

Environment, Development and Transport Committee

**Minutes of the Meeting held on Friday, 27 January 2017
at 10:00am in the Edwards Room, County Hall**

Present:

Mr M Wilby (Chairman)

Mr R Bird

Mr R Bearman

Ms C Bowes

Mr M Sands

Mr J Childs (Vice-Chairman)

Mr S Clancy

Mrs M Dewsbury

Mr T East

Mr C Foulger

Mr B Spratt

Mr T Jermy

Mrs J Leggett

Mr G Plant

Mr J Timewell

Mr M Castle

Mr A White

1. Apologies and Substitutions

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Mr B Bremner (Mr M Sands substituting), Mrs C Walker, (M Castle substituting), Mr B Iles (B Spratt substituting), Mr A Boswell (Mr R Bearman substituting).

2. Minutes

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 11 November 2016 were agreed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.
- 2.2 Matters arising from the minutes:
- Mr T East highlighted that paragraph 7.3.3 of the minutes had been superseded by road infrastructure projects having been agreed as a priority by the Council at the meeting of the 12 December 2016.

3. Members to Declare any Interests

- 3.1 No interests were declared.

4. Urgent Business

- 4.1 The Chairman spoke of the campaign by Radio Norfolk and the EDP to target the use of mobile phones in cars; he pledged his support as Chairman of the Environment, Development and Transport Committee.
- 4.2.1 The Assistant Director for Highways and Transport confirmed that a £1.48m grant had been received from the Department of Transport from a bid submitted in 2016.

The focus of the bid was walking and cycling, giving support to those needing assistance getting into cycling, promoting use of trails, personalised travel planning and smart ticketing. The scheme would start in April 2017 and last for 3 years. Lessons from the project would be used to inform future travel and improvement schemes.

- 4.2.2 Mr Bird raised that a cycle route between Kings Lynn and Hunstanton had been requested for some time and queried whether this could be actioned.
- 4.2.3 The Chairman and Members endorsed the work of the cycling and walking scheme.
- 4.2.4 A discussion was held over use of cycle lanes; the Assistant Director of Highways and Transport reported that work to develop facilities for cyclists in Norfolk was carried out in engagement with cycling action groups.

5. Public Questions

- 5.1 There were no public questions submitted.

6. Member Questions

- 6.1 One member question was received and circulated, see appendix A.
- 6.2.1 Mr Spratt wished to add supplementary comments to his substantive question: he discussed that the junction was not level, and that some heavy vehicles such as tractors, had been known to turn over when turning such a corner due to clipping the kerb because of the design of the junction.
- 6.2.2 Other Members also raised concerns about the design of the junction, and that large trailers and HGVs had found the road was not wide enough to pass one another without mounting the path. The Chairman **asked** for this issue to be taken to the Community and Environmental Services Area Manager, South.

7. Verbal update/feedback from Members of the Committee regarding Member Working Groups or bodies that they sit on.

- 7.1 Mr T East gave background to the circulated update, attached at Appendix B:
 - Item 4: an independent person was requested to chair meetings of the stakeholder group; the working group had queried whether the Chairman of Environment, Development and Transport Committee would agree to take up this role. The Chairman **agreed** to Chair the proposed Stakeholder Group of the Norwich Western Link (NWL) Member Working Group.
 - Item 6: £475,000 had been allocated from the A47 reserve; the working group had suggested a budget heading was set aside for the NWL project rather than allocating against other budget headings. The Chairman felt that since road infrastructure projects were County priorities, next steps should be agreed after evidence had been received.

8. Appointment of Members to Norfolk Windmills Trust

- 8.1 The Committee considered a replacement for Councillor Hannah who had had indicated his wish to step down as Council Representative on the Norfolk Windmills Trust.
- 8.2 Mr A White volunteered for role, seconded by the Chairman.
- 8.3 The Committee **APPOINTED** Mr A White as Council Representative on the Norfolk Windmills Trust until 30 April 2019.
- 8.4 The Committee thanked Councillor Hannah for his role on the Trust.

9. Update from Economic Development Sub Committee

- 9.1 The Committee **NOTED** the update and actions from the Economic Development Sub Committee meeting on the 24 November 2016.
- 9.2.1 During discussion the following points were raised:
 - 9.2.2 A query was raised about progress towards the Highways England plans for safety improvements to the A47; the Assistant Director Highways and Transport reported that plans and proposals were being consulted on, and would be brought to the Road Casualty Reduction Partnership Board in March 2017.
 - 9.2.3 It was raised that staff “on the ground”, for example at the Thetford apprenticeships hub, were not being made aware of the performance of the service, which saw above average performance, and queried how positive messages such as this could be conveyed to providers. Mr Clancy **agreed** to take this forward.
 - 9.2.4 Mr Spratt gave a brief update on the upcoming visit to farms by the County Farms Advisory board, and that an email would be sent to Members.

10. Finance Monitoring

- 10.1 The Committee received the report providing information on the budget position for the relevant services from the Community and Environmental Services department for 2016-17.
- 10.2 It was queried whether the £475,000 allocated to the Northern Western Link project should be reflected in the budget see paragraph 7.1.
- 10.3 The Committee **NOTED**:
 - a) The forecast out-turn position for the Environment Development and Transport Committee and the current risks to the budget as highlighted in the report.
 - b) The planned use of reserves as set out in section 4 of the report and that proposals for any further use of reserves in 2016-17 would be highlighted to this Committee if the resulting forecast level of reserves falls below the 31

March 2017 balances anticipated at the time the budget was set.

- c) The updates on risk management within section 6 of the report.
- d) The pipeline for significant contracts for EDT committee for the period to the end of 2018 as shown in appendix B of the agenda report.

11. Strategic and Financial Planning 2017-18 to 2019-20 and Revenue Budget 2017-18

- 11.1.1 The Committee received the report setting out proposals to inform the Council's decisions on council tax and contribute towards the County Council setting a legal budget for 2017-18, which saw its total resources of £1.4 billion focused on meeting the needs of residents.
- 11.1.2 The Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services introduced the report to the Committee; it had been necessary to identify a further £4m savings from the budget. To support towards these savings, a target of £100,000 of income revenue generation from Scottow Enterprise Park had been identified to go into the Environment, Development and Transport general fund. In addition, £0.5m from the Better Broadband for Norfolk reserve fund had been identified to be put in to the general fund. He highlighted the investment going into Childrens and Adults Services next year 2017/18, and that the Environment, Development and Transport budget proposals outlined savings which sought to protect frontline services for Environment Development and Transport.
- 11.1.3 In addition to the revenue budget on p34 of the report, there were significant additional capital investments proposed for highways, household waste recycling centres and Scottow Enterprise Park.
- 11.2.1 The Chairman **PROPOSED** that Officers look into the working up of a Local Members' highways budget of £500,000 to be equally distributed among all 84 Councillors, which would be ~£6000 each, to use for highways projects within their division, and for a report with proposals to be brought to the next Committee meeting on the 17 March 2017.
- 11.2.2 Mr White seconded this proposal.
- 11.2.3 Members discussed the proposal, either speaking in favour of the proposal, or in favour of the principle of the Local Members' budget, as it would allow them to work to benefit constituents on issues in their local division. Some members were mindful of the need to see proposals and clear criteria before making a decision.
- 11.2.4 The Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services reported that if a Local Members' fund was to be built into next year's budget, 2017/18, it would need to be written into a budget line, and suggested that that £0.5m could be retained against the Department of Transport challenge fund, subject to the decision of the Committee. If the proposal was agreed he would bring the draft set of proposals to the Spokesperson's meeting prior to the March Committee meeting, and clarified that the fund would have to be used for capital highways work.

- 11.2.5 With 16 votes for, 0 against and 1 abstention the Committee **AGREED** the proposal that Officers look into the working up of a Local Members' highways budget of £500,000 to be equally distributed among all 84 Councillors, which would be ~£6000 each, to use for highways projects within their division, and for a report with proposals to be brought to the next Committee meeting on the 17 March 2017.
- 11.3.1 Concern was raised about the impact of reducing the Economic Development fund.
- 11.3.2 It was queried whether the spend related to capitalisation of recycling centres could be extended to other areas in the future.
- 11.4.1 Mr Plant **proposed** that from the £1m flood mitigation measures fund, £100,000 was put towards mitigating flood risks in coastal areas.
- 11.4.2 This was seconded by Mr Bird.
- 11.4.3 The Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services highlighted that the Council was not a coastal defence authority.
- 11.4.4 Clarification was requested on the £1m flood mitigation measures fund; the Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services reported that this fund was for match funding of grants from environmental agencies and private bodies towards flood mitigation measures. The Head of Planning reported that it was related to highways drainage assessment investment and was targeted at market towns such as Watton, the Downhams, and Thetford, among others, to protect them from flood risk in the future.
- 11.4.5 Mr Plant clarified that his proposal would be for match funding to mitigate risks related to surface water flooding from rainwater seen in coastal areas.
- 11.4.6 With 16 votes for, 0 against and 1 abstention the Committee **AGREED** the proposal that from the £1m flood mitigation measures fund, £100,000 was put towards mitigating flood risks in coastal areas related to surface water flooding from rainwater.
- 11.5 The Committee:
- (1) **CONSIDERED** the Committee's specific budget proposals for 2017-18 to 2019-20 in respect of:
- The budget proposals set out in Appendix A (summary of new proposals) and Appendix B (list of full proposals) of the report;
 - The new and additional savings proposals to contribute to the supplementary target of £4.000m for the Council as identified to Policy and Resources Committee in November 2016; and
 - The scope for a general Council Tax increase of up to 1.99%, within the Council Tax referendum limit of 2% for 2017-18, **NOTING** that the Council's budget planning was based on an increase of 1.8% reflecting the fact that there was no Council Tax Freeze Grant being offered, and that central government's assumption was that Councils would increase Council Tax by CPI every year. The Council also proposes to raise the Adult Social Care Precept by 3% of Council Tax as recommended by the Executive Director of

Finance and Commercial Services. Bringing forward increase in the social Care Precept would mean that the 2% increase planned for 2019-20 would not occur.

(2) **CONSIDERED** the findings of the equality and rural assessment (included at Appendix D of the report) and in doing so, **NOTED** 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 was prohibited by or under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who did not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who did not share it.

(3) **CONSIDERED** any mitigating actions proposed in the equality and rural impact assessment at Appendix D of the report;

(4) **AGREED and RECOMMENDED** to Policy and Resources Committee the draft Committee Revenue Budget as set out in Appendix B of the report including all of the savings for 2017-18 to 2019-20 as set out.

For consideration by Policy and Resources Committee on 6 February 2017, to enable Policy and Resources Committee to recommend a sound, whole- Council budget to Full Council on 20 February 2017.

(5) **AGREED and RECOMMENDED** the Capital Programmes and schemes relevant to this Committee as set out in Appendix C of the report to Policy and Resources Committee for consideration on 6 February 2017, to enable Policy and Resources Committee to recommend a Capital Programme to Full Council on 20 February 2017.

12. Flood & Water Management Funding Policy Guidance

12.1.1 The Committee received the report giving information on the flood and water management funding policy guidance developed by Norfolk County Council.

12.1.2 Councillor Marie Strong introduced the report to the Committee; the policy had been developed to provide greater clarity and responsibility over flood and water management. A Flood summit was due to be held on 7 February 2017.

12.2.1 During discussion the following points were raised:

12.2.2 It was felt that the Environment Agency had taken steps to improve and were seen to be cutting costs.

12.2.3 Clarification was requested on paragraph 2.3, "Norfolk County Council would take an administrative role to support proposals for areas (settlements or catchments) where 49 residential properties or less would be moved from one risk banding to another." The Flood and Water Manager clarified that from looking at predicted risk, 10% of properties in Norfolk, equating to 36,000, were at risk of flooding from surface water in a 1 in 100 year rainfall event. The number experiencing flooding per year was lower, equating to 700 reports of actual flooding in Norfolk in 2016. From the identified risk, 64 key settlements were identified as above the banding of 49 properties and would therefore be taken forward under this guidance. To

maximise outcomes and ensure value for money it was important to target the most at risk areas with the highest concentrations of risk to people, property and infrastructure.

- 12.2.4 To ensure new developments were 'future proof', the Head of Planning Services clarified that staff had been and were being appointed to deliver advice to planning authorities to ensure that flood risk was included in their decision making.
- 12.2.5 Concerns were raised that the risks highlighted within the report may deter funding bodies; the Flood and Water Manager and Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services highlighted the importance of identifying and recognising risks when seeking third party funding and securing contracts. Individual risks would be dealt with on a contract by contract basis.
- 12.3 With 14 votes for, 1 against and 2 abstentions, the Committee:
- **APPROVED** the prioritisation and approach to managing partnership funded projects as set out in Norfolk County Council Flood & Water Management Funding Guidance.

13. Highway capital programme and Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP)

- 13.1.1 The Committee received the report summarising government and other funding settlements, and proposed allocations for 2017/18, for Highways and Transport.
- 13.1.2 The Capital Programme Manager reported that the Government had announced a new "National Productivity Investment Fund" in the Autumn Statement; local authorities were made aware of their allocations on 13th January. Norfolk County Council's share for 2017/18 was £5.1 million, in addition to the £38.833m funding detailed in the report.
- 13.1.3 This funding was for local highway and other local transport improvements, to support local economic growth and improve access to employment and housing, for example, reducing congestion at key locations and upgrading or improving maintenance of local routes.
- 13.1.4 Officers were developing proposals for use of the funding on a broad range of highway improvement and maintenance schemes across Norfolk.
- 13.1.5 To meet the tight timescales for delivery, it was **recommended** that the Committee agreed for detailed proposals to be presented to and agreed with the Director for delivery. This could be undertaken in line with recommendation 3 of the report which granted them delegated authority to manage the two year programme.
- 13.2.1 The Capital Programme Manager clarified that in the 2016/17 budget, £150,000 was allocated to the Costessey to West End traffic calming scheme, and that £60,000 development funding was still available.
- 13.2.2 Mr Bearman suggested that "in consultation with the Chair, Vice Chair and Local Member" was added into the additional recommendation, (see paragraph 13.1.5), to which the Committee **agreed**.

- 13.2.3 It was noted that Repton Avenue was a potential scheme that fitted in with nearby development, however, no funding had yet been allocated. The Assistant Director for Highways and Transport **agreed** to find out if a feasibility study had been completed.
- 13.2.4 Discussion was held over parish partnerships; more and greater value bids had been received than the previous year, with over 30 first-time bids received exceeding the “vital signs” target. These bids were now being assessed and would be reported to the Committee in March 2017.
- 13.3 The Committee **RECOMMENDED** that Full Council approves:
1. Extending the “Parish Partnership” approach to support delivery of larger schemes, based on a 50% funding contribution
 2. The proposed allocations and programme for 2017/18 and 2018/19 (as set out in Appendices A, B and C)
 3. Delegated authority to the Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services, to manage the two year programme, in line with the financial delegation scheme,
 - In line with this, detailed proposals related to utilisation of the “National Productivity Investment Fund” to be presented to and agreed with the Director, Chair, Vice-Chair and Local Member for delivery.
 4. The Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP) for 2017/18 - 20/21 and that the resilience network be reviewed every two years in line with national practice.

14. Colney Bowthorpe Bridge Link

- 14.1 The Committee received the report setting out the background to the Colney Bowthorpe Bridge Link project.
- 14.2.1 A mistake on map related to the direction of the route was noted; this did not impact on the information related to the bridge construction.
- 14.2.2 Mr East suggested the evidence quoting the number of people working at the Norwich Research Park could be quantified.
- 14.2.3 The Senior Green Infrastructure Officer reported that Section 106 money due to be received from Three Score development had not yet been received, and that the bridge would be compliant with requirements of the Equality Act 2010.
- 14.3 The Committee:
- **AUTHORISED** the making of a CPO pursuant to section 226(1)(b) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and section 13 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to enable a footbridge to be constructed over the River Yare at Colney so as to link two existing public rights of way; *and*
 - **DELEGATED** to the Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services the power to determine the precise boundaries of the land to be included in the CPO and the extent of the rights in the land sought to be acquired.

15. Recommendations of the Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP) Board

- 15.1 The Committee received the report giving an update on the progress on the production of the Greater Norwich Local plan since the re-establishment of the GNDP Board at the EDT Committee meeting on the 8 July 2016.
- 15.2 The Principal Planner reported that the next meeting of the Greater Norwich Development Partnership was due to take place on Monday 30 January at 9.30am.
- 15.3 The Committee **NOTED** progress on the production of the Greater Norwich Local Plan.

16. Forward Plan and decisions taken under delegated authority

- 16.1 The Committee reviewed the forward plan the report outlining delegated decisions taken by officers.

The Committee:

1. **REVIEWED** the Forward Plan and identified the following additions:
 - Committee **AGREED** that Officers look into the working up of a Local Members' highways budget of £500,000 to be equally distributed among all 84 Councillors, which would be ~£6000 each, to use for highways projects within their division, and for a report with proposals to be brought to the next Committee meeting on the 17 March 2017.
2. **NOTED** the delegated decisions set out in section 2.

The meeting closed at 11:22 AM

Chairman



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MEMBER/PUBLIC QUESTIONS TO ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE: FRIDAY 27 JANUARY 2017

5. PUBLIC QUESTIONS – No Public Questions received.

6. MEMBER QUESTIONS

6.1 Question from Cllr Bev Spratt

Bunwell, Forncett, Tacolneston and very much Ashwellthorpe have complained to me about the new road access to Wymondham at Silfield. Heavy goods vehicle and school bus drivers complain that at the new road junction it is impossible to get round without going onto the other side of the road. Can this road lay out be changed? I think that officers should look at this matter urgently.

Response by Chairman of EDT Committee

The new road access arrangement is one of a number of highway improvement works required as part of the new housing development between Silfield Road and Rightup Lane in Wymondham to ensure it is safe for all road users. This development is currently under construction and will change the highway environment from a predominantly rural one to a largely urban environment. The recent changes at Silfield Road have included a new give way junction on what was previously a largely straight section of road.

This new junction has been designed and constructed to current highway standards, although only two arms of the three arm junction are currently operational. It is evident on site that in its present form, with no traffic from the housing development, drivers are cutting across the junction to avoid slowing down. This type of issue is relatively commonplace when road layouts change and we are confident that as the new road network is completed over the coming months and the development traffic comes on-stream the junction will operate as designed.

In the meantime, as a result of the concerns relayed by Cllr Spratt, we have asked the developer to increase the size of the 'New Road Layout' signs on the approaches to the junction. In addition, once the construction works are complete, a stage three safety audit of the new junction will be undertaken by officers, which will include a review of how the junction performs in terms of driver's behaviour.

Norwich Western Link Project - Member Working Group update (27 January 2017)

Further to previous meetings of the Norwich Western Link (NWL) Project Member Working Group and the report provided at the 8 July 2016 EDT Committee meeting, the Member Group met again on 25 January. The following provides a brief summary of the meeting:

1. An update on the Local Plan Review process was provided by Phil Morris (Principal Planner -NCC). Steve Scowen from Broadland District Council (BDC) provided an update on the Food Hub proposals and the associated Local Development Order (LDO) that is being progressed by BDC. The LDO consultation is currently ongoing and Steve confirmed he is hoping to take a report to BDC Cabinet in April. It was agreed that Steve and Phil will continue to attend the meetings of the Group to provide ongoing progress updates.
2. The Member Group previously requested further details in relation to the NWL project programme and the need to consider wider implications and project risks. An updated draft project programme showing key activities and milestones was presented and discussed. It showed the potential for start of works in 2023, however this is subject to completion of all necessary business cases, funding provision, detailed design, statutory process and procurement/mobilisation.
3. An update summarising the completed first 6 months of activities and the current 6 month phase of work (as set out in the 8 July 16 Committee report) was provided to the Member Group. A series of meetings have been held with the communities most affected by the project. The feedback received indicated a general consensus from the community representatives around some key issues, which included; rat running; HGV's; local road network; limited cycling and walking infrastructure; Longwater interchange; public transport; Costessey P&R; and a lack of infrastructure to support proposed development.
4. The Member Group previously agreed the terms of reference for the proposed stakeholder group (which will consist of a representative from each of the parish councils). The first meeting of this group, planned for 21 February, was discussed; including options for appointing a chairperson for the group.
5. An update was provided on the latest position that Highways England (HE) have reached in developing the Easton to North Tuddenham A47 dualling project. HE has recently confirmed that they expect their consultation to start in March 2017. The Group also discussed recent letters between NCC and HE regarding the Full Council approval in December 2016, setting out the key transport infrastructure for Norfolk¹ which included the NWL. This is to be followed up with a request for a specific meeting to discuss the NWL project, the delivery timescales and wider growth, including the Food Hub LDO (discussed at item 1 above).
6. The Member Group were also keen to explore opportunities for funding the NWL project through the future phases of development work.

For more details, please contact David Allfrey (Major Projects Manager).
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