

# Norfolk County Council

Date: **Tuesday 7 May 2024**

Time: **10am**

Venue: **Council Chamber, County Hall, Martineau Lane,  
Norwich NR1 2DH**

**To: All members of the Council. You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council for the purpose of transacting the business set out in this agenda.**

## **Advice for members of the public:**

This meeting will be held in public and in person.

It will be live streamed on YouTube and members of the public may watch remotely by clicking on the following link: [Norfolk County Council YouTube](#)

We also welcome attendance in person, but public seating is limited, so if you wish to attend please indicate in advance by emailing [committees@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:committees@norfolk.gov.uk).

Current practice for respiratory infections requests that we still ask everyone attending to maintain good hand and respiratory hygiene and, at times of high prevalence and in busy areas, please consider wearing a face covering.

Please stay at home if you are unwell, have tested positive for COVID 19, have symptoms of a respiratory infection or if you are a close contact of a positive COVID 19 case. This will help make the event safe for attendees and limit the transmission of respiratory infections including COVID-19

## **Prayers**

## **Agenda**

1. **Apologies**
2. **Election of Chair of the Council for the 2024/25 Municipal Year**
3. **Minutes**

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To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 26 March 2024

4. **Election of Vice-Chair of the Council for the 2024/25 Municipal Year**
5. **Vote of Thanks to the Outgoing Chair**
6. **Announcements from the Chair, Leader or Chief Executive  
(maximum of 15 minutes)**

**7. Any items of business the Chair decides should be considered as a matter of urgency**

**8. Members to declare any interests**

If you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in a matter to be considered at the meeting and that interest is on your Register of Interests you must not speak or vote on the matter. It is recommended that you declare that interest but it is not a legal requirement. If you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in a matter to be considered at the meeting and that interest is not on your Register of Interests you must declare that interest at the meeting and not speak or vote on the matter.

In either case you may remain in the room where the meeting is taking place. If you consider that it would be inappropriate in the circumstances to remain in the room, you may leave the room while the matter is dealt with.

If you do not have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest you may nevertheless have an Other Interest in a matter to be discussed if it affects to a greater extent than others in your division:

- Your wellbeing or financial position, or
- that of your family or close friends
- Anybody –
  1. Exercising functions of a public nature.
  2. Directed to charitable purposes; or
  3. One of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union);
  4. of which you are in a position of general control or management.

If that is the case then you must declare such an interest but can speak and vote on the matter.

**9. Notification of Members to the Cabinet and their intended Portfolio of Responsibilities**

**10. Committee Appointments 2024 - 2025** **Page 35**  
Report by the Director of Democratic and Regulatory Services

**11. Specific Business Items**

**11.1 Adult Social Services Promoting Independence Five Year Strategy** **Page 44**  
Report by the Interim Executive Director for Adult Social Care

**12. Notice of Motions**

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**13. Questions on notice under Rule 9.3**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom McCabe', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tom McCabe  
Chief Executive  
County Hall  
Martineau Lane  
NORWICH  
NR1 2DH

Agenda Published: 26 April 2024

**Norfolk County Council  
Minutes of the Meeting Held at 10am on  
Tuesday 26 March 2024**

**Present:**

<b>ADAMS</b> Tony	<b>KEMP</b> Alexandra
<b>AQUARONE</b> Steffan	<b>KIDDIE</b> Keith
<b>ASKEW</b> Stephen	<b>KIDDLE-MORRIS</b> Mark
<b>BAMBRIDGE</b> Lesley	<b>LONG</b> Brian
<b>BENSLY</b> James	<b>MASON BILLIG</b> Kay
<b>BILLS</b> David	<b>MORPHEW</b> Steve
<b>BIRMINGHAM</b> Alison	<b>OSBORN</b> Jamie
<b>BORRETT</b> Bill	<b>PECK</b> Greg
<b>BOWES</b> Claire	<b>PENFOLD</b> Saul
<b>BROCIEK-COULTON</b> Julie	<b>PLANT</b> Graham
<b>CARPENTER</b> Penny	<b>PRICE</b> Ben
<b>CHENERY OF HORSBRUGH</b> Michael	<b>REILLY</b> Matt
<b>CLANCY</b> Stuart	<b>ROPER</b> Dan
<b>COLWELL</b> Rob	<b>ROWETT</b> Catherine
<b>CORLETT</b> Emma	<b>RUMSBY</b> Chrissie
<b>CROFTS</b> John	<b>SANDS</b> Mike
<b>DARK</b> Stuart	<b>SAVAGE</b> Robert
<b>DAWSON</b> Chris	<b>SHIRES</b> Lucy
<b>DEWSBURY</b> Margaret	<b>SMITH</b> Carl
<b>DUIGAN</b> Phillip	<b>SMITH-CLARE</b> Mike
<b>EAGLE</b> Fabian	<b>STONE</b> Barry
<b>ELMER</b> Daniel	<b>THOMAS</b> Alison
<b>FISHER</b> John	<b>VARDY</b> Eric
<b>FITZPATRICK</b> Tom	<b>VINCENT</b> Karen
<b>GURNEY</b> Shelagh	<b>WALKER</b> Colleen
<b>HEMPSALL</b> Lana	<b>WARD</b> John
<b>JAMES</b> Jane	<b>WATKINS</b> Brian
<b>JAMIESON</b> Andrew	<b>WEBB</b> Maxine
<b>JERMY</b> Terry	<b>WHYMARK</b> Fran
<b>JONES</b> Brenda	<b>WILBY</b> Martin

**Present: 60**

## **1. Apologies**

- 1.1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Paul Neale, Cllr William Nunn, Cllr Jim Moriarty, Cllr Will Richmond, Cllr Carl Annison, Cllr Andrew Proctor, Cllr Ed Maxfield, Cllr Tony White, Cllr David Sayers, Cllr Richard Price, Cllr Nigel Dixon, Cllr Sharon Blundell, Cllr Steve Riley, Cllr Martin Storey, Cllr Graham Carpenter, Cllr Tim Adams, Cllr Judy Oliver, Cllr Rhodri Oliver, Cllr Michael Dalby, Cllr Vic Thomson, Cllr Andy Grant, Cllr Julian Kirk and Cllr Ed Connolly.
- 1.2 The Chair reminded Councillors that meetings of the Council would not normally extend beyond 3 hours unless this was extended in accordance with rule 11. 1 (n) of the Council Procedure Rules, however it was his intention to enact rule 4 (v) and rule 4 (vi) of the constitution once the meeting period had elapsed if any business remained. The practical application of this would be that the meeting continued on a vote only basis.
- 1.3 The Chair also stated he intended to adjourn the meeting after about 2 hours for a short comfort break.

## **2. Minutes**

- 2.1 The minutes of the Council meeting held on the 20 February 2024 were agreed as an accurate record of proceedings and signed by the Chair subject to the following correction:
  - Cllr Lesley Bambridge raised an amendment at item 4.1 (Declarations of Interest), as she had been erroneously recorded as declaring a pecuniary interest instead of an “**other**” interest.

## **3. Announcements from the Chair and Leader of the Council**

- 3.1 The Chair expressed sadness regarding the Princess of Wales’ cancer diagnosis and stated he and Council would be sending their very warmest wishes to Her Royal Highness for a full recovery.
- 3.2 The Chair stated the events he had been involved in could be found on the Norfolk County Council website.
- 3.3 The Chair paid tribute to Air Commodore Kevin Pellatt, who was due to stand down from his position as Armed Forces Commissioner for Norfolk on the 1 April 2024, having served the full five year term. The Chair announced that Andrew Taylor, Warrant Officer Class 1, would begin as the next Armed Forces Commissioner at the start of April 2024
- 3.4 The Leader gave a statement regarding the Norwich Western Link (NWL). Officers had been in dialogue with Natural England to secure a barbastelle bat licence, which would enable the project to proceed. Comments were expected by the 29 February 2024, which was then delayed to the 15 March 2024 due to Natural England struggling with resources. This delay was accepted; however the Leader stated that on the 8 March 2024, updated guidance was issued by Natural England, which had changed the criteria as such that it was extremely unlikely the NWL would secure a bat licence. Without this, the NWL could not proceed. The

Leader expressed disgust and grave concern regarding this development, which had jeopardised the future of the project. Legal advice was being sought by officers, while the Leader had briefed the Cabinet and local MPs. The Leader had also spoken with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Steve Barclay MP's Chief of Staff, who was unaware of the change in guidance. The Leader confirmed that the Council would continue with the NWL project and challenge Natural England with every possible means at its disposal.

#### **4. Declarations of Interest**

- 4.1 Cllr John Ward declared an "other" interest, as he was currently a director and Chair of the Norfolk Museums Development Foundation.

#### **5. Petitions presented to Council**

- 5.1 There were no items of petition for Council to consider.

#### **6. Business (if any) remaining from the last Council meeting**

- 6.1 There were no outstanding business items.

#### **7. Questions to the Leader**

##### **7.1 Question from Cllr Brian Watkins**

- 7.1.1 Cllr Watkins asked if the Leader could provide reassurance to those who would be affected by the proposal to reduce the Minimum Income Guarantee and to validate the seriousness of the consultation by outlining what threshold must be met for the administration to remove the proposal from its budget plans.

- 7.1.2 The Leader stated that as the consultation was ongoing, this question could not be answered, as to do so would prejudice the consultation.

##### **7.2 Question from Cllr Mike Sands**

- 7.2.1 Cllr Sands asked if the Leader was planning to continue lobbying either the current government or the next government for the undergrounding or sea laying of power cables due to pass across Norfolk. Additionally, Cllr Sands asked if the Leader was aware that DC transmission as opposed to AC transmission would mean that lighter gauge and cheaper cables could be used in such installations if an appropriate AC/DC convertor was fitted at each end, meaning only a 3% energy loss over a given distance as opposed to a 30% energy loss.

- 7.2.2 The Leader had attended a meeting on this subject, whereupon it was revealed that the technology to make laying cables underground viable did not yet exist. Research was being conducted overseas but this was at the infancy stage. The Leader expressed concerns that the next government may impose new north to south pylon routes across Norfolk while ignoring the views of residents in the county, given that none of the power carried by the pylons would be available to Norfolk residents or business. An ideal longer-term solution would be to offshore or to install such cables underground, which would provide Norfolk with the power network it requires. The Leader confirmed she would continue to lobby

future governments to bring power networks to Norfolk rather than routing power through the county.

**7.3 Question from Cllr Jamie Osborn**

7.3.1 Cllr Osborn commented that the Cabinet report on the Norwich Western Link (NWL) from the 4 December 2023 referenced that the Council would have to use its reserves and propose further departmental savings to fund the £40m which had already been committed to the project. Cllr Osborn asked the Leader to confirm what work had been conducted to identify where the £40m would come from, given that the NWL appeared to be in severe doubt following the update earlier in the meeting.

7.3.2 The Leader stated that the government had pledged to repay the funding committed by the Council to the NWL, with the first tranches already received from the Treasury. It was understood that if the project was cancelled, a precedent had been set that none of the funding would have to be repaid to the government and the Council would lobby to ensure all costs were reimbursed. However, given that the updated guidance from Natural England had only recently been issued this month, it was too early to say what the outcome would be. The Leader would push to ensure the Council was not adversely affected, while continuing to press on with the NWL project.

**7.5 Question from Cllr Maxine Webb**

7.5.1 Cllr Webb stated that Cllr Emma Corlett and residents in Town Close division had for several months raised serious safety concerns with the Highways Department for pedestrians on St Stephen's Road. Unfortunately there was an incident last week involving a pedestrian and a bus, which resulted in the air ambulance needing to land on the playing field at Bignold Primary School. Cllr Webb asked if devolution would bring additional funding for further safety measures, in order to redress the failure of the Transforming Cities scheme to transform safety in the area.

7.5.2 The Leader expressed her shock and sadness regarding the incident on St. Stephen's Road. The Highways Department would look into safety measures if they were alerted. The devolution deal included an option to look at new infrastructure, along with the ability to decide where money would be spent. A new board was planned, including the Leader of the Council, district council leaders, the Leader of Norwich City Council, and other interested parties. The board would be able to look at bids and determine the allocation of funding accordingly. The Leader suggested that Cllrs Webb and Corlett lobby the Leader of Norwich City Council regarding this. It was expected that the first £10m tranche of devolution funding would be made available to Norfolk after the Council agreed proposed changes to its governance structure, which was due to be considered at the Council meeting scheduled for the 23 July 2024.

**7.6 Question from Cllr Stuart Clancy**

7.6.1 Cllr Clancy expressed alarm and disappointment regarding the Norwich Western Link (NWL) update statement, given the detrimental impact on Norfolk's economy and environment if the project did not go ahead. Cllr Clancy asked the Leader if

she could outline the actions being taken to improve the situation and to get the project back on track.

- 7.6.2 The Leader confirmed she had spoken with local MPs, who were similarly displeased with the new report. Contact had also been made with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs' chief of staff regarding this, with plans being made to lobby ministers. Concern was expressed that the updated guidance from Natural England would result in an effective block on all new infrastructure projects in the south of England and Wales. The Leader had also held a meeting the previous evening with Lord Fuller, the Leader of South Norfolk Council, whereupon he confirmed he had been in discussions with Lord Banner KC, who was investigating instances of infrastructure projects being delayed by legal action. The Leader stated she would also speak with Lord Banner KC and would continue to push for new infrastructure projects for Norfolk.

**7.7 Question from Cllr Saul Penfold**

- 7.7.1 Cllr Penfold commented that the Disability Network Norfolk Group had raised worrying concerns surrounding the approach of the MIG consultation. The concerns included consultation invitations not being received by care givers, accessibility issues for the visually impaired and drop in sessions not being attended by social care staff. Cllr Penfold asked the Leader to clarify why the consultation process had been haphazard.
- 7.7.2 The Leader acknowledged there had been an issue with the consultation invites but this had been quickly rectified. The consultation was due to run for 12 weeks, with officers ensuring that affected groups had the opportunity to put their views to the Council.

**7.8 Question from Cllr Matt Reilly**

- 7.8.1 Cllr Reilly commented that the recent government Budget did not reference Norfolk once, nor was there any support announced for residents affected by coast erosion and flooding. Cllr Reilly asked if the Leader was similarly disappointed with the Budget.
- 7.8.2 The Leader stated that while it was not prudent to expect the Chancellor to mention Norfolk every time at the despatch box, extra funding was earmarked for Norfolk through the devolution deal and other guises. There was an ongoing cost of living crisis, therefore meaning that spending had to be carefully managed. The Leader confirmed she would continue to lobby ministers for extra funding and to champion Norfolk's cause.

**7.9 Question from Cllr Catherine Rowett**

- 7.9.1 Cllr Rowett stated that the Council's Net Zero targets and climate strategy were laudable, but that it was vital that the Council should take the people of Norfolk with it on its journey to a cleaner, happier and zero carbon future, an ambition that most people supported. However, there was grave concern that the government was effectively sabotaging such efforts by changing planning regulations for National Strategic Infrastructure Projects, silencing the views of residents and experts. Cllr Rowett stated the proposed Norwich to Tilbury powerline was a clear



example of this injustice. As residents in Norfolk were keen to preserve nature and listen to experts, Cllr Rowett asked the Leader what she would do to ensure that a future government will restore the rights of the people of Norfolk to have their voices heard, especially when they suggested better ways to deliver the strategic improvements needed in the county.

- 7.9.2 The Leader stated that the Council had an exemplary record of environmental action and policies, which would continue to be augmented. It was important that Norfolk's natural beauty be preserved, but that progress and economic development be allowed to continue unhindered. A common sense approach was required, which the Council was following.

## 8. **Recommendations from Cabinet**

- 8.1 The Leader moved, seconded by Cllr Andrew Jamieson, recommendations 1 and 2 from the Cabinet meeting held on the 4 March 2024.

- 8.2 Recommendations 1 and 2 were **CARRIED** on a show of hands.

- 8.3 Council **RESOLVED** the following:

1. **To APPROVE** the increase of £6.259m to the capital programme to address capital funding requirements funded mostly from various external sources as set out in detail in capital Appendix 3, paragraph 1.4 and 4.2 of the Cabinet report as follows:
  - £0.189m increase in External Funding for various Highways schemes.
  - £0.26m allocation of NCC Capital Receipts to support the compulsory purchase of land for County Farms
  - (£0.160m) reduction in External funding for various Children's Services Schools schemes to reflect actual expenditure in projects nearing completion.
  - £1.579m grant funding for 24-25 received from the Department of Education for the expansion of Childcare provision in the County.
  - £0.330m external funding the Corporate Property scheme at Chapel Road.
  - £0.074m for the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Services (NFRS) Vehicle Replacement Programme.
  - £0.053m for the LMS Schools Based capital maintenance programme.
  - £0.460m additional S106 developer contribution to Dereham, Docking, Hopton and Holt.
  - £0.105m additional external funding from Department of Transport and S106 for various Highways maintenance schemes.

- £0.260m additional DfT grant allocated to the Long Stratton Bypass.
- £0.195m additional contribution from Revenue and Reserves for the Hethel Improvement Commission.
- £2.821m funding received from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to offset the inflationary cost pressures on the Castle Keep Museum project.
- £0.018m contribution from Revenue and Reserves to fund the purchase of a new car for the ASC Road Safety Scheme.
- (£0.075m) other minor adjustments to capital schemes.

2. **To APPROVE** the following amendments to the P10 Capital Programme for the following schemes as set out in Capital Appendix 3 paragraph 4.2 of the Cabinet report as follows:

- £4.51m additional funding from the Department of Transport from the Road Resurfacing Fund for local highways maintenance in 2023-24 and again in 2024-25 alongside additional funding for the next 10 years as set out in Appendix 3 paragraph 4.2 of the report.

## 9. **Cabinet Report (Questions to Cabinet Members)**

9.1 The Leader moved the report of the Cabinet meetings held on the 29 January 2024 and 4 March 2024.

9.2 Council **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** the report.

## 9.3 **Question from Cllr John Crofts to the Leader of the Council**

9.3.1 Cllr Crofts commented that the current Council's administration ran on a 2021 manifesto with the strapline being 'Delivering a Better Future for Norfolk'. This appeared to be out of step given data illustrating that Norfolk had the worst malnutrition rates in the country, the third worst performing area for GP waiting times in the country, the third worst underspend in dental services in the country, the worst rates of 'children in need' in East Anglia, record levels of fuel poverty, more than 2,000 residents awaiting vital social care and some of the worst rates for fibre optic coverage in the country. Cllr Crofts asked the Leader when exactly the Council would deliver a better future for Norfolk.

9.3.2 The Leader stated that the Conservative Group manifesto for the next set of local elections would outline how the Council had achieved delivered for the people of Norfolk. The Leader expressed her opinion that the current administration had done a good job and that it would be the role of the electorate to decide whether they would be re-elected.

- 9.4           **Question from Cllr Julie Brociek-Coulton to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services**
- 9.4.1       Cllr Brociek-Coulton requested an update from the Cabinet Member as to whether the former Angel Road Junior School building had been handed back to the Council, and if a timetable was in place for a sufficiency appraisal so that the site could be converted into a SEND school. Additionally, Cllr Brociek-Coulton asked if the Cabinet Member had any data on the condition of the building due to recent adverse weather and the known condition of the roof. Residents in the division had expressed concern that the site was being neglected.
- 9.4.2       The Cabinet Member stated that as the lease had not yet been handed back to the Council, no update could be provided until this had occurred.
- 9.5           **Question from Cllr Jamie Osborn to the Cabinet Member for Finance**
- 9.5.1       Cllr Osborn asked the Cabinet Member, given the update from the Leader regarding the Norwich Western Link (NWL), what the expected cost of legal action was and how this would be built into the risk contingency for the project.
- 9.5.2       The Cabinet Member clarified that the Council was not taking legal action against National England, as the issues affecting the project were considered national and not local. There were a number of options the Council had at its disposal to challenge the updated guidance from Natural England; however a solution would be found through the government and not through the courts.
- 9.7           **Question from Cllr Kemp to the Cabinet Member for Strategy and Governance**
- 9.7.1       Cllr Kemp expressed concern that a democratic deficit was accruing within the county, as the Administration had omitted West Norfolk from the application for Project Gigabit; the recent Independence Matters business plans largely focused on Norwich and the east of the County and, as a result, Independence Matters had withdrawn funding from West Norfolk Carers, West Norfolk's only Carers' Charity, putting it at risk of imminent closure. Cllr Kemp asked the Cabinet Member how she planned to address the growing democratic deficit towards King's Lynn and West Norfolk from the Council
- 9.7.2       The Cabinet Member disagreed that there was a democratic deficit, stating that regular meetings were held with the leader of the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk. There was substantial funding allocated to this district by the Council and it was felt that the funding system was as fair as possible. The devolution deal would mean all districts would have a seat at the table to determine spending plans across Norfolk. The Cabinet Member gave assurances that King's Lynn and West Norfolk would continue to receive a fair funding package.
- 9.8           **Question from Cllr Lana Hemsall to the Cabinet Member for Finance**
- 9.8.1       Cllr Hemsall stated she was pleased to see in the media that Norfolk County Council was part of a successful class action lawsuit against Apple Inc and asked the Cabinet Member to provide further details of the case.

- 9.8.2 The Cabinet Member stated a settlement of £385m (\$490m) had been secured from Apple Inc. The success of the lawsuit reflected the perseverance and tenacity of the Norfolk Pension Fund, who were appointed as the lead plaintiff in the case. Prior to the lawsuit, the Norfolk Pension Fund were involved in another successful case relating to securities fraud, which saw representatives present before a federal jury in California, resulting in a unanimous verdict and a settlement of £54m secured. The Cabinet Member paid tribute to everyone at the Norfolk Pension Fund for setting precedents among pension funds.
- 9.9 **Question from Cllr Steffan Aquarone to the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport**
- 9.9.1 Cllr Aquarone commented that Norfolk's road surfaces ranked amongst the worst in the country, with the repair backlog bill increasing to £69m last year. In addition, the Council also had the unfortunate accolade as one of the authorities paying the most in compensation to drivers. Cllr Aquarone asked the Cabinet Member if he would concede that the current approach to road repairs in Norfolk was haphazard and not working, and that a more sustainable transport model was necessary for the county.
- 9.9.2 The Cabinet Member disagreed with the comments and question, stating that Norfolk contained some of the best maintained roads in the country. There was statistical evidence which illustrated Norfolk was the best county in the East of England for road repairs. The Council had a strong record on potholes, if an instance was reported correctly through the Norfolk County Council website, it could be cleared within three days if it met the relevant criteria. Norfolk was recently ranked second out of 48 councils for maintaining roads. Further government funding was expected towards potholes.
- 9.10 **Question from Cllr Brenda Jones to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care**
- 9.10.1 Cllr Jones queried as to why a consultation on changes to the Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) was going ahead, as the previous consultation had caused financial and reputational damage to the Council. Cllr Jones expressed concern that the organisation of the consultation had been confused, with affected groups not receiving appropriate documentation. No drop-in sessions had been arranged in a large part of North Norfolk. While this had been rectified, concerns had been raised that there was not enough awareness of the sessions. In South Norfolk, a session had been arranged in Diss on the 17 May, but this was the closing date for the consultation and thus would not give enough time for people to decide. Cllr Jones asked the Cabinet Member what evidence the Council had to prove that the MIG consultations was robust and being conducted correctly.
- 9.10.2 The Cabinet Member stated that a decision was taken when setting the Council's budget that further savings were required from Adult Social Care to ensure a balanced budget, due to there being an overspend in the 2023/24 forecast. It was correct to consult affected groups if a proposed saving was agreed in the budget. The Cabinet Member acknowledged there had been issues with documentation, as raised by the Leader earlier in the meeting, and apologised that documents were not sent to advocates and carers. It was not

appropriate to discuss the ongoing consultation further to ensure it was not prejudiced.

- 9.10.3 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care raised a point of information to confirm that social care staff had been present at all drop-in sessions, in response to Cllr Saul Penfold's question to the Leader earlier in the meeting.

9.11 **Question from Cllr Jamie Osborn to the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport**

- 9.11.1 Cllr Osborn stated that a recent study from the A47 Alliance, which was intended to show the need for dualling large sections of the road, had in fact shown that traffic levels had declined by nearly 20% along the stretches earmarked for dualling. Cllr Osborn asked the Cabinet Member if he accepted that he was wrong when he had argued that the A47 needed dualling to cope with increased traffic.

- 9.11.2 The Cabinet Member disagreed, remarking that traffic levels in Norfolk and nationally were still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Significant growth was forecast for Norfolk in the coming years, with approximately 40,000 new houses to be built in and around Norwich. It was therefore essential that the road network was fit for purpose. The whole route strategy for the A47 aimed to get goods and people quickly from Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft to the East Midlands. The Cabinet Member stated there had been significant underinvestment in the road network in coastal areas over the years.

9.12 **Question from Cllr John Ward to the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth**

- 9.12.1 Cllr Ward commented that Norfolk was now well regarded in the film industry, as locations such as Holkham Beach and Thetford Forest were first choice for many film makers. Cllr Ward asked if the Cabinet Member could outline how the Council could build upon this success to ensure Norfolk was at the forefront of filming locations in the entire UK.

- 9.12.2 The Cabinet Member acknowledged Norfolk had been a prime filming location over the years, pointing to Thetford being the main location for Dad's Army. There was a significant opportunity to maintain and build upon these successes, as screen tourism was worth approximately £1.9bn to the Norfolk economy. The Council appointed Norfolk Screen, a production company based in Norwich, to take advantage of these opportunities and attract further studios and productions to the county. Supply chains, catering and hospitality would also be improved. The Cabinet Member provided an anecdote that he himself had filmed scenes for a production many years ago in Norfolk, to illustrate his commitment to this cause.

9.13 **Question from Cllr Daniel Roper to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste**

- 9.13.1 Cllr Roper stated that in the run-up to local elections and a general election, the Council and the government would continue to state that flood prevention was of utmost importance to them, which appeared to be out of step with the available

evidence. Cllr Roper asked if the Cabinet Member agreed with Duncan Baker MP's evaluation that the Council was not doing enough to protect residents from the effects of flooding, or if ultimate responsibility lay with the government's reduction of local government settlement.

- 9.13.2 The Cabinet Member disagreed, stating that the recent flooding in Norfolk had been handled dynamically. The Council was liaising with agencies such as the Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance (NSFA) to strengthen flooding response towards communities. Partnerships had also been formed with DEFRA and the Environment Agency, which had helped with a memorandum to ensure residents affected by flooding were able to access compensation quicker. A summit on flooding was due to be held with local MPs, with the Council lobbying government to appoint a dedicated Flooding Minister. Partnerships with district councils also improved the response. The Cabinet Member commented that while climate change was an unknown factor when it came to future flooding events, it was certain that it would have an impact on Norfolk. The Council was putting together a package of climate policies to mitigate the worst effects.

9.14 **Question from Cllr Terry Jermy to the Leader of the Council**

- 9.14.1 Cllr Jermy commented that he had met with campaigners from Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) the previous day. Given the report and recommendation from the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman published on the 21 March 2024 and that Council had unanimously carried a motion in 2023 supporting the campaign, Cllr Jermy asked if the Leader could confirm the Council's position on this issue and whether she agreed that compensation should be paid out to those affected.

- 9.14.2 The Leader stated that the report was a positive development and affirmed that she and the Council would continue to support those affected to ensure they received compensation.

9.15 **Question from Cllr Jamie Osborn to the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport**

- 9.15.1 Cllr Osborn asked if the Cabinet Member would agree, in light of the update on the Norwich Western Link (NWL) from the Leader earlier in the meeting, that it was time to look at a Plan B for the project and what work was required for this.
- 9.15.2 The Cabinet Member stated there was no Plan B for the NWL, as excess traffic in the area could not be routed down existing country roads without substantial upgrade work and the purchase of large acres of farmland. The NWL was the only solution for the pressing issues identified with Norwich's transport infrastructure.

9.16 **Question from Cllr Fran Whymark to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care**

- 9.16.1 Cllr Whymark stated there was a local charity called Headway Norfolk and Waveney, which supported families and individuals impacted by brain injuries, including stroke. The charity had launched a new pledge campaign, 'One Tick at a Time', which had a primary aim to raise awareness of brain injuries. Cllr Whymark

asked the Cabinet Member if she was aware of the campaign and if she would share her views on Headway.

- 9.16.2 The Cabinet Member confirmed she was aware of Headway Norfolk and Waveney and had received correspondence from the charity. The Cabinet Member was very pleased to raise the issue of brain injuries before Council and would welcome all Members to support the One Tick at a Time pledge. Brain injuries were more common than expected, affecting individuals from all age groups and backgrounds. Such injuries often had significant, long-term impacts on patients' cognitive functions, emotional wellbeing and physical condition. Early intervention, access to support services and community support were key to improving the situation for residents. The Cabinet Member stated she would circulate the document and pledge to all Council Members, requesting that the information additionally be circulated among their divisions and parishes.

## **10. Recommendations from the Scrutiny Committee and Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

- 10.1 There were no recommendations from either committee.

## **11. Recommendations from Committees**

- 11.1 There were no recommendations from Committees.

## **12. Report from the Scrutiny Committee meetings held on the 25 January and 14 February 2024**

- 12.1 Cllr Steve Morphew, Chair of the Scrutiny Committee, moved the report.

- 12.2 Council **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the report.

## **13. Reports from Other Committees**

### **13.1 Report from the Audit and Governance Committee meeting held on the 15 February 2024**

- 13.1.1 Cllr Robert Savage, Vice-Chair of the Audit and Governance Committee, moved the report.

- 13.1.2 Council **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the report.

### **13.2 Report from the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting held on the 6 March 2024**

- 13.2.1 Cllr Bill Borrett, Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board, moved the report.

- 13.2.2 Council **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the report.

### **13.3 Report from the Pensions Committee meeting held on the 12 March 2024**

- 13.3.1 Cllr Kay Mason Billig, Leader of the Council, moved the report.

- 13.3.2 Council **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the report.
- 13.4 **Report from the Planning (Regulatory) Committee meeting held on the 26 January 2024**
- 13.4.1 Cllr Brian Long, Chair of the Planning (Regulatory Committee), moved the report.
- 13.4.2 Cllr Long expressed disappointment that the most recent meeting of the Planning (Regulatory) Committee, held on 22 March 2024, was declared inquorate. It was believed to be the first such occurrence in the history of the committee. Cllr Long requested that Council Members undertook planning training to ensure the inquorate meeting was a one-off, while also providing Members with a greater understanding of the planning process to aid them with issues in their divisions. This statement was seconded by Cllr Ben Price.
- 13.4.3 Council **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the report.
- 14. Reports from Select Committees**
- 14.1 **Report from the Corporate Select Committee meeting held on 11 March 2024**
- 14.1.1 Cllr Kay Mason Billig, Leader of the Council, moved the report.
- 14.1.2 Council **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the report.
- 14.2 **Report from the Infrastructure and Development Select Committee meetings held on the 23 February and 13 March 2024**
- 14.2.1 Cllr James Bensly, Chair of the Infrastructure and Development Select Committee, moved the report.
- 14.2.2 Council **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the report.
- 14.3 **Report from the People and Communities Select Committee meeting held on the 15 March 2024**
- 14.3.1 Cllr Fran Whymark, Chair of the People and Communities Select Committee, moved the report.
- 14.3.2 Council **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the report.
- 15. Reports about the business of joint arrangements and external organisations**
- 15.1 **Report from the Norfolk Joint Museums Committee meeting held on the 2 February 2024**
- 15.1.1 Cllr John Ward, Chair of the Norfolk Joint Museums Committee, moved the report.
- 15.1.2 Council **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the report.



15.2        **Report from the Norfolk Records Committee meeting held on the 2 February 2024**

15.2.1      Cllr Michael Chenery of Horsbrugh, Chair of the Norfolk Records Committee, moved the report.

15.2.2      Council **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the report.

**16.        Specific Business Items**

**16.1       Pay Policy Statement 2024-25**

16.1.1      Cllr Kay Mason Billig, seconded by Cllr Andrew Jamieson, moved the recommendation contained in the report.

16.1.2      Following a debate, Council **RESOLVED** on a show of hands to **APPROVE** the Pay Policy Statement 2024-25.

**16.2       Climate Policy for Norfolk**

16.2.1      Cllr Eric Vardy, seconded by Cllr Andrew Jamieson, moved the recommendations contained in the report.

16.2.2      During the debate, Cllr Steve Morphew raised a point of order to affirm that Part 5 of the Council's Constitution stated that all policies in the Council's policy framework should have review and expiry dates built into them. Following advice from the Monitoring Officer, Cllr Eric Vardy suggested that the Climate Policy be reviewed in March 2026. This was **AGREED** by Council.

17.2.3      Following the debate, the recommendations in the report were unanimously **CARRIED** on a show of hands.

17.2.4      Having reviewed and commented on the proposed Climate Policy, including the new statement of the council's county-wide net zero commitment, Council **RESOLVED** the following:

1. **To ENDORSE** the Climate Policy to be integrated in Norfolk County Council's Policy Framework.
2. **To AGREE** a related amendment to the Environment Policy to align its wording on the Council's overarching climate commitments with the Climate Policy.

**17.        Notice of Motions**

**17.1       Motion 1 – Parish Paths Information Pack – Fit for the Future**

17.1.1      This motion was proposed by Cllr Tom FitzPatrick and seconded by Cllr Daniel Elmer:

Walking and cycling are widely considered to be one of the most effective ways to promote regular physical activity, as set out in the County Council's ambitious Walking, Wheeling and Cycling Strategy. Those who engage in healthy transport and activity choices can experience better health outcomes and companies who encourage employees to make these choices have lower staff turnover rates and reduced levels of absenteeism, whilst also seeing improved productivity and employee morale.

As a result, this Council welcomes the £200m government fund to improve walking, wheeling and cycling routes, helping to reduce emissions, boost local economies and create jobs. Adding to the existing ambitious commitment of half of all journeys in towns and cities being cycled or walked by 2030, this is alongside the Council's Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIP) for many areas across our County.

The way transport systems are built plays a vital role in how successful sustainable transport promotion can be through our villages and wider rural communities, but also in the more urban settings of Norfolk as well. This Council therefore welcomes the schemes totalling over £1m to be distributed across Norfolk to deliver the wants and needs of local parishes and residents as part of the Highway Parish Partnership, along with the work of our Norfolk MP's, in particular Duncan Baker MP, in helping increase public access to footpaths, urban, rural and coastal.

To maintain our work alongside Parish Councils and to ensure local applications for active travel routes and walking routes are successful, our Parish Paths Information Pack should be updated to make it more accessible and reflect the recent initiatives for sustainable transport and physical activity.

This Council will ask the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport to engage with the Norfolk Association of Local Councils (NALC) to canvass its members on how to best meet this aim in relation to footpaths and public rights of way, undertaking and adopting best practices and producing a new Parish Paths Information Pack that is fit for the future.

- 17.1.2 Cllr Steffan Aquarone, seconded by Cllr Rob Colwell, moved the following amendment to this motion:

Walking and cycling are widely considered to be one of the most effective ways to promote regular physical activity, as set out in the County Council's ambitious Walking, Wheeling and Cycling Strategy. Those who engage in healthy transport and activity choices can experience better health outcomes and companies who encourage employees to make these choices have lower staff turnover rates and reduced levels of absenteeism, whilst also seeing improved productivity and employee morale

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[This Council will ask Cabinet to develop and publish a comprehensive 'footpath toolkit' which includes a simplified information pack, tools for auditing, repairing/improving existing access, establishing new access, and publicising and promoting paths.](#)

- 17.1.3 Cllr FitzPatrick, the proposer of the original motion, did not accept the amendment and a debate commenced.
- 17.1.4 The amendment was put to a vote. With 22 votes for, 37 votes against and 0 abstentions, the amendment was **LOST** (Appendix A).
- 17.1.5 Following a debate, the substantive motion was put to a vote. With 47 votes for, 0 votes against and 13 abstentions, the motion was **CARRIED** (Appendix B).
- 17.2 Council took a lunch break from 12:20 to 12:47
- 17.3 Upon Council reconvening after lunch, Cllr Steve Morphew proposed that the meeting be extended for a full hour to cover all remaining business. This was seconded by Cllr Mike Sands. The proposal was **LOST** on a show of hands.
- 17.4 **Motion 2 – Wisbech Incinerator**
- 17.4.1 This motion was proposed by Cllr Rob Colwell and seconded by Cllr Alexandra Kemp:

This Council continues to recognise the concerns of residents in West Norfolk and neighbouring authorities relating to the Wisbech Incinerator which has now been granted planning permission by the Secretary of State.

This Council, in line with its commitment in May 2022, where upon it voted in favour of stating its in-principle opposition against the incinerator, reaffirms its opposition to its construction.

This Council commits to do everything in its power to minimise the negative impact this project will have on residents, agriculture, and the environment.

This Council, in order to reassure residents of its May 2022 commitment, will ask Cabinet to consider what support we can provide in any future judicial review of the proposed development.

17.4.2 Following a debate, the motion was put to a vote. With 21 votes for, 32 votes against and 2 abstentions, the motion was **LOST** (Appendix C).

### 17.5 **Motion 3 – Carer Parking Permits**

17.5.1 This motion was proposed by Cllr Julie Brociek-Coulton and seconded by Cllr Colleen Walker:

Council recognises the vital role played by those visiting people's homes to provide care. Keeping people independent in their homes is a shared vision for care and requires those receiving care to be able to receive timely, trusted and high-quality care. Council also recognises care staff are not highly paid for their skills and our stretched budget means we need to ensure every minute of their time is productively used.

Council is concerned at reports carers may be arriving late for scheduled visits because of time spent looking for places to park. It regrets the potential for carers to become liable for parking fines where they choose to risk parking in restricted spaces such as those with permit parking or loading bays, with no recourse to appeal on the basis of carrying out caring duties under the Council's current Civil Parking Enforcement Guidance Manual. Council further notes that other professions such as window cleaners and chimney sweeps are allowed to park in such areas whilst delivering a service in people's homes.

Council acknowledges that cross-party support for free carer parking was shown in debate secured in Parliament by Damien Moore MP in March 2023. During debate the Minister for Social Care, Helen Whately MP praised free carer parking schemes and encouraged 'local authorities who are not already undertaking similar projects to look and learn from those areas that have implemented their own parking schemes.'

Council believes there are multiple benefits to introducing a parking permit system for care workers based on the scheme currently operated by Dorset County Council to allow carers access limited to the time they are visiting people's homes for care delivery, including:

- Allowing limited access in residential parking zones, loading bays and other places would support the delivery of high quality, timely care;
- Alleviating care workers' concerns about finding a parking space, facing parking fines and claiming parking charge reimbursements from employers would reduce stress, administration and contribute to a more attractive employment offer;
- Minimising the time spent trying to park will enhance the experience of those being cared for by making appointments easier to keep.

Council recognises that to consider introducing such a scheme to Norfolk requires full scoping of demand through engagement with carers and care providers, as well as consideration of any financial implications.

Council therefore requests the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Infrastructure to develop proposals for a Norfolk parking scheme for care workers for consideration by Cabinet via the Infrastructure and Development Select Committee.

17.5.2 Following a debate, the motion was put to a vote. With 21 votes for, 33 votes against and 0 abstentions, the motion was **LOST** (Appendix D).

## 17.6 **Motion 4 – Proper Funding for Childcare**

17.6.1 This motion was proposed by Cllr Jamie Osborn and seconded by Cllr Maxine Webb:

Childcare providers including nurseries are in crisis due to years of severe underfunding from national and local government. Nationally, the Early Years Alliance estimates that the early years funding shortfall stands at £5 billion. This has driven unprecedented levels of closures of nurseries and childcare providers, including ten in Norfolk in 2019, and three late in Dereham, Diss and Downham Market last year.

When the Chancellor announced the introduction of funded childcare for children from the age of two in 2023, he failed to address the funding gap that is leading to extreme pressure on childcare providers. In 2024, he announced that funding would rise in line with delivery costs, but the Government once again failed to bridge the existing £5 billion funding shortfall for early years education and childcare.

This persistent underfunding means many childcare providers are having to increase their costs, cancelling out any benefits from the “free” childcare hours promised by the Government. Many are having to charge for nappies, food, and milk. Some are even introducing charges on parents for using the “free” childcare hours that the Government should be paying for.

The strain on childcare staff, with many working long hours on the minimum wage, means many are leaving the sector. Childcare staff report being able to

earn more with shorter hours stacking shelves in Asda. The difficulty in recruiting and retaining staff is exacerbated in many cases by a lack of career progression options.

The staffing shortfall means that 68% of childcare providers are already at full capacity. This in turn means that the rise in demand that is expected when “free” childcare for two-year-olds kicks in from April 2024 will not be able to be met with existing capacity. Three quarters of childcare providers that are expecting an increase in demand from April are not planning to increase the places that they offer, due to short-staffing and underfunding, meaning that many parents will be unable to access “free” childcare hours. Nearly one in five childcare providers is planning to opt out of Government-funded schemes altogether by next year, due to the unacceptable pressure the schemes place on them with inadequate funding.

Furthermore, evidence shows that children who receive early intervention and support for emerging and diagnosed Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in the early years, are more likely to have positive educational experiences, relationships and employment opportunities, in the future. But, last year, only 18% of local authorities in England reported having sufficient childcare for children with disabilities.

Council believes:

1. The £5bn underinvestment and underfunding of childcare is a serious failing in the Government’s approach to the crucial early years of a child’s life.
2. Childcare workers deserve improved pay and career progression options in order to help recruit and retain staff.
3. Well-trained and adequately supported childcare workers offer immense value in the crucial first five years of a child’s life, supporting their social, physical, linguistic, emotional and cognitive development, and enabling parents to work.
4. The closure of childcare providers and the shortage of provision for disabled children is of serious concern for Norfolk.

Council resolves to:

1. Ask the Leader to write to:
  - i. the Chancellor, Secretary of State for Education to call for them to urgently address the £5 billion shortfall in funding for early years provision;
  - ii. all Norfolk MPs to ask for their support on the above.

2. Ask the Cabinet to explore options to increase locally-contributed top-up funding for childcare providers to ensure that Norfolk childcare providers are not forced to close.
3. Ask the Cabinet to further examine and report on the sufficiency of provision for children with emerging and diagnosed SEND.

17.6.2 Cllr Mike Smith-Clare, seconded by Cllr Steve Mophew, moved the following amendment to this motion:

Childcare providers including nurseries are in crisis due to years of severe underfunding from national and local government. Nationally, the Early Years Alliance estimates that the early years funding shortfall stands at £5 billion. This has driven unprecedented levels of closures of nurseries and childcare providers, including ten in Norfolk in 2019, and three late in Dereham, Diss and Downham Market last year.

When the Chancellor announced the introduction of funded childcare for children from the age of two in 2023, he failed to address the funding gap that is leading to extreme pressure on childcare providers. In 2024, he announced that funding would rise in line with delivery costs, but the Government once again failed to bridge the existing £5 billion funding shortfall for early years education and childcare.

This persistent underfunding means many childcare providers are having to increase their costs, cancelling out any benefits from the “free” childcare hours promised by the Government. Many are having to charge for nappies, food, and milk. Some are even introducing charges on parents for using the “free” childcare hours that the Government should be paying for.

The strain on childcare staff, with many working long hours on the minimum wage, means many are leaving the sector. Childcare staff report being able to earn more with shorter hours stacking shelves in Asda. The difficulty in recruiting and retaining staff is exacerbated in many cases by a lack of career progression options.

The staffing shortfall means that 68% of childcare providers are already at full capacity. This in turn means that the rise in demand that is expected when “free” childcare for two-year-olds kicks in from April 2024 will not be able to be met with existing capacity. Three quarters of childcare providers that are expecting an increase in demand from April are not planning to increase the places that they offer, due to short-staffing and underfunding, meaning that many parents will be unable to access “free” childcare hours. Nearly one in five childcare providers is planning to opt out of Government funded schemes altogether by next year, due to the unacceptable pressure the schemes place on them with inadequate funding.

Furthermore, evidence shows that children who receive early intervention and support for emerging and diagnosed Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) in the early years, are more likely to have positive educational experiences, relationships and employment opportunities, in the future. But, last

year, only 18% of local authorities in England reported having sufficient childcare for children with disabilities.

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3. Well-trained and adequately supported childcare workers offer immense value in the crucial first five years of a child's life, supporting their social, physical, linguistic, emotional and cognitive development, and enabling parents to work.
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Council resolves to:

1. Ask the Leader to write to:
  - i. the Chancellor, Secretary of State for Education to call for them to urgently address the £5 billion shortfall in funding for early years provision;
  - ii. all Norfolk MPs to ask for their support on the above.
2. Ask the Cabinet to explore options to increase locally-contributed top-up funding for childcare providers to ensure that Norfolk childcare providers are not forced to close.
3. Ask the Cabinet to further examine and report on the sufficiency of provision for children with emerging and diagnosed SEND.
4. Identify and promote opportunities for establishing workplace nursery schemes so that employees can take advantage of the tax benefits of childcare part financed through salary sacrifice and request officers to provide a report for consideration by People and Communities Select Committee at their next meeting.
5. Request the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth to include childcare provision and availability as a key strand in the forthcoming proposals for a new economic strategy for Norfolk.
6. Request Cabinet to include an assumption of £10m a year from the County Deal for Norfolk funding for investment in childcare to support capacity and flexibility in the labour market in Norfolk.



- 17.6.3 Cllr Jamie Osborn, the proposer of the original motion, accepted the amendment and a debate commenced on the amended substantive motion.
- 17.6.4 **Three Hour Meeting Time Elapses**
- The Chair announced the three hours allocated for the meeting had now elapsed.
- 17.6.5 The amended substantive motion was put to a vote. With 21 votes for, 33 votes against and 0 abstentions, the motion was **LOST** (Appendix E).
- 17.7 As a result of the three-hour meeting period having elapsed, Council Members agreed to move to the part of the meeting where all remaining business relating to motions or amendments to motions would be considered, moved, and seconded in line with procedure rule 4 (iv).
- 17.7.1 The Chair confirmed he would deal with each motion in turn. Initially he would ask the proposer of the motion if they wanted the motion to go ahead or be withdrawn. If the motion was withdrawn, the Council would continue through the motions in the order they appeared on the agenda, which was by reference to the size of the group. If the motion was not withdrawn, the Chair would consider if there were amendments. If amendments had been submitted, then the Council would vote on those first and then, when those were completed, a vote would be taken on the substantive motion.
- 17.8 **Motion 5 – Footpaths Toolkit**
- 17.8.1 This motion was **WITHDRAWN**.
- 17.9 **Motion 6 – Malnutrition: Time to Act**
- 17.9.1 This motion was **WITHDRAWN**.
- 17.10 **Motion 7 – Experimental Tourism**
- 17.10.1 This motion was **WITHDRAWN**.
- 17.11 **Motion 8 – Flooding Response**
- 17.11.1 This motion was **WITHDRAWN**.
- 17.12 **Motion 9 – Norwich Western Link**
- 17.12.1 This motion was proposed by Cllr Steve Morpew and seconded by Cllr Terry Jermy:
- Council notes the gap between the allocation of funds towards the OBC cost of the Norwich Western Link (NWL), the latest estimate of costs is £273.9m and that no additional funding was made available through the budget on 6th March 2024.

In accordance with paragraph 3.3(c) of Part 11C: Financial Regulations of the Constitution, minimum requirements for preparation of budget proposals including option appraisal and use of whole life costing, comparing the relative costs of the options, over the life of the project.

Paragraph 3.2(a) of the same Part of the Constitution states that the Capital Budget should have regard to proper accounting standards and include a statement of the allocation of resources to different services and projects, how the programme is to be funded, and any impact on the revenue budget.

Council requests:

1. Cabinet to provide an updated options appraisal for the NWL including whole life costings and relative costs, taking account of updated costs and costs of borrowing since the initial options appraisal was undertaken.
2. Cabinet to provide full details of how those whole life costs will be funded and the impact on the revenue budget.
3. Cabinet to provide revised transport modelling using the National Road Traffic Projections 2022 and the latest release of the TEMPro software, which was used to rule out the Pullover flyover project in West Norfolk.
4. Cabinet to provide that information prior to submission of a planning application for the NWL.

17.12.2 The motion was put to a vote. With 20 votes for, 35 votes against and 0 abstentions, the motion was **LOST** (Appendix F).

## **18. Questions on notice under rule 9.3**

18.1 One question was received, from Cllr Alexandra Kemp. A response from the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport was circulated to Members prior to the meeting and appended to this set of minutes at Appendix G.

## **19. Appointments to Committees, Sub-Committees and Joint Committees**

19.1 There were no appointments to note.

**The meeting concluded at 13:38**

**Cllr Barry Stone**  
**Chair, Norfolk County Council**



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**RECORDED VOTE – ITEM NUMBER: 17.1.4 – Conservative Group Motion - Parish Paths  
Information Pack: Fit for the Future – Lib Dem Group Amendment**

FOR		AGST	ABST	FOR		AGST	ABST
	<b>ADAMS Tim</b>				<b>LONG</b>	X	
	<b>ADAMS Tony</b>	X			<b>MACKIE</b>		
	<b>ANNISON</b>				<b>MASON BILLIG</b>	X	
X	<b>AQUARONE</b>				<b>MAXFIELD</b>		
	<b>ASKEW</b>	X			<b>MORIARTY</b>		
	<b>BAMBRIDGE</b>	X		X	<b>MORPHEW</b>		
	<b>BENSLY</b>	X			<b>NEALE</b>		
	<b>BILLS</b>	X			<b>NUNN</b>		
X	<b>BIRMINGHAM</b>				<b>OLIVER J</b>		
	<b>BLUNDELL</b>				<b>OLIVER R</b>		
	<b>BORRETT</b>	X		X	<b>OSBORN</b>		
	<b>BOWES</b>	X			<b>PECK</b>	X	
X	<b>BROCIEK-COULTON</b>			X	<b>PENFOLD</b>		
	<b>CARPENTER G</b>				<b>PLANT</b>	X	
	<b>CARPENTER P</b>	X		X	<b>PRICE B</b>		
	<b>CHENERY OF HORSBRUGH</b>	X			<b>PRICE R</b>		
	<b>CLANCY</b>	X			<b>PROCTOR</b>		
X	<b>COLWELL</b>			X	<b>REILLY</b>		
	<b>CONNOLLY</b>				<b>RICHMOND</b>		
	<b>CORLETT</b>				<b>RILEY</b>		
X	<b>CROFTS</b>			X	<b>ROPER</b>		
	<b>DALBY</b>			X	<b>ROWETT</b>		
	<b>DARK</b>	X		X	<b>RUMSBY</b>		
	<b>DAWSON</b>	X		X	<b>SANDS</b>		
	<b>DEWSBURY</b>	X			<b>SAVAGE</b>	X	
	<b>DIXON</b>				<b>SAYERS</b>		
	<b>DUIGAN</b>	X		X	<b>SHIRES</b>		
	<b>EAGLE</b>	X			<b>SMITH</b>	X	
	<b>ELMER</b>	X		X	<b>SMITH-CLARE</b>		
	<b>FISHER</b>	X			<b>STONE</b>	X	
	<b>FITZPATRICK</b>	X			<b>STOREY</b>		
	<b>GRANT</b>				<b>THOMAS</b>	X	
	<b>GURNEY</b>	X			<b>THOMSON</b>		
	<b>HEMPSALL</b>	X			<b>VARDY</b>	X	
	<b>JAMES</b>	X			<b>VINCENT</b>	X	
	<b>JAMIESON</b>	X		X	<b>WALKER</b>		
X	<b>JERMY</b>				<b>WARD</b>	X	
X	<b>JONES</b>			X	<b>WATKINS</b>		
X	<b>KEMP</b>			X	<b>WEBB</b>		
	<b>KIDDIE</b>	X			<b>WHITE</b>		
	<b>KIDDLE-MORRIS</b>	X			<b>WHYMARK</b>	X	
	<b>KIRK</b>				<b>WILBY</b>	X	

Sub-Total

For
Against
Abstentions

Sub-Total

22
37
0

**RECORDED VOTE – ITEM NUMBER: 17.1.5– Conservative Group Motion - Parish Paths  
Information Pack: Fit for the Future**

FOR		AGST	ABST		FOR		AGST	ABST
	<b>ADAMS Tim</b>				X	LONG		
X	ADAMS Tony					<b>MACKIE</b>		
	<b>ANNISON</b>				X	MASON BILLIG		
X	AQUARONE					<b>MAXFIELD</b>		
X	ASKEW					<b>MORIARTY</b>		
X	BAMBRIDGE					MORPHEW		X
X	BENSLY					<b>NEALE</b>		
X	BILLS					<b>NUNN</b>		
	BIRMINGHAM		X			<b>OLIVER J</b>		
	<b>BLUNDELL</b>					<b>OLIVER R</b>		
X	BORRETT				X	OSBORN		
X	BOWES				X	PECK		
	BROCIEK-COULTON		X		X	PENFOLD		
	<b>CARPENTER G</b>				X	PLANT		
X	CARPENTER P				X	PRICE B		
X	CHENERY OF HORSBRUGH					<b>PRICE R</b>		
X	CLANCY					<b>PROCTOR</b>		
X	COLWELL					REILLY		X
	<b>CONNOLLY</b>					<b>RICHMOND</b>		
	CORLETT		X			<b>RILEY</b>		
X	CROFTS				X	ROPER		
	<b>DALBY</b>				X	ROWETT		
X	DARK					RUMSBY		X
X	DAWSON					SANDS		X
X	DEWSBURY				X	SAVAGE		
	<b>DIXON</b>					<b>SAYERS</b>		
X	DUIGAN				X	SHIRES		
X	EAGLE				X	SMITH		
X	ELMER					SMITH-CLARE		X
X	FISHER				X	STONE		
X	FITZPATRICK					<b>STOREY</b>		
	<b>GRANT</b>				X	THOMAS		
X	GURNEY					<b>THOMSON</b>		
X	HEMPSALL				X	VARDY		
X	JAMES				X	VINCENT		
X	JAMIESON					WALKER		X
	JERMY		X		X	WARD		
	JONES		X		X	WATKINS		
	KEMP		X			WEBB		X
X	KIDDIE					<b>WHITE</b>		
X	KIDDLE-MORRIS				X	WHYMARK		
	<b>KIRK</b>				X	WILBY		

Sub-Total

For
Against
Abstentions

Sub-Total

47
0
13

## RECORDED VOTE – ITEM NUMBER: 17.4.2 – Lib Dem Group Motion – Wisbech Incinerator

FOR		AGST	ABST	FOR		AGST	ABST
	<b>ADAMS Tim</b>				<b>LONG</b>		<b>X</b>
	<b>ADAMS Tony</b>	<b>X</b>			<b>MACKIE</b>		
	<b>ANNISON</b>				<b>MASON BILLIG</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>X</b>	<b>AQUARONE</b>				<b>MAXFIELD</b>		
	<b>ASKEW</b>				<b>MORIARTY</b>		
	<b>BAMBRIDGE</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>MORPHEW</b>		
	<b>BENSLY</b>	<b>X</b>			<b>NEALE</b>		
	<b>BILLS</b>	<b>X</b>			<b>NUNN</b>		
<b>X</b>	<b>BIRMINGHAM</b>				<b>OLIVER J</b>		
	<b>BLUNDELL</b>				<b>OLIVER R</b>		
	<b>BORRETT</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>OSBORN</b>		
	<b>BOWES</b>	<b>X</b>			<b>PECK</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>X</b>	<b>BROCIEK-COULTON</b>				<b>PENFOLD</b>		
	<b>CARPENTER G</b>				<b>PLANT</b>	<b>X</b>	
	<b>CARPENTER P</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>PRICE B</b>		
	<b>CHENERY OF HORSBRUGH</b>	<b>X</b>			<b>PRICE R</b>		
	<b>CLANCY</b>	<b>X</b>			<b>PROCTOR</b>		
<b>X</b>	<b>COLWELL</b>			<b>X</b>	<b>REILLY</b>		
	<b>CONNOLLY</b>				<b>RICHMOND</b>		
<b>X</b>	<b>CORLETT</b>				<b>RILEY</b>		
<b>X</b>	<b>CROFTS</b>			<b>X</b>	<b>ROPER</b>		
	<b>DALBY</b>			<b>X</b>	<b>ROWETT</b>		
	<b>DARK</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>RUMSBY</b>		
	<b>DAWSON</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>SANDS</b>		
	<b>DEWSBURY</b>				<b>SAVAGE</b>	<b>X</b>	
	<b>DIXON</b>				<b>SAYERS</b>		
	<b>DUIGAN</b>	<b>X</b>			<b>SHIRES</b>		
	<b>EAGLE</b>	<b>X</b>			<b>SMITH</b>	<b>X</b>	
	<b>ELMER</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>SMITH-CLARE</b>		
	<b>FISHER</b>	<b>X</b>			<b>STONE</b>	<b>X</b>	
	<b>FITZPATRICK</b>	<b>X</b>			<b>STOREY</b>		
	<b>GRANT</b>				<b>THOMAS</b>	<b>X</b>	
	<b>GURNEY</b>	<b>X</b>			<b>THOMSON</b>		
	<b>HEMPSALL</b>	<b>X</b>			<b>VARDY</b>	<b>X</b>	
	<b>JAMES</b>	<b>X</b>			<b>VINCENT</b>	<b>X</b>	
	<b>JAMIESON</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>	<b>WALKER</b>		
<b>X</b>	<b>JERMY</b>				<b>WARD</b>	<b>X</b>	
<b>X</b>	<b>JONES</b>			<b>X</b>	<b>WATKINS</b>		
<b>X</b>	<b>KEMP</b>			<b>X</b>	<b>WEBB</b>		
	<b>KIDDIE</b>	<b>X</b>			<b>WHITE</b>		
	<b>KIDDLE-MORRIS</b>	<b>X</b>			<b>WHYMARK</b>	<b>X</b>	
	<b>KIRK</b>				<b>WILBY</b>		

Sub-Total

For
Against
Abstentions

Sub-Total

21
32
2

## RECORDED VOTE – ITEM NUMBER: 17.5.2 – Labour Group Motion – Carer Parking Permits

FOR		AGST	ABST	FOR		AGST	ABST
	<b>ADAMS Tim</b>				<b>LONG</b>	X	
	<b>ADAMS Tony</b>	X			<b>MACKIE</b>		
	<b>ANNISON</b>				<b>MASON BILLIG</b>		
X	<b>AQUARONE</b>				<b>MAXFIELD</b>		
	<b>ASKEW</b>				<b>MORIARTY</b>		
	<b>BAMBRIDGE</b>	X		X	<b>MORPHEW</b>		
	<b>BENSLY</b>	X			<b>NEALE</b>		
	<b>BILLS</b>	X			<b>NUNN</b>		
X	<b>BIRMINGHAM</b>				<b>OLIVER J</b>		
	<b>BLUNDELL</b>				<b>OLIVER R</b>		
	<b>BORRETT</b>	X		X	<b>OSBORN</b>		
	<b>BOWES</b>	X			<b>PECK</b>	X	
X	<b>BROCIEK-COULTON</b>				<b>PENFOLD</b>		
	<b>CARPENTER G</b>				<b>PLANT</b>	X	
	<b>CARPENTER P</b>	X		X	<b>PRICE B</b>		
	<b>CHENERY OF HORSBRUGH</b>	X			<b>PRICE R</b>		
	<b>CLANCY</b>	X			<b>PROCTOR</b>		
X	<b>COLWELL</b>			X	<b>REILLY</b>		
	<b>CONNOLLY</b>				<b>RICHMOND</b>		
X	<b>CORLETT</b>				<b>RILEY</b>		
X	<b>CROFTS</b>			X	<b>ROPER</b>		
	<b>DALBY</b>			X	<b>ROWETT</b>		
	<b>DARK</b>	X		X	<b>RUMSBY</b>		
	<b>DAWSON</b>	X		X	<b>SANDS</b>		
	<b>DEWSBURY</b>				<b>SAVAGE</b>	X	
	<b>DIXON</b>				<b>SAYERS</b>		
	<b>DUIGAN</b>	X			<b>SHIRES</b>		
	<b>EAGLE</b>	X			<b>SMITH</b>	X	
	<b>ELMER</b>	X		X	<b>SMITH-CLARE</b>		
	<b>FISHER</b>	X			<b>STONE</b>	X	
	<b>FITZPATRICK</b>	X			<b>STOREY</b>		
	<b>GRANT</b>				<b>THOMAS</b>	X	
	<b>GURNEY</b>	X			<b>THOMSON</b>		
	<b>HEMPSALL</b>	X			<b>VARDY</b>	X	
	<b>JAMES</b>	X			<b>VINCENT</b>	X	
	<b>JAMIESON</b>	X		X	<b>WALKER</b>		
X	<b>JERMY</b>				<b>WARD</b>	X	
X	<b>JONES</b>			X	<b>WATKINS</b>		
X	<b>KEMP</b>			X	<b>WEBB</b>		
	<b>KIDDIE</b>	X			<b>WHITE</b>		
	<b>KIDDLE-MORRIS</b>	X			<b>WHYMARK</b>	X	
	<b>KIRK</b>				<b>WILBY</b>		

Sub-Total

For
Against
Abstentions

Sub-Total

21
33
0

**RECORDED VOTE – ITEM NUMBER: 17.6.5 – Amended Green Group Motion –  
Proper Funding for Childcare**

FOR		AGST	ABST	FOR		AGST	ABST
	<del>ADAMS Tim</del>				LONG	X	
	ADAMS Tony	X			<del>MACKIE</del>		
	<del>ANNISON</del>				MASON BILLIG		
X	AQUARONE				<del>MAXFIELD</del>		
	ASKEW				<del>MORIARTY</del>		
	BAMBRIDGE	X		X	MORPHEW		
	BENSLY	X			<del>NEALE</del>		
	BILLS	X			<del>NUNN</del>		
X	BIRMINGHAM				<del>OLIVER J</del>		
	<del>BLUNDELL</del>				<del>OLIVER R</del>		
	BORRETT	X		X	OSBORN		
	BOWES	X			PECK	X	
X	BROCIEK-COULTON				PENFOLD		
	<del>CARPENTER G</del>				PLANT	X	
	CARPENTER P	X		X	PRICE B		
	CHENERY OF HORSBRUGH	X			<del>PRICE R</del>		
	CLANCY	X			<del>PROCTOR</del>		
X	COLWELL			X	REILLY		
	<del>CONNOLLY</del>				<del>RICHMOND</del>		
X	CORLETT				<del>RILEY</del>		
X	CROFTS			X	ROPER		
	<del>DALBY</del>			X	ROWETT		
	DARK	X		X	RUMSBY		
	DAWSON	X		X	SANDS		
	DEWSBURY				SAVAGE	X	
	<del>DIXON</del>				<del>SAYERS</del>		
	DUIGAN	X			SHIRES		
	EAGLE	X			SMITH	X	
	ELMER	X		X	SMITH-CLARE		
	FISHER	X			STONE	X	
	FITZPATRICK	X			<del>STOREY</del>		
	<del>GRANT</del>				THOMAS	X	
	GURNEY	X			<del>THOMSON</del>		
	HEMPSALL	X			VARDY	X	
	JAMES	X			VINCENT	X	
	JAMIESON	X		X	WALKER		
X	JERMY				WARD	X	
X	JONES			X	WATKINS		
X	KEMP			X	WEBB		
	KIDDIE	X			<del>WHITE</del>		
	KIDDLE-MORRIS	X			WHYMARK	X	
	<del>KIRK</del>				WILBY		

Sub-Total

For
Against
Abstentions

Sub-Total

21
33
0

**RECORDED VOTE – ITEM NUMBER: 17.12.2 – Labour Group Motion –  
Norwich Western Link**

FOR		AGST	ABST		FOR		AGST	ABST
	<del>ADAMS Tim</del>					LONG	X	
	ADAMS Tony	X				<del>MACKIE</del>		
	<del>ANNISON</del>					MASON BILLIG		
X	AQUARONE					<del>MAXFIELD</del>		
	ASKEW					<del>MORIARTY</del>		
	BAMBRIDGE	X		X		MORPHEW		
	BENSLY	X				<del>NEALE</del>		
	BILLS	X				NUNN		
X	BIRMINGHAM					<del>OLIVER J</del>		
	<del>BLUNDELL</del>					<del>OLIVER R</del>		
	BORRETT	X		X		OSBORN		
	BOWES	X				PECK	X	
X	BROCIEK-COULTON					PENFOLD		
	<del>CARPENTER G</del>					PLANT	X	
	CARPENTER P	X		X		PRICE B		
	CHENERY OF HORSBRUGH	X				<del>PRICE R</del>		
	CLANCY	X				<del>PROCTOR</del>		
X	COLWELL			X		REILLY		
	<del>CONNOLLY</del>					<del>RICHMOND</del>		
X	CORLETT					<del>RILEY</del>		
X	CROFTS					ROPER	X	
	<del>DALBY</del>			X		ROWETT		
	DARK	X		X		RUMSBY		
	DAWSON	X		X		SANDS		
	DEWSBURY	X				SAVAGE	X	
	<del>DIXON</del>					<del>SAYERS</del>		
	DUIGAN	X				SHIRES		
	EAGLE	X				SMITH	X	
	ELMER	X		X		SMITH-CLARE		
	FISHER	X				STONE	X	
	FITZPATRICK	X				<del>STOREY</del>		
	<del>GRANT</del>					THOMAS	X	
	GURNEY	X				<del>THOMSON</del>		
	HEMPSALL	X				VARDY	X	
	JAMES	X				VINCENT	X	
	JAMIESON	X		X		WALKER		
X	JERMY					WARD	X	
X	JONES			X		WATKINS		
X	KEMP			X		WEBB		
	KIDDIE	X				<del>WHITE</del>		
	KIDDLE-MORRIS	X				WHYMARK	X	
	<del>KIRK</del>					WILBY		

Sub-Total

For
Against
Abstentions

Sub-Total

20
35
0



Norfolk County Council  
26 March 2024  
Item No: 18

**Question under Rule 9.3 - from Cllr Alexandra Kemp**

It is universally acknowledged in West Winch and West Norfolk, from resident and business experience alike, from delays, tailbacks, unreliable journey times, personal injury and highway damage accidents, the difficulty, danger -and even impossibility, of turning into residential accesses along the A10 without undertaking a multiple-mile detours, that the A10 in West Winch and Setchey is over capacity.

Yet West Winch is in the deeply unpopular and locally unsupported - Local Plan for an allocation of 4,000 houses. The Mott Macdonald Study of 2014 showed there would be a 1,000 car tailbacks at peak times, queued south from the Hardwick Roundabout, if the 1,100 Hopkins Development goes ahead without a Bypass to take the traffic out of the village before development commences.

So it is scandalous that the West Norfolk Local Plan is worded to allow all 1100 Hopkins houses to be built, before a proper Bypass is constructed and Highways cannot allow it. Because this Council's Sustainable Transport Strategy, which accompanied the West Winch Bypass Funding Application, outlining measures to traffic-calm the A10 to a village road to try to make new development sustainable, cannot be implemented, until the Bypass takes the traffic out of the village.

But the Government has not yet granted funding for the £84 million Bypass and cannot be guaranteed to do so. If building starts without the Bypass, the development would be completely car dependent and unsustainable.

West Winch cannot be let down again as it was by a previous Conservative Government in 1990 when Bypass plans were drawn up but Govt took away the funding but major development followed. Does the Cabinet Member agree with me that the only realistic, sustainable and decent approach for the Highways Authority to take is to oppose major development on the A10 in West Winch and Setchey before the arrival of a fully built-out Bypass, and that provision is needed to bypass Setchey too?

**Response from the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport**

I do not agree with the proposal to oppose major development in West Winch. As set out in previous questions to Cabinet (see August 2023), the consultation for the West Winch Housing Access Road (WWHAR) included details indicating up to 300 homes being delivered with a connection to the existing A10, which is consistent with the Highways response to the planning application already submitted by Hopkins Homes.

The Highways response to the Hopkins planning application accepts that some traffic could connect to the northern sections of the existing A10, but this has been capped at not more than 300 new homes.

The Hopkins application includes for the potential for consent to be granted for up to a total of 1,100 homes, but this is subject to significant new highway infrastructure within the development site and new junctions connecting to the A47, which would need to be similar in their location and size to the northern section of the WWHAR project.

In view of the scale of the highway infrastructure that would be required within the Hopkins development it is unlikely that the developer would deliver that, which is why they are working with the County Council and the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk and will be making a contribution to the WWHAR project through section 106 agreements linked to any planning consents. All parties are keen to complete the WWHAR as soon as possible, and the current timeline for its delivery indicates that very few properties will be completed before the WWHAR is opened. The aim is to deliver the WWHAR and the associated sustainable transport improvements for West Winch as soon as possible, with the current target opening date (subject to government funding being confirmed) being 2027.

The 2014 modelling work completed by Mott MacDonald is now nearly 10 years out of date. More recent modelling has been completed to support the development of the WWHAR project, and this has been further updated with 2022 survey data. It is important that all modelling is based on the most recent information and that is the case for the latest proposals in West Winch.

As indicated above, the current timeline for the delivery of the WWHAR is that it will be completed by 2027, before any significant new housing development, which will minimise any impacts to the existing A10, but will also then enable the planned new housing growth area to be delivered as quickly as possible.

The proposals for the WWHAR include details for sustainable transport which will encourage more active travel and improve non-vehicular links to and from the town centre.

Details about the project have been submitted in a planning application that is due to be published and consulted by the County Planning Authority imminently. This planning application and an Outline Business Case submission to DfT (published on the county council's website) have been progressed as rapidly as possible to enable the new road to be delivered as soon as possible. Every effort is being made to establish the necessary consents and funding for the project to enable construction to start in 2025.

# County Council

Item No: 10

**Report Title: Committee Appointments 2024 - 2025**

**Date of Meeting: 7 May 2024**

**Responsible Cabinet Member: Cllr Kay Mason Billig** (Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategy & Governance)

**Responsible Director: Caroline Clarke, Director of Democratic and Regulatory Services**

## **Executive Summary**

At the annual meeting Council is required to appoint to those Committees that have been considered appropriate to deal with matters that are not reserved to Council or are executive functions. It is also for Council to appoint to the Chairs and vice Chairs of these Committees and to appoint to some outside bodies.

## **Recommendation**

Council is recommended to:

1. Appoint to the Council's Committees as outlined at appendix A.
2. Appoint Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Committees specified in paragraph 1.1.
3. Appoint to the outside bodies outlined in appendix A.

## **1. Background and proposal**

- 1.1 At the annual meeting Council is required to appoint to those Committees that have been considered appropriate to deal with matters that are not reserved to Council or are executive functions. Appendix A outlines the current membership of these Committees and any changes that group leaders have indicated in advance of the meeting. Any further changes in membership will be reported in the meeting.
- 1.2 Council is also required to appoint the Chairs and vice Chairs of some Committees including:
  - Scrutiny Committee
  - Corporate Select Committee
  - Infrastructure and Development Select Committee

- People and Communities Select Committee
- Audit and Governance Committee
- Employment Committee
- Planning Regulatory Committee

In addition, Council also appoints the Chairs of the Health and Wellbeing Board and Pensions Committee. The vice Chairs of these Committees are appointed by the Committees themselves.

- 1.4 Norfolk County Council is represented on several external organisations and Council has delegated authority to appoint to these bodies to the Leader of the Council. There are some outside bodies however that Council has responsibility to appoint to. These are outlined in Appendix A.

## **2. Evidence and Reasons for Decision**

- 2.1 Appointing to the Council's Committees, Chairs and outside bodies will ensure that the Council is adhering to good governance and following the requirements of the Council's Constitution.

## **3. Recommendations**

Council is recommended to:

1. **Appoint to the Council's Committees as outlined at appendix A.**
2. **Appoint Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Committees specified in paragraph 1.1.**
3. **Appoint to the outside bodies outlined in appendix A.**

## **4. Background Papers**

- 4.1 [Norfolk County Council Constitution](#)

### **Officer Contact**

If you have any questions about matters contained within this paper, please get in touch with:

**Officer name: Karen Haywood, Democratic Services Manager**

**Telephone no.: 01603 228913**

**Email: karen.haywood@norfolk.gov.uk**



If you need this report in large print, audio, braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact 0344 800 8020 or 0344 800 8011 (textphone) and we will do our best to help.

## Appendix A

### Scrutiny Committee

	Total no. of places	Cons	Lib Dem	Labour	Green	Inde	Non - align
<b>Membership - politically balanced</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

#### Conservative

Cllr Annison  
Cllr B Long  
Cllr Duigan  
Cllr Kiddie  
Cllr FitzPatrick

Cllr Bambridge  
Cllr Fisher  
Cllr Elmer  
Cllr Kiddle-Morris

#### Liberal Democrat

Cllr Watkins

#### Labour

Cllr Morphew

#### Green

Cllr Osborn

#### Independent

Cllr Maxfield

### Corporate Select Committee

	Total no. of places	Cons	Lib Dem	Labour	Green	Inde	Non - align
<b>Membership - politically balanced</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

#### Conservative

Cllr Clancy  
Cllr Bills  
Cllr R Oliver  
Cllr Nunn

Cllr G Carpenter  
Cllr White  
Cllr Thomson  
Cllr C Smith

#### Liberal Democrat

Cllr Roper  
Cllr Sayers

#### Labour

Cllr Birmingham  
Cllr Jermy

**Green**  
Cllr B Price

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**Infrastructure and Development Select Committee**

	Total no. of places	Cons	Lib Dem	Labour	Green	Inde	Non - align
<b>Membership - politically balanced</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

**Conservative**

Cllr Bensly  
Cllr Bills  
Cllr Bowes  
Cllr Dawson  
Cllr Richmond

Cllr Savage  
Cllr Thomson  
Cllr White  
Cllr Wilby

**Liberal Democrat**

Cllr Colwell

**Labour**

Cllr Rumsby

**Green**

Cllr Rowett

**Independent**

Cllr Moriarty

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**People and Communities Select Committee**

	Total no. of places	Cons	Lib Dem	Labour	Green	Inde	Non - align
<b>Membership - politically balanced</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Conservative**

Cllr Bowes  
Cllr Connolly  
Cllr Dalby  
Cllr Kirk

Cllr Long  
Cllr Whymark  
Vacancy  
Vacancy

**Liberal Democrat**

Cllr Blundell  
Cllr Crofts

**Labour**

Cllr Jones

Cllr Smith-Clare

**Green**

Cllr Neale

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**Joint Scrutiny Committees**

**Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

	<b>Total no. of places</b>	<b>Cons</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Inde</b>	<b>Non - align</b>
<b>Membership - politically balanced</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Conservative**

Cllr Dark

Cllr Bambridge

Cllr Kirk

Cllr R Price

Cllr Savage

Cllr Fran Whymark

**Liberal Democrat**

Cllr Shires

**Labour**

Cllr Jones

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**Norfolk Police and Crime Panel**

	<b>Total no. of places</b>	<b>Cons</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Inde</b>	<b>Non - align</b>
<b>Membership - politically balanced</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

**Conservative**

Cllr G Carpenter

Cllr Dark

Cllr Long

**Substitutes**

Cllr Bills

Cllr Kirk

\*The political group allocations to the Police and Crime Panel are calculated with reference to the requirement for the Panel to be politically balanced based upon the overall political balance of Council seats in Norfolk. The 7 district councils each appoint 1 representative and the County Council makes its 3 appointments to ensure that the overall political balance is achieved.

Changes to the County Council group allocations to the Panel can be confirmed once the results of any District Council elections have been analysed and District Council appointments to the Panel made.

## Regulatory and other Committees

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### Audit and Governance Committee

	Total no. of places	Cons	Lib Dem	Labour	Green	Inde	Non - align
<b>Membership - politically balanced</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

#### **Conservative**

Cllr Kiddle-Morris

Cllr Savage

Cllr White

Cllr Mackie

Cllr Vincent

#### **Liberal Democrat**

Cllr Penfold

#### **Labour**

Cllr Jermy

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### Employment Committee

	Total no. of places	Cons	Lib Dem	Labour	Green	Inde	Non - align
<b>Membership - politically balanced</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

Employment Committee to include Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council and the Leader of the majority opposition group.

#### **Conservative**

Cllr Bill Borrett

Cllr Stuart Dark

Cllr Andrew Jamieson

Cllr Kay Mason Billig

Cllr Smith

#### **Liberal Democrat**

Cllr Watkins

#### **Labour**

Cllr Morphew



## Health and Wellbeing Board

	Total no. of places	Cons	Lib Dem	Labour	Green	Inde	Non - align
<b>Membership – not politically balanced</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### Conservative

Cllr Borrett

Cllr Thomas

Cllr P Carpenter

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## Pensions Committee

	Total no. of places	Cons	Lib Dem	Labour	Green	Inde	Non - align
<b>Membership - politically balanced</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### Conservative

Cllr Judy Oliver

Cllr Richmond

Cllr Storey

### Labour

Cllr Birmingham

### Liberal Democrat

Cllr Watkins

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<b>Local Government Pension Scheme Access Joint Committee</b>	<b>Total no. of places</b>	<b>Cons</b>	<b>Lab</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Inde</b>
<b>Appointee usually Chair of Pensions Committee</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### Conservative

Cllr J Oliver

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## Planning Regulatory Committee

	Total no. of places	Cons	Lib Dem	Labour	Green	Inde	Non - align
<b>Membership - politically balanced</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>

**Conservative**

Cllr Askew  
 Cllr G Carpenter  
 Cllr Dawson  
 Cllr M Kiddle-Morris  
 Cllr Long  
 Cllr Richmond  
 Cllr Storey  
 Cllr White

**Substitutes**

Cllr Annison  
 Cllr Bambridge  
 Cllr Bensly  
 Cllr Bills  
 Cllr Savage

**Liberal Democrat**

Cllr Colwell  
 Cllr S Riley

**Substitutes**

Cllr Aquarone

**Labour**

Cllr Sands

**Substitutes**

Cllr Jones

**Green**

Cllr Neale

**Substitute**

Cllr B Price

**Non-aligned**

Cllr Kemp

**Joint Committees****Norfolk Joint Museums Committee**

	<b>Total no. of places</b>	<b>Cons</b>	<b>Lib Dem</b>	<b>Labour</b>	<b>Green</b>	<b>Inde</b>	<b>Non - align</b>
<b>Membership - politically balanced</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>

**Conservative**

Cllr Adams  
 Cllr Fisher  
 Cllr Vincent

Cllr Bambridge  
 Cllr Savage  
 Cllr Ward

**Liberal Democrat**

Cllr Penfold

**Labour**

Cllr Brociek-Coulton

**Independent**

Cllr Maxfield

## Norfolk Records Committee

	Total no. of places	Cons	Lib Dem	Labour	Green	Inde	Non - align
<b>Membership - politically balanced</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### Conservative

Cllr Chenery of Horsbrugh

Cllr Duigan

### Labour

Cllr Birmingham

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## Council appointed Outside Bodies

<b>Eastern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority</b>	Total no. of places	Cons	Lab	Lib Dem	Green	Inde
<b>Membership</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### Conservative

Cllr Chenery of Horsbrugh

Cllr FitzPatrick (Vice Chair)

### Liberal Democrat

Cllr T Adams

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<b>Planning and Traffic Regulation Outside London Joint Committee (PATROL)</b>	Total no. of places	Cons	Lab	Lib Dem	Green	Inde
<b>Membership Named Substitute</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

### Conservative

Graham Plant

### Substitute

TBC

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# County Council

Item No: 11.1

**Report Title: Adult Social Services Promoting Independence Five Year Strategy**

**Date of Meeting: 07 May 2024**

**Responsible Cabinet Member: Cllr Alison Thomas** (Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care)

**Responsible Director: Debbie Bartlett, Executive Director Adult Social Services.**

## **Executive Summary**

Our Promoting Independence vision and strategy has been effective in driving the overarching goals of Adult Social Services in Norfolk for the last five years and has informed where we need to transform and change.

To continue to improve our services and meet the changing and increasing needs of our residents, we wanted to update this strategy, creating a clear set of goals and ambitions for the next five years.

In May, we informed Members of our plans to engage with and listen to Norfolk residents' experiences of adult social care, to better understand both their expectations of social care and what independence really means for them.

This large-scale public engagement exercise ran over the summer and included face-to-face drop-in events, focus groups, workshops with residents, care providers and colleagues, facilitated panels/meetings, and wide-reaching communications with stakeholders and partners. There was also an online questionnaire that could be completed in all formats and a British Sign Language Video. This paper aims to inform Members of the feedback of this programme of widespread engagement.

This paper sets out how we have used this feedback to update our Promoting Independence strategy, link it to activities within the County Council's Annual Plan and show how we are meeting the objectives of Better Together, for Norfolk.

The outcomes from People and Community Select Committee and Cabinet have been used to update and inform the strategy and as a Policy Framework policy is for endorsement at Full Council.

## **Recommendations / Action Required**

- 1. That Norfolk County Council adopt the refreshed Promoting Independence Adult Social Services Five Year Strategy for Adult Social Care as part of the Policy Framework.**

### **1. Background and Purpose**

- 1.1 Since 2016, we have had a clear vision for Adult Social Services in Norfolk: To support people to be independent, well, and able to deal with life's challenges. This has been supported by our Promoting Independence strategy, with three themes: Benefitting from prevention and early help; Becoming, being and staying independent; and Living with multiple or complex needs.
- 1.2 Adult Social Care has the power to transform lives. It enables people to live life to the full, giving back or maintaining independence and control – things we all want in life. It provides care and support, safeguards for those who most need it, and increasingly supports carers who look after families and friends.
- 1.3 We currently support in excess of 20,000 of Norfolk's residents with their care needs. It is our duty to be ambitious and progressive in how we meet these needs in a sustainable way. If we are not, we risk being overwhelmed by demand in the future. The department has a programme of transformation – Promoting Independence, based around its vision which is “to support people to be independent, resilient and well.” This includes the Connecting Communities Programme that has transformed the way we work and improved outcomes for people in Norfolk.
- 1.4 To continue to improve our services and meet the changing and increasing needs of Norfolk residents, we wanted to update this strategy, creating a clear set of goals and ambitions for the next five years.
- 1.5 Improving our preventative offer is fundamental in our vision to prevent, reduce and delay the need for formal care. This work is supported by the existing Promoting Independence Strategy, and programme of transformation within Adult Social Services.
- 1.6 We started by listening to resident's experiences of adult social care, to better understand their expectations, what independence really means for them, and how our services going forward can help them. To do this, we undertook our biggest public engagement exercise during the summer of 2023.

- 1.7 The Promoting Independence Strategy forms part of the Policy Framework for Norfolk County Council. Reference Part 5 Full Council – section 1.1.d Adult social care strategy ‘Promoting Independence Strategy’ Vision, strategy and priorities;. The strategy will be supported by operational delivery plans and enabling strategies.
- 1.8 As set out in recommendation 1, the Promoting Independence Strategy is to be included as part of the NCC Policy Framework. Adoption of the strategy will therefore require both Full Council approval, and a pre-scrutiny process held in accordance with the procedures and guidance set out in part 11b of the NCC constitution.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Cabinet</b> – endorsement of proposed Strategy, and referral to Full Council via the Scrutiny Committee
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Scrutiny Committee</b> – scrutiny of proposed Strategy.
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Full Council</b> – the Strategy to be put to Full Council for debate and approval. Full Council will also receive a report from the Scrutiny Committee detailing discussions and associated recommendations.

- 1.9 A report setting out the plans to engage and seeking input was presented to People and Communities Select Committee in May 2023. Conversations Matter was launched at the Norfolk Show and took place over summer 2023. A draft of the strategy was taken again to People and Communities Select Committee in January 2024. The proposed strategy was taken to Cabinet, where it was wholly supported and endorsed.
- 1.10 The Promoting Independence Strategy forms part of the NCC Policy Framework. Adoption of the strategy therefore requires that a pre-scrutiny process take place in accordance with the procedures and guidance set out in part 11b of the NCC constitution. This item was considered at the meeting of the Scrutiny Committee held on 24 April 2024. A paper outlining the comments, feedback and recommendations from the Scrutiny Committee is attached at Appendix C (to follow).

## **2. Refresh of the Promoting Independence Strategy**

- 2.1 We have a vision for Adult Social Services in Norfolk: we want to support people to be independent, well, and able to deal with life's challenges.

- 2.2 To achieve our vision, this strategy – Promoting Independence – is shaped by the Care Act which aims to prevent, reduce and delay the demand for social care. This doesn't mean we only provide the statutory minimum for residents. It helps us manage demand, finances, and plan for our long-term future.
- 2.3 Over the past 5 years, we have changed the way we work to improve the services we offer and try to manage increasing demand. This includes growing our workforce, investing in short-term reablement support for people being discharged from hospital or regaining independence after being unwell and investing in technology which helps people stay in their own homes. It includes supporting young learning disabled and autistic adults with to be independent and have the same opportunity as everyone else in society, such as their own home and a paid job, and to offer support to people to recover from long term mental illness. It also includes our two ambitious housing specialist housing programmes.
- 2.4 For the next 5 years, we need to continue working in this way, with a focus on prevention and targeting support to those who most need it but who are less likely to use our services. We will also continue to work closely with our colleagues and partners in the NHS, voluntary sector, as well as care providers and residents, to offer choices for people at all stages of life – disabled people who want to leave the family home, people who want support at home which fits their lives, people who want access to training, learning and employment.
- 2.5 To find out what matters most to people and understand how we can improve our services, we spoke to hundreds of residents and partners from across Norfolk. This strategy has been developed based on that feedback and other inputs such as national policy, key activities identified through the Council's Annual Plan, and departmental plans and strategies, we refreshed the Promoting Independence Strategy in **Appendix A1 and the supporting infographic Appendix A2.**
- 2.6 The Strategy is built around our three core ambitions we wish to focus on as priorities over the next five years. Our priorities are:
- 2.7 **Priority 1** – Benefiting from prevention and early help. Prevention is about supporting residents' health and wellbeing by offering support as soon as possible to avoid them becoming unwell, losing their independence, or needing more care in the future. This priority shows how we help residents stay well and independent in the place they call home.
- 2.8 **Priority 2** - Becoming, being, and staying independent. Independence means something different to everyone and can change based on how they feel, the support they have around them, or the choices available to them.

This priority shows how we are being effective and provide timely support for people to live independently, avoid losing independence, and where possible gain it back.

- 2.9 **Priority 3 – Living with Complex Needs.** Some people may have long-term or severe needs which affect their physical, mental, social, or financial wellbeing. Multiple needs often interact with each other and worsen, making it harder for people to get the help they need. This priority shows how we recognise that some people might need a higher level of support with many aspects of their daily life in the long-term.



### 3. Implementation and reporting the Strategy

- 3.1 We want to launch the strategy following Full Council endorsement with some public events to showcase our services and how the feedback has been used. Also, to thank and include the people and stakeholders who participated in the engagement.
- 3.2 The strategy will be available in multiple formats (including British Sign Language videos, easy read, large print, Braille and different languages).
- 3.3 The Promoting Independence strategy is an important document that sits within the Policy Framework and is a vital document which outlines the priorities of Adult Social Services and will set the strategic direction and priorities of the department for the next five years.
- 3.4 A formal launch of the strategy is planned to take place. The delivery plans and activities that will support the implementation of the ambitions and the objectives of the strategy will be monitored as part of the Adult Social Service performance reviews. This is a five-year strategy and vision and will be supported by through a programme of delivery within the department with consideration to our priorities and resource.



- 3.5 Measuring the success of the implementation of the strategy will be through the operational annual service planning process. Working with our Information and Analytic colleagues to regularly monitor the progress of the Strategy against the high-level outcomes described in the strategy using our ASCOF measures and Vital Signs. Reporting on progress towards the goals of the strategy will form part of the routine cycle of reporting to members.
- 3.6 The strategy will be reviewed in 2029.

## 4. Evidence and Reasons for Decision

- 4.1 The Promoting Independence Strategy sets out the core ambitions of Adult Social Services for the next five years, based on the recognition that helping people live independently allows individuals to live healthier, more fulfilling lives
- 4.2 Adult Social Services has had a long-standing, transformation programme based on its Promoting Independence vision with the focus of that being on Living Well, strengths based social work; housing; enablement model for Learning Disabilities; improving digital efficiency; expanding reablement in the community and for those leaving hospital. We are committed to continuing this work to ensure we provide support to people who need it and reforming our services to meet current and future challenges.
- 4.3 The feedback we received from our engagement was rich and diverse. From the analysis of this, six common themes emerged:

**1) People would like to understand more about the services we provide -**

Some of our residents feel they have a limited understanding of what Adult Social Services is. Advertising and promotion would help to address this, alongside working in partnership with residents and communities. It would be really helpful to some of our service users to have a greater understanding of what our Social Workers do and services they provide.

**2) To ensure information is easy to find.** Information can sometimes feel difficult to find. People would like to know how to access our services. Residents would like information and signposting in different formats and based more in the community. This should include advice on health, community groups, employment and volunteering opportunities, and the services we offer. Residents want to be able to access information and support as early as possible to avoid their issues or concerns getting worse.

**3) Be consistent in the way we communicate with people** - The way we communicate with people is really important. Residents would like clear, consistent and accessible information delivered promptly by empathetic and experienced staff with good listening skills. For people with additional needs this should be available in whatever format they need, including in British Sign Language, Braille, different languages, and easy read.

**4) Some carers said they would like more support in certain areas** - Some carers felt that they would like more support with long-term care and contingency planning, as well as adaptable, flexible and reliable respite services. Some carers struggle with their health and wellbeing and as a service we want to continue to acknowledge and support their well-being.

**5) People with sensory support sometimes feel said they would like more support accessing information** - How we support people who have different communication and support needs (for example D/deaf, deafblind, visually or hearing impaired, autistic people, and people with learning disabilities) is very important and should be equitable and easy to access. We want all our information should be accessible to all communities.

**6) Co-production and engagement should be a priority** - We regularly engage with residents, communities, partners and organisations to help develop and adapt our services. People are eager to get involved to share their ideas and experiences, but they want to know how we use their feedback and what difference this has made.

Encouraging people to help us co-produce our services is a brilliant way of ensuring we are meeting people's needs and expectations. We need to be honest and transparent about what is available and achievable.

## **5. Alternative Options**

- 5.1 The refresh of the Strategy is based on the feedback from Norfolk residents following a significant engagement process. The strategy is focused on continuing to promote independence that improves outcomes for people. No alternative option to this strategy is proposed.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 The ambitions of the strategy are building on the ambitions of Norfolk County Council that focus on improving the outcomes of people in Norfolk. Ensuring that Norfolk residents have access to right type of support at the right time, will not only reduce cost pressures but will improve outcomes for residents in Norfolk. The implementation of the new strategy will be taken forward based on the budget allocation of Adult Social Services Department.

## **7. Resource Implications**

**7.1 Staff:** Support to create the easy read and other formats to be promoted and published.

**7.2 Property: No implications**

**7.3 IT: No implications**

## **8. Other Implications**

**8.1 Legal Implications:** The Promoting Independence strategy is an important document that sits within the Policy Framework that outlines the priorities of Adult Social Services and will set the strategic direction and priorities of the department for the next five years.

**8.2 Human Rights Implications: No implications**

**8.3 Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA):** Public authorities are required by the Equality Act 2010 to give due regard to equality when exercising public functions. This is called the 'Public Sector Equality Duty'. The purpose of an equality impact assessment is to consider the potential impact of a proposed change or issue on people with protected characteristics. If the assessment identifies any detrimental impact, this enables mitigating actions to be developed. The full Equality Impact Assessment is included in **Appendix B**

**8.4 Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA):** Any work undertaken to implement the strategy will be required to comply with the Council's policies, and we will continue to work with our Data Compliance team to ensure good practice in all areas.

**8.5 Health and Safety implications (where appropriate): No implications**

**8.6 Sustainability implications (where appropriate): No implications**

**8.7 Any Other Implications: None**

## **9. Risk Implications / Assessment**

**9.1** The Council is operating in a challenging economic environment. The financial constraints to the budget in Adult Social Care and the difficulties in attracting social work and care staff will challenge the delivery of the Strategy over the coming years.

## 10. Select Committee Comments

- 10.1 A report was taken to People and Communities Select Committee in January 2024 to help shape the strategy following the summer engagement. There was a concern around the shortage of GP's and getting an appointment with a Dr and the lack in care staff this was acknowledged in a complex care and health system and the need to provide a system response and work closely and in partnership with the ICB.
- 10.2 Select Committee felt that the report identified how complex Adult Social Services and Promoting Independence can be. There was a request to make things as plain English and understandable as possible.
- 10.3 Committee were pleased that co-production remained a priority.
- 10.4 Committee emphasised that the Workforce Strategy is really important to ensuring we have enough staff to support our priorities.

## 11. Recommendations

1. That Norfolk County Council adopt the refreshed Promoting Independence Adult Social Services Five Year Strategy for Adult Social Care as part of the Policy Framework.

### Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained within this paper, please get in touch with:

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**Telephone no.: 01603 222319**  
**Email: [claire.sullivan2@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:claire.sullivan2@norfolk.gov.uk)**



If you need this report in large print, audio, braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact 0344 800 8020 or 0344 800 8011 (textphone) and we will do our best to help.

Promoting   
Independence

# Promoting Independence Strategy

## Adult Social Services

Supporting people to be independent,  
well, and able to deal with life's challenges.

**2024 – 2029**



**Norfolk** County Council

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# Introduction.

## Councillor Alison Thomas.

Adult Social Services is vital to supporting people in our community who need a little, or a lot, of help to continue living well and it's a commitment I take very seriously.

At a national level, there are funding challenges and recruitment struggles across the social care workforce. In Norfolk we face a higher ageing population as more young people continue to leave the county.

We must consistently meet the changing needs of our residents, and this strategy outlines how we will meet our vision aimed at, supporting people to be independent, live well and to be able to deal with life's challenges.

In developing this strategy, we spoke to a cross-section of people about what they would like, and need, from Adult Social Services in the coming years. Many also shared their personal experiences and I want to thank each and everyone who took part to help shape our priorities. Your input is invaluable.

Although a lot has already been accomplished, we know there is always more work to be done. This strategy reinforces that people in Norfolk are at the heart of our work, we want to empower them to stay safely and happily in the place they call home for as long as possible, while knowing we are there to provide support and help when they need it most.

Thank you,



**Councillor Alison Thomas**  
Norfolk County Council



# Our county.

Norfolk is home to nearly a million residents living in one of seven districts: Breckland, Broadland, Great Yarmouth, King's Lynn and West Norfolk, North Norfolk, Norwich, and South Norfolk. We have a diverse geography spanning rural, urban, and coastal areas.

Our population is generally older than the rest of the country, with the average life expectancy consistently higher than the national average (around 80 years for men and 84 years for women). But the average number of years Norfolk residents can expect to live in good health is between 63 and 64 years. This means the time we spend in ill health is getting longer. This will increase demand on our health and care services, including how we recruit staff and prepare for the future.

**1 in 4**

residents are over  
65 years old

**Most people over  
the age of 65 live  
in rural areas**

(19% vs 22%  
living in urban areas)

**16%**

of Households live  
in fuel poverty

Our environment is linked to our health across our lifetime. Over 140,000 people live in areas categorised as the most deprived 20% in England. People who live in these areas are more likely to have worse health outcomes, be admitted to hospital in an emergency, and die earlier. Our more affluent areas are often the most rural with the highest number of people over the age of 65, making access to services and support often difficult.

In Norfolk, the day-to-day activities of 1 in 5 people are limited by their health or disability. We have a higher number of people with Dementia than the rest of England, which is expected to increase by 25% by 2030. Ongoing care and support needs often mean people need help with everyday living, such as personal care, and their families need support too.

Much of the care and support provided is by unpaid carers, families and friends. There are 114,000 carers across Norfolk who provide unpaid care and support for a friend or family member who cannot cope without their support, due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or an addiction. People who look after friends and family can often be struggling with their own health needs, working commitments, and personal lives and part of our work will be to look at how we can provide people with more support.

By 2024  
our population is expected  
to grow by about

**116,500 people**

Largest growth is  
expected in older age  
groups, with those aged  
65+ increasing by

**95,000**

**33%**

of residents are disabled or  
have work-limiting disability,  
compared to 29% in England



# Adult Social Services in Norfolk.

**Norfolk is a fantastic county in which to work, live and grow old, but we also know there are significant challenges.**

To meet the aspirations and needs of our residents, our aim and ambition is to create a service that is fit for the future - one that is focused on prevention and early help, rather than one that responds to demand and crisis. Our goal is to offer a service that our residents deserve and, by working together, we will achieve it.

Over the past 5 years, we have seen more people coming to us for support. This includes people living at home and people discharged from hospital who need support to be able to continue to live independently.

We have changed the way we work to improve the services we offer and to manage increasing demand. This includes growing our workforce, investing in short-term reablement support for people leaving hospital or who need to regain independence after being unwell, and investing in technology which helps people stay in their own homes.

It also includes supporting young disabled and autistic adults to be independent and have the same opportunities as everyone else in society, such as their own home and a paid job, and to offer support to people to recover from long term mental illness.

We have not been able to keep pace with the increase in people asking for help, and many people are having to wait too long for us to assess their needs and find the right support.

Pressures in the NHS also mean more demand for Adult Social Care, as people need to be discharged from hospital safely. With over 1,400 vacancies in our care sector and care providers struggling to recruit, there is less care available for people. People who receive care and support in residential and nursing homes need higher levels of care, with staff needing more skills and training to provide good quality, safe care. We know that care quality is an issue in Norfolk, with only 71% of care providers rated as 'good' or 'outstanding' by the Care Quality Commission.

Over the next few years, we estimate that people over 75-years-old will need around 15,000 residential and nursing beds and more than 6,000 specialist housing units. We want to develop more appropriate housing options that promote independence and shape the market to increase provision of nursing and enhanced residential care.

We are seeing an increase in demand for services alongside a challenging financial environment. Therefore, we must be ambitious and forward-looking in how we meet these needs in a sustainable way. If not, we risk being overwhelmed by demand in the future.

# Better Together, for Norfolk.

This Promoting Independence strategy is at the core of Norfolk County Council's strategic plan – 'Better Together, for Norfolk.' This ambitious plan aims for the county to be a place where we put people first and where everyone works together to create a better place to live.

## The vision for Better Together, for Norfolk

In Norfolk, we cherish our heritage, we embrace opportunity, and offer an extraordinary place in which to spend a lifetime.

1. We want Norfolk to be the place where everyone can start life well, live well and age well, and where no one is left behind.
2. We want our economy to be vibrant, entrepreneurial and sustainable, supported by the right jobs, skills, training and infrastructure.
3. We want our communities to feel safe, healthy, empowered and connected, their individual distinctiveness respected and preserved.

## Our vision is underpinned by 5 key priorities to enable:

- A vibrant and sustainable economy
- Better opportunities for children and young people
- Healthy, fulfilling and independent lives
- Strong, engaged and inclusive communities
- A greener, more resilient future

To support people to be independent, well, and able to deal with life's challenges, we need to work across the whole council and with our partners in the community. By improving educational outcomes, growing skills, helping to create good quality jobs, and putting in place affordable housing and the appropriate infrastructure, we will improve the life-chances of our residents and strengthen our economy.

This is why the Promoting Independence strategy is so important to the whole of Norfolk County Council and shaping how we work together.



# Promoting Independence: Our vision for Norfolk.

**We have an important vision for Adult Social Services in Norfolk: we want to support people to be independent, well, and able to deal with life's challenges.**

To achieve our vision, this strategy – Promoting Independence – is shaped by the Care Act, which aims to prevent, reduce and delay the demand for social care. This means we don't just provide the statutory minimum for our residents; we also continuously look for ways to support people before they face a crisis.

Our strategy outlines our choices of how we will do that into the future, based on what you have told us is important. And through those choices, this strategy will also help us manage the demand for our services, our finances, and plan for our long-term future.

Over the past 5 years, we have changed the way we work to meet the growing demand for our services, and also to improve those services we offer. We have done this by growing our workforce and improving our skills, by investing in short-term support for people leaving hospital or who have been unwell, and by using technology to help people stay in their own homes.

For the next 5 years, we will continue working in this way, focusing more on prevention and targeting support to those who most need it but who are less likely to use our services. We will also continue to work closely with our colleagues and partners in the NHS, the voluntary sector, care providers and residents to offer choices for people at all stages of life – disabled people who want to leave the family home, people who want access to training, learning and employment and people who want support at home which fits their lives.

We have spoken to hundreds of residents and partners from across Norfolk to find out what matters most to them and to understand how we can improve our services. This strategy has been developed based on that feedback and what people in Norfolk have told us.





# What the people of Norfolk told us.

## **People would like to understand more about the services we provide.**

Some of our residents feel they have a limited understanding of what Adult Social Services is. Advertising and promotion would help to address this, alongside working in partnership with residents and communities. It would be really helpful to some of our service users to have a greater understanding of what our Social Workers do and the services they provide.

## **To ensure information is easy to find.**

Information can sometimes feel difficult to find. People would like to know how to access our services. Residents would like information and signposting in different formats and based more in the community. This should include advice on health, community groups, employment and volunteering opportunities, and the services we offer. Residents want to be able to access information and support as early as possible to avoid their issues or concerns getting worse.

## **Be consistent in the way we communicate with people.**

The way we communicate with people is really important. Residents would like clear, consistent and accessible information delivered promptly by empathetic and experienced staff with good listening skills. For people with additional needs this should be available in whatever format they need, including in British Sign Language, Braille, different languages, and easy read.

## **People who look after friends and family said they would like more support in some areas.**

Some people felt that they would like more support with long-term care and contingency planning, as well as adaptable, flexible and reliable respite services. Some people who look after friends and family struggle with their health and wellbeing. We want to continue to acknowledge and support their well-being.

## **People with sensory support sometimes feel that they would like more support accessing information.**

How we support people who have different communication and support needs (for example D/deaf, deafblind, visually or hearing impaired, autistic people, and people with learning disabilities) is very important and should be equitable and easy to access. We want all our information to be accessible to all communities.

## **Co-production and engagement should continue be a priority.**

We regularly engage with residents, communities, partners and organisations to help develop and adapt our services. People are eager to get involved to share their ideas and experiences, but they want to know how we use their feedback and what difference this has made.

**Encouraging people to help us co-produce our services is a brilliant way of ensuring we are meeting people's needs and expectations. We need to be honest and transparent about what is available and achievable and work within our Real Care Deal.**

# Promoting Independence: Our strategy for Norfolk.

From what residents told us, we have updated our priorities and what we think you should expect from Adult Social Services in Norfolk over the next five years. We want to be ambitious and transform the way we deliver our services.

Our priorities are:

## Benefiting from prevention and early help

- How we help people stay well and independent in the place they call home.

## Becoming, being, and staying independent

- How we are effective and provide support for people to live independently, avoid losing independence, and where possible gain it back.

## Living with multiple and complex needs

- How we recognise that some people might need a higher level of support with many aspects of their daily life in the long-term.



# Benefiting from prevention and early help.

**Prevention is about supporting residents' health and wellbeing by offering support as soon as possible to avoid them becoming unwell, losing their independence, or needing more care in the future.**

This priority shows how we help residents stay well and independent in the place they call home.

## What you can expect from us

Easy to find information about your health and wellbeing, finances, employment, and housing, to help you plan for your future. These will be in a range of styles and formats, including British Sign Language and Braille, with clear ways you can use our services

Targeted advice for the most vulnerable and isolated

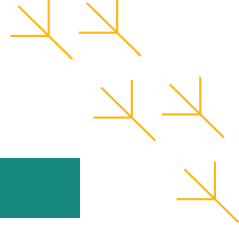
Finding people who may benefit from early help, through community hubs and spaces

Connections to a range of help and support which encourages your independence and offers you choice – everything from gardening to residential care, volunteering or a buddy

If you have a disability, help to find housing, social activities, and employment by listening to you and working with you, your family, and carer

Carers to have identification and support to improve your health and wellbeing, access assessments, and help you plan for your future

People who look after friends and family are able to plan for the long-term with flexible support and a focus on their needs and those of the person you support.



## What we are going to do

Improve information and advice to make it more user-friendly and accessible, helping people to navigate the care system and understand the options available to them

Trial new ways of working with technology and assistive technology to enable staff to use their time more efficiently

Proactively reach out to people who might benefit from assistive technology

Provide digital self-service processes, providing help and support for those who are digitally excluded

Making information and advice easier to access and simpler to use so carers can find out about information available

Understand the Carer experience and make sure our practice reflects that  
Improve our website to ensure the right information is available for people when they need it most including self-assessment

Support young disabled and autistic adults to be independent and have the same opportunities as everyone else in society, such as their own home and a paid job

## How we will know we are successful

Residents know what services we offer, how they can access them and contact us when they need to

Our information and advice is easy to find and available in the way that is needed, when it is needed, to avoid issues or concerns getting worse

Our website reflects new ways of working and has clear and simple guides on how to complete self-assessments and supported self-assessment

Practitioners feel they use their time most efficiently to provide the best service to those who need it most at the time they need it

Increased number of people receiving Care Act assessments with reduced delays in the assessment and review processes

People who look after friends and family will feel supported by Norfolk County Council and will feel supported to tell us how they feel.

# Becoming, being, and staying independent.

**Independence means something different to everyone and can change based on how they feel, the support they have around them, or the choices available to them.**

This priority shows how we are being effective and provide timely support for people to live independently, avoid losing independence, and where possible gain it back.

## What you can expect from us

A range of housing options, including for younger people, to help prepare you for living independently, or whatever solution best meets your needs, and helping you understand what is available

Community and voluntary groups who can keep you connected to people and find you support.

Help for you to re-gain confidence and independence after a fall or being ill

Types of adaptations, technology and equipment for people who want to stay in their own home but who need a little extra help— like handrails or community alarms

Help in your home which is planned with a focus on you and your needs  
Support to live independently, including managing money and cooking, finding activities and support to go out and about, including from voluntary and community services

Support for carer's health, wellbeing, and lives, including putting in support so you can go to medical appointments, work and socialise

Clear information about carer's rights and what services are available to you locally, including linking young carers to employment and education support





## What we are going to do

Create flexible and diverse ways to use community resources to personalise care

Ensure consistent access to care and support across the county

Work alongside our voluntary partners to utilise and promote services, build their resilience, and support local communities

Implement and expand proactive interventions using digital technology to support people to stay independent for longer

Build on our Independent Living and Supported Living Housing Programmes

Listen to what people who look after friends and family need from us and give our practitioners the tools and information they need to support them

Provide reablement services to ensure people get the right support in their own homes to support them be more independent

Develop more appropriate housing options that promote independence and shape the market to increase provision of nursing and enhanced residential care

## How we will know we are successful

Reduced number of permanent admissions to residential and nursing care, and those who need long-term care

Where needed, an increased number of enhanced residential and nursing care beds available across the county

Feedback will tell us where we need to improve services and where we are performing well

People feel supported by Adult Social Services and feel they get the right support at the right time

People in all areas of the county have timely access to home care housing that promotes independent living options

# Living with multiple or complex needs.

Some people may have long-term or severe needs which affect their physical, mental, social, or financial wellbeing. Multiple needs often interact with each other and worsen, making it harder for people to get the help they need.

This priority shows how we recognise that some people might need a higher level of support with many aspects of their daily life in the long-term.

## What you can expect from us

Support to organise and arrange your care, including employing personal assistants and helping you with funding if you are eligible

More availability of specially adapted and accessible homes  
– with care and support nearby

Trained staff who listen to you, your family and support network, and build a plan around your needs

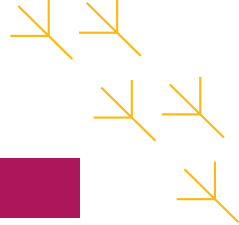
Someone to help you express your views and what matters to you if you need support

A funding process which is easy to understand and clear

Access to, and choice of, good quality and appropriate residential, nursing, home, day, and respite care

Reliable, suitable, and flexible respite for you and the person you care for, so you can have a break and attend appointments or support groups

Early and flexible emergency and long-term planning and support to prevent crisis



## What we are going to do

Continue to identify how we can improve quality and performance in our services

Support the care market and care providers to improve the quality and availability of care, and take action when failures arise

Proactively find ways to provide services where there are gaps  
(day services, hub support, respite facilities)

Expand the opportunities available for respite

Support an increase in good quality nursing and enhanced residential care provision in areas where it is needed

Improving access to information so it is clear, in different formats and understandable in particular around funding and eligibility

Improving access to information so it is clear, in different formats and understandable in particular around funding and eligibility

## How we will know we are successful

People who use our services, their family, and carers are the focus of their care planning, both in an emergency and the long-term

Reduced waiting list numbers

Residents feel that they have choices and are supported to make decisions

Overall satisfaction of people who use our services

An increased number of care providers rated good or outstanding

Providers feel we engage with them and that their voices are heard

# Framework for Success.

Every year we measure how well our services meet the needs of our residents by using a set of national standards. These are called the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF). The ASCOF sets outcomes-based priorities for care and support, focused on key objectives for people who use Adult Social Services.

We will also use Vital Signs and other tailored measures to help us measure success.



# Benefiting from prevention and early help.

What are we going to do	Measurement of success
Residents know what services we offer, how they can access them and contact us when they need to	▶ ASCOF Measure 3C: the proportion of people and carers who use services who have found it easy to find information about services and/or support
Our information and advice is easy to find and available in the way that is needed, when it is needed, to avoid issues or concerns getting worse	▶ ASCOF Measure 3C: the proportion of people and carers who use services who have found it easy to find information about services and/or support
Our website reflects new ways of working and has clear and simple guides on how to complete self-assessments and supported self-assessment	▶ ASCOF Measure 3C: the proportion of people and carers who use services who have found it easy to find information about services and/or support
Practitioners feel they use their time most efficiently to provide the best service to those who need it most at the time they need it	▶ Measured through Norfolk County Council's Annual Staff Survey Vital Sign: Timeliness of risk management within the holding list Measure: Percentage of new people waiting for an assessment for more than three weeks
Increased number of people receiving Care Act assessments with reduced delays in the assessment and review processes	▶ ASCOF Measures 1E: overall satisfaction of carers with social services (for them and for the person they care for)
People who look after friends and family will feel supported by Norfolk County Council and will feel supported to tell us how they feel	▶ ASCOF Measure 3B: the proportion of carers who report that they have been involved in discussions about the person they care for

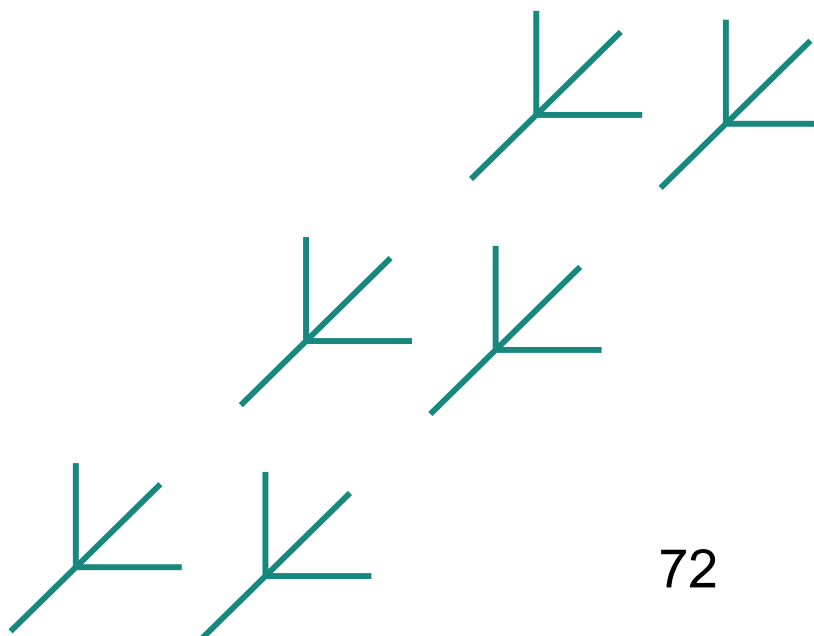
# Becoming, being, and staying independent.

What are we going to do	Measurement of success
Reduced number of permanent admissions to residential and nursing care, and those who need long-term care	▶ ASCOF Measure 2C: the number of adults aged 65 and over whose long-term support needs are met by admission to residential and nursing care homes (per 100,000 population)
Where needed, an increased number of enhanced residential and nursing care beds available across the county	▶ Measure: Number of enhanced residential and nursing beds in the county
Feedback will tell us where we need to improve services and where we are performing well	▶ ASCOF measure 1D: overall satisfaction of people who use services with their care and support
People feel supported by Adult Social Services and feel they get the right support at the right time	▶ ASCOF Measure 4A: the proportion of people who use services who feel safe ASCOF measure 1D: overall satisfaction of people who use services with their care and support
People in all areas of the county have timely access to home care	▶ Measure: Number of people on the Interim Care List
Housing that promotes independent living options	▶ ASCOF Measure 3A: the proportion of people who use services who report having control over their daily life Measure in development: number of people in independent living options

# Living with Multiple or Complex Needs.

What are we going to do	Measurement of success
People who use our services, their family and carers are the focus of their care planning, both in an emergency and the long-term	Vital Sign: Maximised independence for those who draw on services
Reduced waiting list numbers	Vital Sign: Timeliness of risk management within the holding list
Residents feel that they have choices and are supported to make decisions	ASCOF Measure 3A: the proportion of people who use services who report having control over their daily life
Overall satisfaction of people who use our services	ASCOF Measure 3A: Overall satisfaction of people who use services with their care and support
An increased number of care providers rated good or outstanding	Vital Sign: Quality of the market
Providers feel we engage with them and that their voices are heard	Measure: Feedback to be gathered via NORCA

# Promoting Independence







## What we did

We spoke to hundreds of people about adult social care, what independence means to them and how we can best support them.

We asked people what they thought about our three strategic themes: prevention and early help; being and staying independent for longer and supporting people living with complex needs.

*"To be independent is to be able to live your life well in the community or in residential care."*

## How many responded



**359** people answered our survey



**21** focus groups were run by our partners, with more than **120** participants



We held **20** face to face events



We had **86** postcard responses

## Who responded



Most were women and white British



**41%** had a disability or health issue



A **quarter** were carers



Almost half (**47%**) were aged 55-57

## What we found



Most people (more than **80%**) agreed with our vision and three strategic themes.

[Independence means] *"living my life like everybody else, making my own decisions and choices, only asking for help when needed."*

## To achieve our vision, people said we needed to:

- ensure we have enough adequately paid and trained carers and staff
- support access to the wide range of services people need
- ensure funding is in place to pay for services/care
- improve signposting
- improve communication
- ensure NCC is run efficiently and empathetically
- Improve the type of housing available

*"Hopeful"* - the word used most frequently to describe the vision and themes.



# Equality impact assessment (EqIA) template

## 1. Title of EqIA

Promoting Independence Adult Social Services Strategy

## 2. What is the aim of the proposal? (max. 250 words)

Since 2016, we have had a clear vision for Adult Social Services in Norfolk to support people to be independent, well, and able to deal with life's challenges. This has been supported by our Promoting Independence strategy, with three themes: Benefitting from prevention and early help; Becoming, being and staying independent; and Living with multiple or complex needs.

Adult Social Care has the power to transform lives. It enables people to live life to the full, giving back or maintaining independence and control – things we all want in life. It provides care and support, safeguards for those who most need it, and increasingly supports carers who look after families and friends.

We currently support in excess of 20,000 of Norfolk's residents with their care needs. It is our duty to be ambitious and progressive in how we meet these needs in a sustainable way. If we are not, we risk being overwhelmed by demand in the future.

The department has a programme of transformation – Promoting Independence, based around its vision which is “to support people to be independent, resilient and well.” This includes the Connecting Communities Programme that has transformed the way we work and improved outcomes for people in Norfolk.

To continue to improve our services and meet the changing and increasing needs of Norfolk residents, we wanted to update this strategy, creating a clear set of goals and ambitions for the next five years.

Improving our preventative offer is fundamental in our vision to prevent, reduce and delay the need for formal care. This work is supported by the existing Promoting Independence Strategy, and programme of transformation within Adult Social Services.

We started by listening to resident's experiences of adult social care, to better understand their expectations, what independence really means for them, and how our services going forward can help them. To do this, we undertook our biggest public engagement exercise during the summer of 2023.

The outcome of this engagement exercise was to refresh our Promoting Independence Strategy for Norfolk.

### 3. Context to the proposal

The Promoting Independence Strategy forms part of the Policy Framework for Norfolk County Council. Reference Part 5 Full Council – section 1.1.d Adult social care strategy ‘Promoting Independence Strategy’ Vision, strategy and priorities’

### 4. Who will the proposal impact on?

☐ Everyone in Norfolk

☒ A particular group or cohort of people - please state who they are:

[Adults in Norfolk who may already use Adult Social Services or may do in the future](#)

☐ Employees

☐ External organisations

☐ Other - Please state if anyone else will be affected:

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

### 5. The numbers of people affected

Over the past year, we have:

- Spent £1.5 million per day on care services for adults, where we have:
- Received 137,000 requests for support with care.
- Reduced our backlog of people awaiting full care following hospital by 93%
- Supported 11,000 people home from hospital

**More people have come to us for help** – Between Jan 2022 and Jan 2023 – we have 113,000 contacts. In the same 12-month period in 2023, that rose to 137,000

**We have supported more people** – In January 2023 we had just under 14,000 people we were supporting with services. In January 2024, that figure stood at over 18,000.

## 6. The demographic profile of the people affected

### Population estimates by age, 2021 and 2043



### Population aged 65 and over, projected to 2024

Population aged 65 and over, projected to 2024	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Norfolk: People aged 65-69	56,300	56,600	57,400	58,300	59,500
Norfolk: People aged 70-74	62,000	61,800	58,100	56,300	55,700
Norfolk: People aged 75-79	44,600	47,300	52,600	55,100	55,900
Norfolk: People aged 80-84	31,700	31,700	32,300	33,500	35,400
Norfolk: People aged 85-89	19,800	20,200	20,700	21,400	21,900
Norfolk: People aged 90 and over	11,700	11,900	12,200	12,300	12,500
<b>Norfolk: Total population 65 and over</b>	<b>226,100</b>	<b>229,500</b>	<b>233,300</b>	<b>236,900</b>	<b>240,900</b>

## 7. Evidence gathering

Please tick all the statements that apply.

If the proposal goes ahead:

- ☒ It will help to deliver our [Council vision and strategy](#).

**If you cannot tick this**, please explain why: [Click or tap here to enter text](#).

- ☒ Service users will not experience any reductions in the quality, standards, or level of services or benefits they **currently** receive.

**If you cannot tick this**, please explain why: [Click or tap here to enter text](#).

- ☒ Service users who currently receive a service or benefit will continue to do so. Something will not be taken away from them which they have previously had access to.

**If you cannot tick this**, please explain why: [Click or tap here to enter text](#).

- ☒ No changes are proposed to eligibility criteria for services or benefits.

**If you cannot tick this**, please explain why: [Click or tap here to enter text](#).

- ☒ The proposal will not change how service users experience existing services or benefits – e.g., opening hours or travel arrangements.

**If you cannot tick this**, please explain why: [Click or tap here to enter text](#).

- ☒ The proposal will not lead to new or increased costs for service users or employees.

**If you cannot tick this**, please explain why: [Click or tap here to enter text](#).

- ☒ There will be no changes to staffing structures or staff terms or conditions.

**If you cannot tick this**, please explain why: [Click or tap here to enter text](#).

- ☒ If we consult on the proposal, this will be accessible for disabled people. We will include people with different protected characteristics.

**If you cannot tick this**, please explain why: [Click or tap here to enter text](#).

## 8. Potential impact for each protected characteristic

### 8.1. People of different ages

- Will the proposal unintentionally disadvantage people of different ages – or will it promote equality and ease of access? [The strategy supports people of different ages in Norfolk through the vision to support people be as independent as possible. The strategy will be supported by a number of](#)

delivery plans, projects and programmes and in turn these will undertake individual EQIA's to understand the impact any changes to services may have on service users.

## **8.2. Disabled people**

- Will the proposal unintentionally disadvantage disabled people – or will it promote equality and ease of access? The strategy supports disabled people be as independent as possible. The strategy will be supported by a number of delivery plans, projects and programmes and in turn these will undertake individual EQIA's to understand the impact any changes to services may have on service users

## **8.3. People from different ethnic groups**

- Will the proposal unintentionally disadvantage people from different ethnic groups – or will it promote equality and ease of access? The strategy supports people from different ethnic groups in Norfolk through the vision to support people be as independent as possible. Work is ongoing to understand how we can ensure our services are equitable and all voices are heard when we ask for feedback. The strategy will be supported by a number of delivery plans, projects and programmes and in turn these will undertake individual EQIA's to understand the impact any changes to services may have on service users

## **8.4. People with different sexual orientations**

- Will the proposal unintentionally disadvantage people with different sexual orientations – or will it promote equality and ease of access? The strategy supports people with different sexual orientation in Norfolk through the vision to support people be as independent as possible. The strategy will be supported by a number of delivery plans, projects and programmes and in turn these will undertake individual EQIA's to understand the impact any changes to services may have on service users. As part of the evidence gathering for the strategy officers attended Norwich Pride and Kings Lynn's Pride to speak to people about their experiences of Social Care in Norfolk.

## **8.5. Women and men**

- Will the proposal unintentionally disadvantage women or men – or will it promote equality and ease of access? The strategy supports women and men in Norfolk through the vision to support people be as independent as possible. The strategy will be supported by a number of delivery plans, projects and programmes and in turn these will undertake individual EQIA's to understand the impact any changes to services may have on service users

## **8.6. Non-binary, gender-fluid and transgender people**

- Will the proposal unintentionally disadvantage non-binary, gender fluid or transgender people – or will it promote equality and ease of access? The strategy supports non-binary, gender fluid and transgender people in Norfolk through the vision to support people be as independent as possible. The strategy will be supported by a number of delivery plans, projects and programmes and in turn these will undertake individual EQIA's to understand the impact any changes to services may have on service users

## **8.7. People with different religions and beliefs**

- Will the proposal unintentionally disadvantage people with different religions and beliefs – or will it promote equality and ease of access? The strategy supports people with different religions and beliefs in Norfolk through the vision to support people be as independent as possible. The strategy will be supported by a number of delivery plans, projects and programmes and in turn these will undertake individual EQIA's to understand the impact any changes to services may have on service users

## **8.8. People from the armed forces, their families, and veterans**

- Will the proposal unintentionally disadvantage people from the armed forces, their families, and veterans, or will it promote equality and ease of access? The strategy supports people from the armed forces, their families and veterans in Norfolk through the vision to support people be as independent as possible. The strategy will be supported by a number of delivery plans, projects and programmes and in turn these will undertake individual EQIA's to understand the impact any changes to services may have on service users. We will continue to strive to work with veterans and all groups to understand how we can continue to improve our services and meet the needs of everyone who needs us.

## **9. Additional information**

We have a vision for Adult Social Services in Norfolk: we want to support people to be independent, well, and able to deal with life's challenges.

To achieve our vision, this strategy – Promoting Independence – is shaped by the Care Act which aims to prevent, reduce and delay the demand for social care. This doesn't mean we only provide the statutory minimum for residents. It helps us manage demand, finances, and plan for our long-term future.

Over the past 5 years, we have changed the way we work to improve the services we offer and try to manage increasing demand. This includes growing our workforce, investing in short-term reablement support for people being discharged from hospital or regaining independence after being unwell and investing in technology which helps people stay in their own homes. It



includes supporting young learning disabled and autistic adults with to be independent and have the same opportunity as everyone else in society, such as their own home and a paid job, and to offer support to people to recover from long term mental illness. It also includes our two ambitious housing specialist housing programmes.

For the next 5 years, we need to continue working in this way, with a focus on prevention and targeting support to those who most need it but who are less likely to use our services. We will also continue to work closely with our colleagues and partners in the NHS, voluntary sector, as well as care providers and residents, to offer choices for people at all stages of life – disabled people who want to leave the family home, people who want support at home which fits their lives, people who want access to training, learning and employment.

To find out what matters most to people and understand how we can improve our services, we spoke to hundreds of residents and partners from across Norfolk. This strategy has been developed based on that feedback and other inputs such as national policy, key activities identified through the Council's Annual Plan, and departmental plans and strategies.

The Strategy is built around our three core ambitions we wish to focus on as priorities over the next five years. Our priorities are:

**Priority 1 – Benefiting from prevention and early help.** Prevention is about supporting residents' health and wellbeing by offering support as soon as possible to avoid them becoming unwell, losing their independence, or needing more care in the future. This priority shows how we help residents stay well and independent in the place they call home.

**Priority 2 - Becoming, being, and staying independent.** Independence means something different to everyone and can change based on how they feel, the support they have around them, or the choices available to them. This priority shows how we are being effective and provide timely support for people to live independently, avoid losing independence, and where possible gain it back.

**Priority 3 – Living with Complex Needs.** Some people may have long-term or severe needs which affect their physical, mental, social, or financial wellbeing. Multiple needs often interact with each other and worsen, making it harder for people to get the help they need. This priority shows how we recognise that some people might need a higher level of support with many aspects of their daily life in the long-term.



## 10. Mitigating actions / reasonable adjustments

No.	Action	Lead	Date (dd/mm/yy)
1.	If, during implementation of this proposal, a detrimental impact emerges that it was not possible to predict at the time of conducting this assessment, this to be reported to the decision maker, to enable the decision maker to give due regard to equality before proceeding further.	Senior manager with overall responsibility for the implementation	Debbie Bartlett
2.	HR to continue to monitor whether staff with protected characteristics are disproportionately represented in redundancy or redeployment figures. If any disproportionality arises, this is to be reported to .....	Senior manager with overall responsibility for the implementation	Debbie Bartlett

## 11. Conclusion

**This proposal is assessed to have the following impact:**

- ☒ **Positive** impact on people with protected characteristics.
- ☐ **Detrimental** impact on people with protected characteristics that can be mitigated.
- ☐ **Detrimental** impact on people with protected characteristics that cannot be fully mitigated.
- ☐ **Positive and detrimental** impacts on people with protected characteristics.
- ☐ **No impacts** on people with protected characteristics.

## 12. Advice for the decision-maker responsible for this proposal

- **Please explain here** (if applicable) why it may be necessary to go ahead with the proposal, even if it could have a detrimental impact on some people: [Click or tap here to enter text or mark as not applicable.](#)

### 13. Evidence used to inform this assessment

Select all that apply:

- ☐ [Norfolk population data](#) (provide links to any population data you draw upon, e.g. [Norfolk's Story](#)):

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

- ☒ Data about existing or future service users - please state:

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

- ☐ Data about the workforce - please state:

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

- ☐ Legislation - please state:

[Care Act](#)

- ☒ National/local research - please state:

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

- ☐ Consultation (Tip: Please provide details of any consultation)

Remember - if a proposal constitutes a change to an existing service or benefit or a removal of an existing service or benefit those affected may have a 'legitimate expectation' to be consulted.

[Conversations Matters Summer Engagement](#)

- ☐ Consultancy - please state:

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

- ☐ Advice from in-house/external experts - please state:

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

- ☐ Other - please state:

[Click or tap here to enter text.](#)

### 14. Administrative information

**Author** (name and job title): [Claire Sullivan, Strategy, Engagement and Co-Production Manager Adult Social Services.](#)

**Decision-maker** (e.g., Full Council, a committee, elected member, working group or officer with delegated responsibility): [Full Council](#)

**EqlA start date:** [08/04/2024](#)

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## 15. Annex 1

Examples of common barriers that people with protected characteristics may face when accessing services or employment:

### People of different ages

Older and younger people may experience discrimination or negative beliefs that restrict their professional or social opportunities.

Both older and younger people are likely to be on lower incomes.

Older age is associated with lower use of digital technology and an increased likelihood of disability or long-term limiting health conditions.

### Disabled people

Disabled people face barriers to physical environments, information, and communication (as sometimes do people with other protected characteristics).

The nature of these barriers varies tremendously depending upon the nature of someone's disability. It is important to carefully consider the barriers faced by people with physical or mobility impairments; people who are blind or D/deaf; people with learning disabilities; people who are neurodiverse; people with mental health issues or people with a combination of impairments or long-term health conditions.

Disabled people are more likely to experience reduced lifelong outcomes compared to non-disabled people in relation to education, employment, health and housing and barriers to social, sport, leisure, and transport opportunities.

Disabled people may be under-represented in some services; public life; the workforce and participation. They may be more likely to be on a lower income, experience discrimination, hate incidents and social isolation.

### People from different ethnic groups

People from some ethnic minority groups (which includes Gypsies, Roma, and Travellers) experience reduced lifelong outcomes compared to White British people and they may be less likely to do well in education, employment and health, and experience barriers in housing, sport, and leisure opportunities.

People from some ethnic minority groups may be under-represented in some services; public life; the workforce; participation; or over-represented (e.g., in criminal justice). They may be more likely to be on a lower income, experience hate incidents and cultural stereotyping.

People from some ethnic groups (for example Gypsies and Travellers) may have low literacy skills or may not access public sector websites.

## **People with different sexual orientations**

Consider how you will provide welcoming spaces for people of all sexual orientations.

Some public services assume that heterosexuality is the 'norm'. For example, heterosexual couples are usually presented in marketing materials but rarely lesbian or gay couples.

People with different sexual orientations may experience barriers to some services and workforce opportunities, discrimination and hate incidents.

## **Women and men**

Women and men experience different lifelong outcomes - e.g., they may have different experiences or be treated differently in education, employment, health, housing, social, sport and leisure opportunities.

Women may experience different life stages to men – e.g., pregnancy, maternity, menopause which can impact them in many ways. Women and men may have different experiences of caring or parenting.

Women and men may be under or over-represented in some services; public life; the workforce, consultation, and participation. They may experience sex discrimination or barriers to accessing support services.

## **Non-binary, gender-fluid and transgender people**

Consider how you will provide welcoming spaces that recognise gender diversity (unless you are categorised as a [separate or single-sex service](#)).

Check whether your business systems can record a person's sex if the person does not identify as 'female' or 'male', and whether you can meet the needs of non-binary, gender-fluid and trans people.

People who are non-binary, gender fluid or trans may be under-represented in public life and participation. They may experience barriers to some services and workforce opportunities, discrimination and hate incidents.

Remember that some transgender people do not identify as 'trans' – they may identify as 'female', 'male' or non-binary.

## **People with different religions and beliefs**

Consider how you will provide welcoming spaces for people with different religions and beliefs.

This includes being aware of prayer times, festivals, and cultural practices, where this is appropriate.

“Belief” can refer to an individual’s philosophical beliefs where these are genuinely held and fundamentally shape the way a person chooses to live their life - for example ethical veganism may be a protected belief.

Measures to promote inclusion for people with different beliefs should not impact on the rights of others – e.g., the rights of women or gay people.

People with different religions or beliefs may face barriers to some services; public life; participation and workforce opportunities. They may experience discrimination and hate incidents.

## **People from the armed forces, their families, and veterans**

People from the armed forces, whether serving, their spouse, partner, family, or a veteran, experience a range of barriers to accessing public services – due to the unique obligations and sacrifices of their role.

This includes being regularly posted to different locations; separation; service law and rights; unfamiliarity with civilian life; hours of work and stress.

### Notice of Motions

Notice of the following motions has been given in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules:

1.	<p><b>Conservative Group Motion</b>  <b>A New Dental School for Norfolk</b>  <b>Proposer: TBA</b>  <b>Seconder: TBA</b></p> <p>The number of dentists with NHS activity in Norfolk has declined significantly in the last ten years and access to NHS dentistry services for our residents continues to be a high concern for our County.</p> <p>The recently announced Government plan for dentistry will make dental services faster by supporting dentists to take on new patients and provide incentives to serve under-served areas; making it simpler for patients, by tackling bureaucracy and ensuring dental staff have more time to see patients, and fairer, particularly for our rural and coastal communities, by introducing dental vans to bring care to our most isolated communities. However, more needs to be done.</p> <p>The Dental Recovery Plan includes the opportunity for new dental schools in England to help secure the future supply of dentists and dental practitioners the residents of Norfolk greatly need. As we recognise the enormous benefits that such a facility could bring to Norfolk, in terms of providing both training for dental professionals and much needed dentistry services to the local population, this Council joins the University of East Anglia in its desire to establish a dental school in the County.</p> <p>This Council asks the Leader to lobby the Government, following our discussions with Andrea Leadsom MP on her recent visit to our County, to help secure this facility, highlighting the benefits of this for our County and the region.</p>
2.	<p><b>Liberal Democrat Group Motion</b>  <b>National Body for SEND</b>  <b>Proposer: Cllr John Crofts</b>  <b>Seconder: TBA</b></p> <p>Special educational needs and disabilities provision (SEND) is facing a crisis, not just in East Anglia, but nationally. Parents of children with SEND face a postcode lottery when attempting to secure the provision required for their children to attain their full educational potential.</p> <p>Nationally, local authorities are playing catch up to achieve the statutory 20-week turnover for EHCPs. Latest figures in 2022 showed that only 49.2% of children received their plans within 20 weeks of assessment, this is leading to children with SEND and their families being systematically failed and having their life chances stymied.</p>

	<p>Locally, Norfolk's SEND service is facing its own crisis with this council disclosing to the DfE that their plans to improve the service were 'off track' and were likely to incur a large financial deficit. The funding this council is due to receive as part of the Local First Inclusion Programme is welcome, and we recognise the commendable efforts of officers in Children's Services who work tirelessly to improve the service.</p> <p>However, we cannot carry on business as usual, urgent intervention on a national scale is a necessity to ensure that not only Norfolk's SEND service is able to keep up with growing demand, but that nationally the whole service is able to provide the facilities and resources that children with SEND deserve.</p> <p>The Liberal Democrats are calling for a new 'National Body for SEND' to help tackle the postcode lottery of SEND provision. The body would oversee SEND funding on a national scale to ensure it is spent as effectively as possible and to identify best practice.</p> <p>This council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Supports calls for a 'National Body for SEND' to assist in diagnosing and remedying issues within SEND provision on a national scale.</li> <li>2. Requests the Cabinet Member for Children's Services to write to the Minister for Children, Families and Wellbeing in support of a 'National Body for SEND'.</li> </ol>
3.	<p><b>Labour Group Motion</b>  <b>Malnutrition: Time to Act</b>  <b>Proposer: Cllr Mike Smith-Clare</b>  <b>Seconder: Cllr Mike Sands</b></p> <p>The World Health Organisation recognises malnutrition, in all its forms, including undernutrition (wasting, stunting, underweight), inadequate vitamins or minerals, overweight, obesity, and resulting diet-related noncommunicable diseases. The developmental, economic, social, and medical impacts of malnutrition are serious and lasting, for individuals and their families, for communities and for countries. The seriousness of this issue is reflected in Goal 2 of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, 'End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture.'</p> <p>Malnutrition is usually associated with low and middle income countries and would not be expected in prosperous countries like the UK and counties like Norfolk. Council is concerned to discover the level of malnutrition in the county as evidenced by a report published in October 2023 by Future Health, 'Tackling malnutrition as part of the prevention agenda,' and the impact reported in the media.</p> <p>The impact on the lives of young people and the quality of life of older people cannot be ignored. Malnutrition will not only have significant social and economic impacts, but the health impacts also have a huge financial cost that is already apparent, as 20% of the Norfolk and Waveney ICB budget is being spent on the consequences of malnutrition according to the Future Health report.</p>



Council recognises this is a complex issue exacerbated by austerity and the cost-of-living crisis. Whilst there needs to be a long-term policy to tackle malnutrition involving many agencies it is clear short term interventions are imperative and that the current assistance being made available is not enough to prevent malnutrition with a consequential knock on impact on health and social care.

Council further notes the statement by the cabinet member for Public Health and Wellbeing to the last cabinet meeting that relied on limited data related to admissions to hospital related to malnutrition that gives a less than complete analysis and cannot be relied on.

Taken alongside the Future Health report, 'Hiding in Plain Sight,' the Malnutrition briefing for Members is further evidence that Norfolk County Council and its partners in health can do more to mitigate the impact of malnutrition on our residents.

Both the briefing and the report draw on NHS data showing diagnoses of five conditions which represent severe malnutrition<sup>1</sup>. While these numbers are in line with national trends, the four trusts that have reported data shows that malnutrition diagnoses have almost tripled since 2009/10 which is clearly a concerning underlying trend to address. The data does not include any diagnoses from Norfolk and Suffolk Mental Health Trust and data is missing or omitted for other trusts.

This data flags up two issues that must be considered. The inconsistency in data collection across Norfolk and Waveney Trusts and the overall increase in severe malnutrition diagnoses.

Recent analysis conducted by the Guardian newspaper in December 2023<sup>2</sup> gives further weight to the urgent need to address the effect of malnutrition on Norfolk's residents and health and social care systems. Considering the wider impact of malnutrition by analysing twenty five diagnoses relating to malnutrition and nutrient deficiencies, the newspaper found a threefold increase in national diagnoses from 293,686 in 2013/14 to 824,519 in 2022/23. NHS data once again shows that the approach to malnutrition needs to be taken seriously in local government and health.

The Member briefing based on the cabinet member's statement does not address the estimates used in the Future Health report relating to the prevalence of malnutrition in social care settings and provides no data or evidence to counter the assertions made.

Taking together the lack of evidence of malnutrition rates in social care settings and the limited data used in relation to hospital diagnoses, the briefing fails to provide an assessment of the actual rates of malnutrition in Norfolk and Waveney.

	<p>There is evidence of worrying trends of increasing levels of malnutrition and nutrition deficiency related illness which needs to be acknowledged, researched effectively and presented to Members for further consideration.</p> <p>Council therefore:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Requests Cabinet to recognise malnutrition as a serious public health issue and to bring to Council no later than October 2024 a policy for inclusion as a 'vital sign' measure in our performance framework setting out how Council can, with partners and in support of the public health policy 'Ready to Change, Ready to Act,' set and meet targets for the elimination of poverty related malnutrition.</li> <li>2. Welcomes the People and Communities Select Committee's commitment to exploring malnutrition as part of their work programme to ensure there is a long term focus on sufficient and suitable nutrition for all Norfolk residents of all ages.</li> <li>3. Welcomes HOSC's commitment to explore malnutrition at its July 2024 meeting, acknowledges the comments from the ICB representative that malnutrition is a public health issue to which HOSC can positively contribute and agrees to incorporate HOSC's recommendations within the new policy.</li> <li>4. Requests the Cabinet agrees to increase support for the work done by community and voluntary organisations in providing short term support for those experiencing food and fuel poverty both as a social good and in order to prevent consequential higher costs.</li> <li>5. Asks the Cabinet to request officers to identify and quantify potential safeguarding concerns that arise from malnutrition.</li> </ol>
4.	<p><b>Green Group Motion</b>  <b>Proactive Safe Speeds Policy for Norfolk</b>  <b>Proposer: Cllr Catherine Rowett</b>  <b>Seconder: Cllr Paul Neale</b></p> <p>Norfolk has hundreds of small villages and rural parishes whose residents are keen to have safer speed limits in their residential areas and on stretches of narrow winding roads where they walk their dogs, ride their horses and take their children to school by bicycle. Many tiny narrow winding single track roads currently have a nominal speed limit of 60mph, yet travelling at such a speed would be beyond foolhardy and the average vehicle speed adopted by careful drivers is significantly lower. Ten times as many people die on rural roads as on motorways. Yet still footfall is significantly reduced because walkers and cyclists fear the inconsiderate driving of a small number of motorists who take the speed limit as a recommended speed. Cyclists are almost three times more likely to be killed on a rural road as on an urban one.</p>

	<p>The Norfolk Speed Management Strategy currently takes a reactive approach to proving that a reduced speed limit, or other safety measures, are required. For any other health and safety legislation it is normal to take a proactive approach, and not to wait until serious accidents happen before deciding that they need to be prevented.</p> <p>There is also now abundant evidence that in built up areas a 20mph limit is safer than 30mph limits, and on rural roads reductions in speed limits have direct benefits in reducing accidents and reducing the severity of accidents. In particular speeds below 30 mph are hugely beneficial, as a proactive way to reduce injuries, fatalities and the cost of motoring accidents in terms of health, damage and loss of working hours, all of which are costly to the local economy and to people's lives and livelihoods.</p> <p>Council notes:</p> <p>that, in many rural areas of Norfolk, reductions in the speed limits would be safer for all road users and better for the local environment and economy.</p> <p>Council resolves to ask Cabinet to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Take action to make it easier for communities to seek and obtain a lower speed limit if they wish to have one;</li> <li>2. Set up a cross-party working group to review the Norfolk Speed Management Strategy with a view to adopting a new proactive approach to speed management. The Working group to report back with a revised Speed Management Strategy for cabinet approval as soon as is feasible, with a review of progress to be scheduled within 6 months from this resolution;</li> <li>3. Issue a county-wide call for requests for lower speed limits from rural parishes once the new strategy is in place, with a view to implementing such requests together en bloc, thereby reducing the costs associated with processing TRO applications one by one;</li> <li>4. Adopt a default assumption that speed limits are treated as recommendations to drivers on how fast to drive, and should therefore match the maximum safe speed for that stretch of road;</li> <li>5. Identify and promote other measures, such as driver education and enforcement, to restore confidence among residents that the Council takes their concerns seriously, and to ensure that country lanes are made safe for walking, wheeling and cycling.</li> </ol>
5.	<p><b>Non-Aligned Member Motion</b>  <b>West Winch Growth Area and Sustainability</b>  <b>Proposer: Cllr Alexandra Kemp</b>  <b>Seconder: TBA</b></p> <p>This Council's funding application to Government says that the prerequisite for the West Winch Growth Area is the West Winch Bypass (Housing Access Road). to prevent unacceptable impacts on the highway.</p>

	<p>This Council believes in infrastructure first and therefore considers that the WWHAR should be in place before the commencement of the West Winch Growth Area of 4,000 homes.</p> <p>The A10 Corridor of Movement through West Winch is heavily congested, high accident and cannot safely support development until the heavy through-traffic and HGVs are taken off, so the A10 can be traffic-calmed.</p>
6.	<p><b>Conservative Group Motion</b>  <b>Armed Forces Recognition</b>  <b>Proposer: TBA</b>  <b>Seconder: TBA</b></p> <p>In advance of Armed Forces Day on 29th June Norfolk County Council is proud to reaffirm our support for our Armed Forces communities and military bases across our county. In these times of global instability and conflict Norfolk County Council would like to pay special tribute and thank all those who have served, or continue to serve, in our military communities.</p> <p>Furthermore, this Council extends its gratitude to our allies from the United States of America stationed at U.S. Air Force bases across East Anglia. This Council will endeavour to uphold our long tradition of military presence in Norfolk and the communities which surround and support it.</p> <p>Norfolk Council has committed to supporting Armed Forces personnel past and present by signing up to the Armed Forces Covenant. By doing so, this Council acknowledges and understands that those who serve or have served in the Armed Forces, along with their families, should be treated with fairness and respect in the communities, economy, and society they serve with their lives. In light of this this Council supports the recent Government pledge to boost Defence spending to at least 2.5% of Gross Domestic Product.</p> <p>Alongside this, those who have served, whether regular or reserve, should face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services, with special consideration for those who have given the most such as those injured or bereaved.</p> <p>This Council pledges to maintaining its commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant.</p>
7.	<p><b>Liberal Democrat Group Motion</b>  <b>Experiential Tourism</b>  <b>Proposer: Cllr Brian Watkins</b>  <b>Seconder: TBA</b></p> <p>Tourism is an essential component of Norfolk's economy; it supports approximately 54,000 jobs and adds £3bn to the local economy each year. This Council demonstrated its recognition of the importance of tourism in September last year where upon it was decided the industry would receive a £100,000 annual boost with the end goal to become an accredited Local Visitor Economy Partnership alongside Suffolk. Although welcome, more can be done, and a joint-up strategic approach to tourism in Norfolk is needed.</p>

	<p>Between September 2019 and June 2023, Norfolk County Council was the lead partner of a project funded by the European Regional Development Fund and the Interreg France (Channel) England Programme. EXPERIENCE was a project aimed to attract visitors in in the off-peak season through a new 'experiential tourism' approach. Such tourism, especially since the pandemic, has become increasingly popular as visitors prefer a more authentic and intimate form of tourism.</p> <p>This Council will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Publish a report on the lessons learned from the EXPERIENCE project.</li> <li>2. Form a working party made up of local members from each district/borough, alongside partners, to begin discussions on what a Local Visitor Economy Partnership will look like for Norfolk and Suffolk.</li> </ol>
8.	<p><b>Labour Group Motion</b>  <b>Norwich Western Link</b>  <b>Proposer: Cllr Steve Morphew</b>  <b>Seconder: Cllr Terry Jermy</b></p> <p>Council recognises that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is likely the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities will call in the planning application for the Norwich Western Link because of its complexity, size, significance, potential impact beyond the immediate area and potential for national controversy as already evidenced.</li> <li>2. A call in can come at any stage of the planning application process from validation until after a decision by Planning (Regulatory) Committee.</li> <li>3. The longer a call in is delayed the longer a final outcome of the application will be delayed.</li> <li>4. Council resources may be committed to a process locally that is overtaken by a call in leading to costs that could be avoided,</li> <li>5. The longer the planning process is drawn out the more expensive any final NWL or alternative scheme is likely to be</li> <li>6. Strongly and genuinely expressed political differences make it difficult to avoid public perception of predisposition or predetermination by members of the Planning Regulatory Committee that might lead to challenges that add more delay</li> </ol> <p>Council therefore resolves to request the Chief Executive Officer write to the Secretary of State to request the NWL planning application be called in as soon as possible in order to mitigate avoidable delays, reduce the risk of wasting money and inflating long term costs, in accordance with the criteria for call in as on the grounds that:</p>

	<p>a) the application could have significant effects beyond the immediate locality and</p> <p>b) will give rise to substantial cross-boundary or national controversy.</p> <p>Council further requests the CEO to give consideration to the other grounds for the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to call in the planning application to ensure all potential grounds are included in order to avoid any delays in the process.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p><b>Green Group Motion</b>  <b>The Norwich to Tilbury Pylons</b>  <b>Proposer: Cllr Catherine Rowett</b>  <b>Seconder: Cllr Ben Price</b></p> <p>National Grid have opened their statutory consultation concerning the plans for a line of giant pylons to transfer power from offshore windfarms to London, passing through Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex. Residents in the areas affected are outraged by the fact that despite many submissions being made in response to the earlier consultations, there is little evidence that the considerations put by residents, councils, heritage and nature organisations and MPs have had any impact at all on the proposals, aside from the option to provide a short stretch of underground cabling at the river Waveney.</p> <p>This Council notes that those affected by National Grid's proposed pylon line are disadvantaged by three things namely:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Central government's authoritarian approach to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects which seeks to silence citizen democracy and bypass normal planning consent systems;</li> <li>2. the fact that existing infrastructure taking the power to Norwich has already been installed, thereby anticipating a decision that is supposedly open now, but which looks to have been predetermined with no agreement from those now affected by the new pylons; and</li> <li>3. the last-minute urgency of the project because wind farms have been being built ahead of the grid upgrade instead of the other way round, making the new infrastructure urgent when it should have been planned properly in a timely manner and with time to do the job properly.</li> </ol> <p>This council therefore resolves to ask Cabinet to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Work with Suffolk and Essex County Councils to make the case for a long term, future-proof offshore solution that would provide integrated connections to any additional windfarms, so as to avoid transferring power from offshore generation using any overland route across East Anglia.</li> <li>2. Arrange a meeting between Council leaders/cabinet members and Central Government ministers to press for modifications to the National Infrastructure Planning Reforms, so that designers and planners need to include proper work with communities to find a mutually agreeable solution, with adequate buy-in from the public, rather than using top down imposition from central authorities.</li> </ol>

	<p>3. Press for additional funding to be diverted to energy saving, including:</p>
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a) improving the housing stock,

b) better regulation to mandate higher energy saving standards and rooftop PV in new builds and in refurbishment/extensions to existing properties,

c) better public transport,

d) more local energy generation,

e) other community energy schemes that do not use the grid.