

**Norfolk County Council
Minutes of the Meeting Held at 10am on
Tuesday 20 February 2024**

Present:

ADAMS Tim	LONG Brian
ADAMS Tony	MACKIE Ian
ANNISON Carl	MASON BILLIG Kay
AQUARONE Steffan	MAXFIELD Ed
ASKEW Stephen	MORPHEW Steve
BAMBRIDGE Lesley	NEALE Paul
BENSLY James	NUNN William
BILLS David	OSBORN Jamie
BLUNDELL Sharon	PECK Greg
BORRETT Bill	PENFOLD Saul
BOWES Claire	PLANT Graham
CARPENTER Graham	PRICE Ben
CARPENTER Penny	PROCTOR Andrew
CHENERY OF HORSBRUGH Michael	REILLY Matt
COLWELL Rob	RICHMOND Will
CONNOLLY Ed	RILEY Steve
CORLETT Emma	ROPER Dan
CROFTS John	RUMSBY Chrissie
DARK Stuart	SANDS Mike
DEWSBURY Margaret	SAVAGE Robert
DIXON Nigel	SAYERS David
DUIGAN Phillip	SHIRES Lucy
EAGLE Fabian	SMITH Carl
ELMER Daniel	STONE Barry
FISHER John	STOREY Martin
FITZPATRICK Tom	THOMAS Alison
GURNEY Shelagh	THOMSON Vic
HEMPSALL Lana	VARDY Eric
JAMES Jane	WALKER Colleen
JAMIESON Andrew	WARD John
JERMY Terry	WATKINS Brian
JONES Brenda	WEBB Maxine
KEMP Alexandra	WHITE Tony
KIDDIE Keith	WHYMARK Fran
KIRK Julian	WILBY Martin

Present: 70

1. Apologies

- 1.1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Catherine Rowett, Cllr Jim Moriarty, Cllr Stuart Clancy, Cllr Chris Dawson, Cllr Judy Oliver, Cllr Rhodri Oliver, Cllr Richard Price, Cllr Mike Smith-Clare, Cllr Alison Birmingham, Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris, Cllr Karen Vincent, Cllr Julie Brociek-Coulton, Cllr Michael Dalby and Cllr Andy Grant.
- 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, as this was the annual Budget meeting, it was his intention to extend the meeting beyond 3 hours should this become necessary to allow time for all the budget amendments to be debated.
- 1.3 The Chair also stated he intended to adjourn the meeting after about 2 hours for a short comfort break, after which he would ask Councillors to confirm whether they wished for the meeting to extend beyond 3 hours, should it become necessary.

2. Minutes

- 2.1 The minutes of the Council meeting held on the 30 January 2024 were confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings and signed by the Chair.

3. Announcements from the Chair and Leader of the Council

- 3.1 The Chair stated that details of the events he had recently been involved with could be found on the Norfolk County Council website.
- 3.2 The Leader welcomed Cllr Andrew Proctor back to Council following a long period of ill health.
- 3.3 The Leader confirmed the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs had now received a letter regarding coastal erosion and flooding in Norfolk. A meeting had been held between the Leader and six local MPs at Portcullis House in Westminster to discuss flooding and coastal erosion. Parts of the county had been subject to further flooding over the weekend, which was discussed between the Leader, George Freeman MP and Henry Cator OBE, the Chair of the Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance, at a meeting held the day prior to Full Council. It was hoped that a summit between all agencies could be organised later in 2024, and a 10-Minute Bill on the subject introduced in the House of Commons.

4. Declarations of Interest

- 4.1 Cllr Lesley Bambridge declared a pecuniary interest relating to item 5.29, as she was a current trustee of West Norfolk Carers.
- 4.2 Cllr Maxine Webb declared an “other” interest, as she was a carer of a SEND child.

5. Norfolk County Council Revenue and Capital Budget 2024-25 to 2027-28.

- 5.1 Members received the annexed reports, setting out the budget proposals for Norfolk County Council.

5.2 Cllr Kay Mason Billig, the Leader of the Council, moved the budget recommendations from Cabinet as set out below:

5.3 **In respect of the Norfolk County Council Revenue Budget 2024-25 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024-28 report (Annexe 1):**

(All references in the recommendations relate to the annexed reports)

Cabinet **RESOLVED:**

- 1) To agree to recommend to County Council:
 - a) The level of risk and budget assumptions set out in the Robustness of Estimates report (Appendix 4), which underpin the revenue and capital budget decisions and planning for 2024-28.
 - b) The general principle of seeking to increase general fund balances as part of closing the 2023-24 accounts and that in 2024-25 any further additional resources which become available during the year should be added to the general fund balance wherever possible.
 - c) The findings of public consultation (Appendix 5), which should be considered when agreeing the 2024-25 Budget (Appendix 1).
 - d) To note the advice of the Director of Strategic Finance (Section 151 Officer), in Section 5 of Appendix 1, on the financial impact of an increase in council tax and the sustainability of the Council's medium term position.
 - e) That the Council's 2024-25 Budget will include a general council tax increase of 2.99% and a 2.00% increase in the Adult Social Care precept, an overall increase of 4.99% (shown in Section 5 of Appendix 1), as recommended by the Director of Strategic Finance, and resulting in an increased overall County Council Net Revenue Budget of £527.748m for 2024-25, including budget increases of £116.024m [£122.033m as updated following Final Settlement], budget savings of £45.022m [£41.532m as updated following Final Settlement], and funding changes of £36.961m [£46.460m as updated following Final Settlement] as set out in Table 15 of Appendix 1 [Updated figures shown in Table 5 of this covering report], and the actions required to deliver the proposed savings, subject to any changes required in line with recommendation 1 above to enable a balanced budget to be proposed. This would result in a budget gap of £42.927m2 [£44.722m as updated following Final Settlement] to be addressed for 2025-26, and £132.428m [£135.908m as updated following Final Settlement] over the life of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
 - f) The budget proposals set out for 2025-26 to 2027-28, including authorising Executive Directors to take the action required to deliver budget savings for 2025-26 to 2027-28 as appropriate.

- g) With regard to the future years, that further plans to meet the remaining budget shortfalls in the period 2025-26 to 2027-28 are developed and brought back to Cabinet during 2024-25 as soon as possible and in line with the proposed timetable.
- h) Noting Government's assumptions that local authorities will raise the maximum council tax available to them, and that the final level of council tax for future years is subject to Member decisions annually (informed by any referendum principles defined by the Government), to confirm, or otherwise, the assumptions set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS Table 2 in Appendix 2) that the Council's budget planning for 2024-25 will include for planning purposes:
- general council tax increases of 1.99% from 2025-26;
 - Adult Social Care precept increases of 1.00% 2025-26 and 0.00% from 2026-27); and
 - that if the referendum threshold were increased in the period 2025-26 to 2027-28, or any further discretion were offered to increase the Adult Social Care precept (or similar), the Section 151 Officer would recommend the Council take full advantage of any flexibility in view of the overall financial position.
- i) That the Director of Strategic Finance be authorised to transfer from the County Fund to the Salaries and General Accounts all sums necessary in respect of revenue and capital expenditure provided in the 2024-25 Budget, to make payments, to raise and repay loans, and to invest funds.
- j) To agree the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024-28 as set out in Appendix 2, including the two policy objectives to be achieved:
- Revenue: To identify further funding or savings for 2025-26 to 2027 28 to produce a balanced budget in all years 2024-28 in accordance with the timetable set out in the Revenue Budget report (Section 4 of Appendix 1).
 - Capital: To continue to provide a framework for identifying and prioritising capital requirements and proposals to ensure that all capital investment is targeted at meeting the Council's priorities.
- k) The mitigating actions proposed in the equality impact assessments (Appendix 6).
- l) Note the planned reduction in non-schools earmarked and general reserves of 36.72% over five years, from £175.232m (March 2023) to £110.880m (March 2028) (Section 6 of Appendix 3);
- m) Note the policy on reserves and provisions in Section 3 of Appendix 3;

- n) Agree, based on current planning assumptions and risk forecasts set out in Section 5 of Appendix 3:
- for 2024-25, a minimum level of general balances of £26.660m, and
 - a forecast minimum level for planning purposes of
 - 1) 2025-26, £27.910m;
 - 2) 2026-27, £29.160m; and
 - 3) 2027-28, £30.410m.
 - as part of the consideration of the budget plans for 2024-28 and supporting these budget recommendations;
- o) Agree the use of non-school Earmarked Reserves, as set out in Section 6 of Appendix 3.

5.4 In respect of the Capital Strategy and Programme 2023-24 report (Annexe 2):

Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

- 2). To agree to recommend the programme [of £1,134.982m, subject to the planned slippage of £253.0m and additional amounts for schemes yet to be re-profiled from 2023-24] to the County Council for approval, including the new and extended capital schemes outlined in Appendix D;
- 3). To agree to recommend to County Council the Council's Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy for 2024-25 as set out in Section 5.

5.5 In respect of the Annual Investment and Treasury Strategy 2024-25 report (Annexe 3):

Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

- 4). To recommend to County Council the Annual Investment and Treasury Strategy for 2024-25 as set out in Annex 1, including:
 - The Capital Prudential Indicators included in the body of the report.
 - The Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2024-25 in Appendix 1
 - The list of approved counterparties at Appendix 4
 - The Treasury Management Prudential I

5.6 The Cabinet Member for Finance, Cllr Andrew Jamieson, seconded the Conservative budget motion.

5.7 The Chair invited the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group to move their budget amendments. Cllr Brian Watkins, seconded by Cllr Steffan Aquarone, moved the following amendments to the Budget recommendations.

5.8

Liberal Democrat Group Budget Amendment Proposals 2024/25

Amendment 1

REVENUE

Ref	Proposal	2024-25 £m	2025-26 £m	2026-27 £m	2027-28 £m
1	Remove saving proposal to reduce the Minimum Income Guarantee.	0.600	0.600	0.000	0.000
2	Employment of two additional EHCP Review Officers.	0.085	0.000	0.000	0.000
3	Employment of Flood Risk Officer	0.047	0.000	0.000	0.000
4	Cost of Giving Fund	0.200	0.000*	0.000*	0.000*
	Total	0.932	0.600	0.000	0.000

*To be reviewed in line with the 'background' information above.

Revenue proposals funded from the following areas:

1. Revenue proposals to be funded from additional funding announced at Final Settlement. In the event that this funding is one-off, 2025-26 pressure to be added to the budget gap and addressed as part of the budget process for that year.

Ref	Funding	2024-25 £m	2025-26 £m	2026-27 £m	2027-28 £m
1	Social Care Funding Uplift	0.885	(0.885)	0.000	0.000
2	Rural Services Delivery Grant	0.047	(0.047)	0.000	0.000
	Total	0.932	(0.932)	0.000	0.000

CAPITAL AMENDMENTS / ADDITIONS

Ref	Capital Project / Proposal	2024-25 £m	2025-26 £m	2026-27 £m	2027-28 £m
1	Pilot Rural Hub & Spoke Transport scheme	0.500	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Total	0.500	0.000	0.000	0.000

Revenue Implications of Capital Expenditure to be funded by:

2. If funded by Rural Services Delivery Grant (as revenue contribution to capital), there would be no borrowing requirement for 2024-25. Use of RSDG will allow some flexibility to meet either Revenue or Capital costs for this pilot scheme.

5.9 The details of the proposed amendments from the Lib Dem Group to the budget recommended by Cabinet on 29 January 2024, with officers' technical comments on the impact to the budget, could be found in Supplementary Agenda 3.

- 5.10 The Leader did not accept the amendment and a debate commenced.
- 5.11 During the debate, Cllr Eric Vardy made a point of information to confirm there were 6 flood risk officers currently employed by the Council.
- 5.12 Following a request from Cllr Watkins, the Liberal Democrat Group amendment regarding the Minimum Income Guarantee (MIG) was put to a vote separate from the rest of the budget amendments. With 25 votes for, 44 votes against and 0 abstentions, the amendment was **LOST** (Appendix A).
- 5.13 The remainder of the Liberal Democrat Group budget amendments were put to a vote. With 25 votes for, 40 votes against and 0 abstentions, the amendments were **LOST** (Appendix B).
- 5.14 The Chair invited the Leader of the Labour Group to move their budget amendments. Cllr Steve Morphew, seconded by Cllr Terry Jermy, moved the following amendments to the Budget recommendations:

5.15

Labour Group Budget Amendment Proposals 2024/25

Amendment 2

REVENUE

Ref	Proposal	2024-25 £m	2025-26 £m	2026-27 £m	2027-28 £m
1	Capacity funding for review and development of a new organisational structure	0.100	(0.100)	0.000	0.000
2	Specialist accountancy advice to deliver key worker housing	0.200	(0.200)	0.000	0.000
3	Funding to commission a market strategy for CS / ASS social care	0.200	(0.200)	0.000	0.000
	Total	0.500	(0.500)	0.000	0.000

Revenue proposals funded from the following areas:

- Revenue proposals to be funded from additional Rural Services Delivery Grant funding announced at Final Settlement.

Ref	Funding	2024-25 £m	2025-26 £m	2026-27 £m	2027-28 £m
1	Additional Rural Services Delivery Grant at final settlement	(0.500)	0.500	0.000	0.000
	Total	(0.500)	0.500	0.000	0.000

To approve the revenue allocations as set out in the table amounting to £500 in order to enable the CEO to develop a robust and deliverable financial business case for each of the proposals to include a sustainable funding strategy for implementation from 2025-26, or earlier if possible.

The options to be considered to include (but not be limited to):

- Flexible use of capital receipts to fund transformation;
- Review of available reserves (business risk reserves or earmarked reserves where appropriate);
- Invest to save options within the revenue budget; and
- Any additional flexibilities or funding which may be offered by Government in future.

to

1. Create a unified care directorate responsible for all care services delivered directly, in partnership or commissioned from a third party including wholly owned companies, for all age groups and abilities.
2. Through Norse Care begin to buy out or takeover care providers looking to exit the market and bring them into Norse Care and repurpose any buildings.
3. Initiate a long-term programme of reprovion and expansion through wholly owned companies to ensure the supply of high-quality accommodation for all types of supported and residential care.
4. Create a Norfolk Care Workforce standard.
5. Create a key worker housing scheme for care staff in Norfolk.
6. Request the CEO to prepare a report on the feasibility of creating a Directorate of Prevention, Protection and Support taking account of resources, views of partners and potential timescale to bring to cabinet via select committees by autumn in time for budget preparation for 2025-26.
7. Create a Public Health and Community directorate on the principles outlined in 3.2 (Supplementary Agenda 3, page C15) with the configuration designed in conjunction with interest groups and partners.
8. Request the CEO to develop a business case for the expansion of the mobile library service to provide services to rural communities and those isolated by lack of access to services.
9. Create a new Lifelong Learning directorate to bring together those elements of children's services, adult education, apprenticeships, records, museums and other service including collaboration with the library services and involving partners to create a service that supports lifelong learning reflecting the demands and challenges of the future.
10. Establish a combined Directorate of Efficiency, Performance and Productivity.

5.16 The details of the proposed amendments from the Labour Group to the budget recommended by Cabinet on 29 January 2024, with officers' technical comments on the impact to the budget, could be found in Supplementary Agenda 3.

- 5.17 The Leader did not accept the amendments and a debate commenced.
- 5.18 During the debate, Cllr Morphew made a point of order to clarify the amendments did not oblige the Council to take over all residential care homes in Norfolk, in response to a statement made by Cllr Alison Thomas.
- 5.19 Following the Leader's concluding remarks, Cllr Morphew made a point of order to state that the amendments were not based on structures already adopted by Norwich City Council.
- 5.20 The Labour Group budget amendments were put to a vote. With 24 votes for, 45 votes against and 0 abstentions, the amendments were **LOST** (Appendix C).
- 5.21 Council took a break from 12:15 to 12:45.
- 5.22 The Chair invited the Deputy Leader of the Green Group to move their budget amendments. Cllr Jamie Osborn, seconded by Cllr Paul Neale, moved the following amendments to the Budget recommendations:

REVENUE

Ref	Proposal	2024-25 £m	2025-26 £m	2026-27 £m	2027-28 £m
1	Breakfast clubs	1.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
2	On-demand bus services	0.500	0.500	0.000	0.000
3	Removal of proposed saving from changing Adult Social Care non-residential charging policy (including MIG)	0.600	0.600	0.000	0.000
	Total	2.100	1.100	0.000	0.000

Revenue proposals funded from the following areas:

1. **Additional funding at Final Settlement:** Social Care grant funding to be applied in 2024-25 to fund Breakfast clubs proposal and removal of proposal relating to ASC non-residential charging policy. Additional Rural Services Delivery Grant to fund expansion of on-demand bus services.

2025-26 pressures to be funded by additional income from the following sources:

2. **ANPR cameras:** These could bring in revenue via additional enforcement of traffic violations.
3. **Workplace parking levy:** This could be applied in the greater Norwich area and bring in approximately £1m to fund improved access via public transport. It would build on the success of the Workplace Parking Levy scheme in Nottingham, which has generated over £90m in revenue in 10 years, while improving air quality and reducing carbon emissions from transport.
4. **County farms rent:** Rent from the agricultural land purchased with a view to creating Long Stratton station and associated car park. Rent is calculated on the assumption that this land would be tenanted from 2025 for five years.

Ref	Funding	2024-25 £m	2025-26 £m	2026-27 £m	2027-28 £m
1	Additional social care funding at final settlement	(1.600)	1.600	0.000	0.000
2	Additional Rural Services Delivery Grant at final settlement	(0.500)	0.500	0.000	0.000
3	ANPR cameras / workplace parking levy / County Farms rent	0.000	(1.100)	0.000	0.000
	Total	(2.100)	1.000	0.000	0.000

- 5.24 The details of the proposed amendments from the Green Group to the budget recommended by Cabinet on 29 January 2024, with officers' technical comments on the impact to the budget, could be found in Supplementary Agenda 3.

- 5.25 The Leader did not accept the amendments and a debate commenced.
- 5.26 The Green Group amendments were put to a vote. With 16 votes for, 42 votes against and 8 abstentions, the amendments were **LOST** (Appendix D).
- 5.27 The Chair said that the substantive motion was now open to all Members to debate and to propose further amendments, provided they met the following requirements:
- The required notice period was given.
 - They delivered a balanced budget.
 - Any legal requirements for consultation were satisfied.
- 5.28 The Chair invited Cllr Ed Maxfield, Leader of the Independent Group, to speak to the motion proposed by the Leader.
- 5.29 Cllr Ed Maxfield stated that the Council had taken a cautious approach to setting its budget but he would listen to all amendments before making his decision to vote.
- 5.30 The Chair proposed that the meeting be extended for a maximum of one hour beyond the three hours allocated to adequately debate and vote on all remaining amendments and recommendations This was unanimously **AGREED** by Members on a show of hands.
- 5.31 The Chair invited the non-aligned Member, Cllr Alexandra Kemp, to move her own budget amendment for which the required notice was given. The amendment was seconded by Cllr Rob Colwell.

5.32

Cllr Kemp Budget Amendment Proposals 2024/25

Amendment 4

REVENUE

Ref	Proposal	2024-25 £m	2025-26 £m	2026-27 £m	2027-28 £m
1	Funding for Carers' Services in West Norfolk	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Total	0.100	0.000	0.000	0.000

Revenue proposals funded from the following areas:

1. Revenue proposal to be funded from additional social care grant funding announced at Final Settlement. In the event that this funding is one-off, 2025-26 pressure to be added to the budget gap and addressed as part of the budget process for that year.

Ref	Funding	2024-25 £m	2025-26 £m	2026-27 £m	2027-28 £m
1	Additional social care funding announced at final settlement	(0.100)	0.100	0.000	0.000
	Total	(0.100)	0.100	0.000	0.000

- 5.33 The details of the proposed amendment from Cllr Alexandra Kemp to the budget recommended by Cabinet on 29 January 2024, with officers' technical comments on the impact to the budget, could be found in Supplementary Agenda 3.
- 5.34 The Leader did not accept the amendment and a debate commenced.
- 5.35 Cllr Kemp's amendment was put to a vote. With 20 votes for, 41 votes against and 2 abstentions, the amendment was **LOST** (Appendix E).
- 5.36 The Chair invited the non-aligned Member, Cllr Maxine Webb, to move her own budget amendment for which the required notice was given. The amendment was seconded by Cllr Emma Corlett.

REVENUE

Ref	Proposal	2024-25 £m	2025-26 £m	2026-27 £m	2027-28 £m
1a	MIG: Remove requirement for MIG saving proposal	0.600	0.600	0.000	0.000
1b	MIG: Increase by £10 p/w (working age adults).	0.760	0.000	0.000	0.000
2	Community short breaks (8% increase Y1, 5% Y2)	0.230	0.150	0.000	0.000
3	Children's Services advocacy – Legal costs	0.360	(0.180)	(0.180)	0.000
4	Support for working carers within the NCC workforce (assume 5% of workforce)	0.490	0.000	0.000	0.000
5	Exam entry fees for home educated pupils	0.160	0.000	(0.160)	0.000
6	Investment in Sustainable Housing Partnership Service	1.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Total	3.600	0.570	(0.340)	0.000

Revenue proposals funded from the following areas:

- Revenue proposal to be funded from additional social care grant funding announced at Final Settlement. Total of £7.770m funding to be used over the two financial years 2024-25 and 2025-26. In the event that this funding is one-off, residual 2026-27 pressures arising (estimated as £3.830m) to be added to the budget gap and addressed as part of the budget process for that year.

Ref	Funding	2024-25 £m	2025-26 £m	2026-27 £m	2027-28 £m
1	Additional social care funding at final settlement applied over two years	(3.600)	(0.570)	4.170	0.000
	Total	(3.600)	(0.570)	4.170	0.000

CAPITAL AMENDMENTS / ADDITIONS

School streets: Provide capital funding to roll out a pilot School Streets programme to 10 schools in Norfolk.

Ref	Capital Project / Proposal	2024-25 £m	2025-26 £m	2026-27 £m	2027-28 £m
1	School Streets	0.700	0.000	0.000	0.000
	Total	0.700	0.000	0.000	0.000

- 5.38 The details of the proposed amendment from Cllr Maxine Webb to the budget recommended by Cabinet on 29 January 2024, with officers' technical comments on the impact to the budget, could be found in Supplementary Agenda 3.
- 5.39 The Leader did not accept the amendment and a debate commenced.
- 5.40 Cllr Webb's amendment was put to a vote. With 22 votes for, 43 votes against and 0 abstentions, the amendment was **LOST** (Appendix F).
- 5.41 With all amendments dealt with, Council commenced a debate on the budget recommendations from Cabinet, previously recorded at items 5.3, 5.4 and 5.5 in this set of minutes.
- 5.42 The recommendations from Cabinet were put to a vote. With 42 votes for, 20 votes against and 2 abstentions, the recommendations were **CARRIED** (Appendix G).
- 5.43 Council **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** the following:

In respect of the Norfolk County Council Revenue Budget 2024-25 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024-28 report (Annexe 1):

(All references in the recommendations relate to the annexed reports)

- a) The level of risk and budget assumptions set out in the Robustness of Estimates report (Appendix 4), which underpin the revenue and capital budget decisions and planning for 2024-28.
- b) The general principle of seeking to increase general fund balances as part of closing the 2023-24 accounts and that in 2024-25 any further additional resources which become available during the year should be added to the general fund balance wherever possible.
- c) The findings of public consultation (Appendix 5), which should be considered when agreeing the 2024-25 Budget (Appendix 1).
- d) To note the advice of the Director of Strategic Finance (Section 151 Officer), in Section 5 of Appendix 1, on the financial impact of an increase in council tax and the sustainability of the Council's medium term position.
- e) That the Council's 2024-25 Budget will include a general council tax increase of 2.99% and a 2.00% increase in the Adult Social Care precept, an overall increase of 4.99% (shown in Section 5 of Appendix 1), as recommended by the Director of Strategic Finance, and resulting in an increased overall County Council Net Revenue Budget of £527.748m for 2024-25, including budget increases of £116.024m [£122.033m as updated following Final Settlement], budget savings of £45.022m [£41.532m as updated following Final Settlement], and funding changes of £36.961m [£46.460m as updated following Final Settlement] as set out in Table 15 of Appendix 1 [Updated figures shown in Table 5 of this covering report], and the actions required to deliver the proposed savings, subject to any changes required in line with recommendation 1 above to enable a

balanced budget to be proposed. This would result in a budget gap of £42.927m2 [£44.722m as updated following Final Settlement] to be addressed for 2025-26, and £132.428m [£135.908m as updated following Final Settlement] over the life of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.

- f) The budget proposals set out for 2025-26 to 2027-28, including authorising Executive Directors to take the action required to deliver budget savings for 2025-26 to 2027-28 as appropriate.
- g) With regard to the future years, that further plans to meet the remaining budget shortfalls in the period 2025-26 to 2027-28 are developed and brought back to Cabinet during 2024-25 as soon as possible and in line with the proposed timetable.
- h) Noting Government's assumptions that local authorities will raise the maximum council tax available to them, and that the final level of council tax for future years is subject to Member decisions annually (informed by any referendum principles defined by the Government), to confirm, or otherwise, the assumptions set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS Table 2 in Appendix 2) that the Council's budget planning for 2024-25 will include for planning purposes:
 - general council tax increases of 1.99% from 2025-26;
 - Adult Social Care precept increases of 1.00% 2025-26 and 0.00% from 2026-27); and
 - that if the referendum threshold were increased in the period 2025-26 to 2027-28, or any further discretion were offered to increase the Adult Social Care precept (or similar), the Section 151 Officer would recommend the Council take full advantage of any flexibility in view of the overall financial position.
- i) That the Director of Strategic Finance be authorised to transfer from the County Fund to the Salaries and General Accounts all sums necessary in respect of revenue and capital expenditure provided in the 2024-25 Budget, to make payments, to raise and repay loans, and to invest funds.
- j) To agree the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2024-28 as set out in Appendix 2, including the two policy objectives to be achieved:
 - Revenue: To identify further funding or savings for 2025-26 to 2027 28 to produce a balanced budget in all years 2024-28 in accordance with the timetable set out in the Revenue Budget report (Section 4 of Appendix 1).
 - Capital: To continue to provide a framework for identifying and prioritising capital requirements and proposals to ensure that all capital investment is targeted at meeting the Council's priorities.

- k) The mitigating actions proposed in the equality impact assessments (Appendix 6).
- l) Note the planned reduction in non-schools earmarked and general reserves of 36.72% over five years, from £175.232m (March 2023) to £110.880m (March 2028) (Section 6 of Appendix 3);
- m) Note the policy on reserves and provisions in Section 3 of Appendix 3;
- n) Agree, based on current planning assumptions and risk forecasts set out in Section 5 of Appendix 3:
 - for 2024-25, a minimum level of general balances of £26.660m, and
 - a forecast minimum level for planning purposes of
 - 1) 2025-26, £27.910m
 - 2) 2026-27, £29.160m; and
 - 3) 2027-28, £30.410m.
 - as part of the consideration of the budget plans for 2024-28 and supporting these budget recommendations;
- o) Agree the use of non-school Earmarked Reserves, as set out in Section 6 of Appendix 3.

5.44 Council **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** the following:

In respect of the Capital Strategy and Programme 2023-24 report (Annexe 2):

- To agree to recommend the programme [of £1,134.982m, subject to the planned slippage of £253.0m and additional amounts for schemes yet to be re-profiled from 2023-24] to the County Council for approval, including the new and extended capital schemes outlined in Appendix D;
- To agree to recommend to County Council the Council's Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy for 2024-25 as set out in Section 5.

5.45 Council **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** the following:

In respect of the Annual Investment and Treasury Strategy 2024-25 report (Annexe 3):

- the Annual Investment and Treasury Strategy for 2024-25 as set out in Annex 1, including:

- **The Capital Prudential Indicators included in the body of the report.**
- **The Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2024-25 in Appendix 1**
- **The list of approved counterparties at Appendix 4**
- **The Treasury Management Prudential I**

6. Questions on notice under rule 9.3

6.1 There were no questions received under rule 9.3

The meeting concluded at 14:37

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



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Norfolk County Council - Date: 20 February 2024

RECORDED VOTE – ITEM NUMBER: 5.12 – Lib Dem Group Budget Amendment (MIG)

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

Sub-Total

Sub-Total

For
Against
Abstentions

25
44
0

Norfolk County Council - Date: 20 February 2024

RECORDED VOTE – ITEM NUMBER: 5.13 – Lib Dem Group Budget Amendments

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

Sub-Total

Sub-Total

For
Against
Abstentions

25
40
0

Norfolk County Council - Date: 20 February 2024

RECORDED VOTE – ITEM NUMBER: 5.20 – Labour Group Budget Amendments

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

Sub-Total

Sub-Total

For
Against
Abstentions

24
45
0

Norfolk County Council - Date: 20 February 2024

RECORDED VOTE – ITEM NUMBER: 5.26 – Green Group Budget Amendments

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

Sub-Total

Sub-Total

For
Against
Abstentions

16
42
8

Norfolk County Council - Date: 20 February 2024

RECORDED VOTE – ITEM NUMBER: 5.35 – Cllr Alexandra Kemp Budget Amendment

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

Sub-Total			
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Sub-Total			
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For
Against
Abstentions

20
41
2

Norfolk County Council - Date: 20 February 2024

RECORDED VOTE – ITEM NUMBER: 5.40 – Cllr Maxine Webb Budget Amendment

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

Sub-Total

Sub-Total

For
Against
Abstentions

22
43
0

Norfolk County Council - Date: 20 February 2024

RECORDED VOTE – ITEM NUMBER: 5.42 – Cabinet Budget Recommendations

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

Sub-Total

Sub-Total

For
Against
Abstentions

42
20
2