offer financial support by way of wage subsidies to enable small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to employ additional apprentices. Consideration would need to be given to the criteria required and clearly the authority would work within the national scheme guidelines. This scheme would give a boost to young people and the local economy and the authority would promote this to businesses and would work with young people, schools and careers organisations. Consideration could also be given to pre-apprenticeship training which would allow young people to move into apprenticeship schemes. The authority could also offer graduates work experience opportunities to enhance their CVs. It was suggested that the apprenticeship scheme should be inclusive to ensure that

all young people, not just those who were academically gifted, could apply for an apprenticeship.

- 7.5 Members welcomed and supported the proposal for additional funding to be made available for both highways maintenance and apprenticeships.
- 7.6 Mr White proposed that £4m should be requested from the additional fund for the highways maintenance programme. Mr Adams seconded this proposal.
- 7.7 Mr Bremner opposed the proposal and proposed that additional funding should be allocated to the concessionary fares scheme to enable blind people to travel for free before 9.30am. This proposal was not seconded.

**RESOLVED:**

- 7.8 With 8 votes in favour, 6 against and 1 abstention that £4m should be requested from the additional fund for the highways maintenance programme.

**8. Forward Work Programme: Scrutiny**

- 8.1 The Panel received the report (8) by the Director of Environment, Transport and Development.
- 8.2 Mr Adams proposed that the potential scrutiny item 'to investigate the cost and effectiveness, in the context of municipal residual waste manage in Norfolk of the alternatives to landfill and incineration identified in the energy from waste chapter of the Government Review of Waste Policy in England 2011' should be referred to the Norfolk Waste Partnership, who would be best placed to consider this. The Norfolk Waste Partnership is made up of the County Council and the district and borough councils in Norfolk. Mr White seconded this proposal.
- 8.3 Mr Bremner opposed Mr Adams' proposal; he said that landfill and incineration were the authority's responsibility and therefore it would be a great help for councillors to be involved in a scrutiny of this topic to enable them to make decisions for the long term benefit of Norfolk.
- 8.4 Mr Bearman said that the suggested new scrutiny item 'Transport Infrastructure' was very wide ranging and should be referred back to the proposer of this item to enable them to resubmit a more specific topic. The Director of Environment, Transport and Development advised Members that the two proposed new scrutiny items 'Transport Infrastructure' and 'Tourism in the local economy' would be featured as part of the Economic Growth Strategy report which would be received by the Panel at the 14 March 2012 meeting and members could then decide how they wished to take these items forward.

**RESOLVED:**

- 8.5 With 10 votes in favour, 3 against and 1 abstention, it was agreed to refer the potential scrutiny item 'to investigate the cost and effectiveness, in the context of municipal residual waste manage in Norfolk, of the alternatives to landfill and incineration identified in the energy from waste chapter of the Government Review of Waste Policy in England 2011' to the Norfolk Waste Partnership.

- 8.6 The Panel agreed the Outline Scrutiny Programme as set out in Appendix A of the report and noted that the two proposed new scrutiny items 'Transport Infrastructure' and 'Tourism in the local economy' could be considered as part of the Economic Growth Strategy report to be received by the Panel on the 14 March 2012.

## **9. Parking Principles**

- 9.1 The Panel received the report (9) by the Director of Environment, Transport and Development which set out draft parking principles for Norfolk.

- 9.2 During discussion the following comments were noted:

- Mr East said that whilst he was happy with many of the parking principles there were issues that should be scrutinised. For example the Government were looking at introducing an initiative to provide some safeguards for disabled people in supermarket car parks so he suggested that disabled parking should be scrutinised by a cross-party scrutiny working group. The Director of Environment, Transport and Development advised that report did not cover supermarket parking because developments (including car parking) were dealt with through the planning process. Further, some supermarkets had signed up to a Government initiative to enforce blue badge parking.
- The Cabinet Member for Planning & Transportation advised that whilst it was important that disabled people were considered, this was a high level document and parking issues, such as disabled parking, were already dealt with via the planning process.
- Members were broadly supportive of the Parking Principles and it was suggested that they should be reviewed at some future stage to ensure they were working. It was further suggested that disabled groups should be sent a copy of the Parking Principles prior to their adoption.

- 9.3 Whilst accepting the Parking Principles as set out in the report, Mr East proposed that there should be a scrutiny of the provision of disabled parking bays at supermarkets and the whole provision of disabled parking issues across the county. Mr Bremner seconded this proposal. With 2 votes in favour, this proposal was lost.

### **RESOLVED:**

- 9.4 To note the draft parking principles.

The Chairman left the room, Mr Wright in the Chair.

## **10. Highway and Community Rangers**

- 10.1 The Panel received the report (10) by the Director of Environment, Transport and Development.

- 10.2 Dr M Strong and Mrs A Steward joined the meeting.

- 10.3 During discussion the following comments were noted:

- Mr Spratt said that the pilot Rangers scheme had been a great success in his area. The Rangers had met with parish councils and positive relationships had been developed; he hoped there would be continued support for this scheme.
- The Cabinet Member for Planning & Transportation said that this scheme had enabled people to rectify problems in their areas and they could raise issues with their parish councils which helped to ensure that work undertaken was for the benefit of the community as a whole rather than for the benefit of individuals.
- Members heard that Rangers would visit a particular area four times a year and work identified by NCC inspections would be included in the work package. There may be occasions where the work proposed by a parish council was outside the scope of the Rangers or there was insufficient time to complete the work. Members recognised the importance of communication between the Rangers and parish councils.
- The authority had rolled this scheme into existing arrangements and by streamlining inspections, officers had been able to maintain efficiency; this had been demonstrated by the high level routine work that had been carried out.
- It was suggested that parish councils should receive an annual reminder of what this scheme did and did not cover and should include examples to show how parishes had benefitted from the scheme.
- The Vice Chairman said that the scheme had been a tremendous success and it was encouraging to receive such positive comments.

**RESOLVED:**

10.4 To note the Council's Highway and Community Rangers Service.

Mr Byrne in the Chair.

**11. ETD Highways Re-Procurement**

11.1 The Panel received the report (11) by the Director of Environment, Transport and Development and the Head of Procurement.

**RESOLVED:**

11.2 To note the content of the report and recommend Contract Option F2+ for approval by Cabinet.

**12. Highways Capital Programme 2012/13/14 and Transport Asset Management Plan**

12.1 The Panel received and commented on the report (12) by the Director of Environment, Transport and Development which summarised the Local Transport Plan (LTP) Settlement for 2012/13 and sought comments on a

highways capital programme for 2012/13/14 and Transport Asset Management Plan for 2012/13 to 2016/17.

12.2 Members heard that report had been written prior to the details of the additional funding were known.

**RESOLVED:**

12.3 To recommend to Cabinet for approval:

- (i) the reallocation of integrated transport funding to structural maintenance to partially address the deterioration in highway condition.
- (ii) the proposed changes to the Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP) for 2012/13 to 2016/17.
- (iii) the use of chief Officer delegated powers, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation, to manage the two year programme, including the possible increase in the Integrated Transport programme to £2.5m to deal with any major scheme cost pressures if they arise.

**13. ETD Service and Budget Planning 2012 to 2014**

13.1 The Panel received and considered the annexed report (14) by the Director of Environment, Transport and Development which provided an update on further information and changes affecting the proposals for service and financial planning for 2012-14.

13.2 Members were offered assurance that the savings expected from the Big Conversation were on track to be achieved.

**RESOLVED:**

13.3 To note the provisional grant settlement for 2012-13 and the updated information on spending pressures and savings for ETD and the cash limited budget for 2012-13.

**14. ETD Integrated Performance and Finance Monitoring Report 2011/12**

14.1 The Panel received and considered the annexed report (14) by the Director of Environment, Transport and Development, which provided an update of progress made against the 2011-14 service plan actions, risks and finances for ETD.

14.2 With reference to the net additional homes provided, shown as a red alert, Dr Strong asked whether all districts were cooperating. Daniel Harry, the Planning, Performance and Partnerships Manager agreed to provide further information about this following the meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

14.3 To note the progress against ETD's service plan actions, risks and budget.

## **15. Concluding remarks by the Cabinet Member for Economic Development**

The Cabinet Member apologised for her late arrival due to the fact she was attending the launch of the 'Say Yes to better broadband in Norfolk' campaign at the Forum. All councillors would receive a campaign pack and she requested that they get as many people as possible to sign up to the campaign. She thanked the members of the Broadband Working Group, chaired by Phillip Duigan, for all their hard work on this project.

(The meeting closed at 12.15pm)

**Chairman**



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## **APPENDIX A**

### **6 Local Member Issues/Questions**

#### **6.1 Question 1 from Dr Andrew Boswell**

Given the concerns being raised in the Press and by the user community following First Bus announcement that they plan to axe the University stops on the 21/22 bus route as well as reduce the service on the 40 orbital route, will the Cabinet member investigate intervening to retain the existing 21/22 and 40 Bus Routes which provide an extremely valued service to areas around the University of East Anglia?

#### **Reply by the Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation**

The services in question are all commercially operated and decisions on routes, timetables and fares are made by the operator. It is only where the transport authority commissions a service and makes a financial contribution to its running that we determine the routes and frequencies. I understand that the UEA were consulted by First Bus and agreed the changes in relation to their own campus transport needs in the summer.

There are still a number of frequent services that operate around both the UEA and the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital that provide very good connectivity in the city. The services may not be as convenient for passengers and some changes may be required for onward travel, but through ticketing is available to ease the journey.

Both the UEA and the NNUH are supportive of our principles to improve and enhance the public transport network (including a financial contribution of £100k each per year to the Norwich Park and Ride service). We will do what we can to help shape and develop the public transport network to support their wider business and considerable staff needs, which can bring wider community benefit.



**Actions arising at the Environment, Transport & Development Overview & Scrutiny Panel meeting  
11 January 2011**

Agenda Item Number	Report Title	Action	REPLY - By Daniel Harry, Planning, Performance and Partnerships Manager
14	'ETD Integrated Performance and Finance Monitoring Report 2011/12' (para 14.2)	Question from Dr Strong  With reference to the net additional homes provided, shown as a red alert, Dr Strong asked whether all districts were cooperating.	The Norfolk Housing Partnership was established about 18 months ago, in response to specific issues identified in the 2010 Common Area Assessment, to look at housing in Norfolk in the round. This group is made up of housing leads from the district councils and representatives from county. Philip Burton, the CEX of North Norfolk District Council, was instrumental in setting this up. The current chair is Karen Hill at North Norfolk DC, who can be contacted by email on <a href="mailto:khill@north-norfolk.gov.uk">khill@north-norfolk.gov.uk</a> or by telephone on 01263 513811.