

Communities Committee

**Minutes of the Meeting Held on Wednesday 9 July 2014
10:00am Edwards Room, County Hall, Norwich**

Present:

Mr P Smyth (Chair)

Mrs M Wilkinson (Vice-Chair)

Mr C Aldred

Mr J Childs

Mr D Collis

Ms E Corlett

Mrs H Cox

Mr A Dearnley

Mrs M Dewsbury

Mr N Dixon

Mr H Humphrey

Mr J Law

Mr W Northam

Mr D Roper

Mr N Shaw

Mr J Ward

1. Apologies and substitutions

- 1.1 Apologies were received from David Thomas and Mike Sands (substituted by David Collis).

2. Declarations of Interest

- 2.1 No declarations were made.

3. Declarations of Interest

- 3.1 Ms Cox declared an interest as her husband worked for the Fire Service.

4. To receive any items of business which the Chairman decides should be considered as a matter of urgency

- 4.1 The Chairman agreed to accept an item of urgent business regarding the planned eight day industrial action by the Fire Brigade Union. Ms Corlett proposed a motion that the Committee should write to the Fire Minister to stress the importance to Norfolk of an early resumption of discussions to end the fire dispute. The motion was seconded by Mr Collis and a recorded vote took place with a result of 9-6 for with one abstention. The motion was carried. The Chairman said he would draft a letter on the Committee's behalf and circulate prior to dispatch.

- 4.2 The Committee **RESOLVED**

- To send a letter to the Fire Minister encouraging talks to resume with the Fire Unions to avoid the 8 day strike by the Fire Service.

5. Local Member Issues / Member Questions

5.1 No member questions had been received prior to the meeting.

6. Performance Monitoring Plan

6.1 The Committee received the report by the Head of Business Intelligence and Performance Service, and Corporate Planning and Partnerships Service (annexe 6) which reviewed the end-of year performance results and some more recent for those services that are covered by the Communities Committee. It also proposed an approach for regular performance monitoring at the Communities Committee in future.

6.2 The Committee **RESOLVED:-**

- To note the performance information
- To agree the specific priorities or areas of performance that could be included in the revised Committee Dashboard, to be presented at the next Committee meeting and thereafter.
- To agree the principles for performance management and monitoring arrangements
- To agree a quarterly schedule for receiving performance reports.
- To agree to receive any updated data at the beginning of each regular Performance discussion.
- To agree that the Business Intelligence and Performance team would devise a process for Members to suggest what issues performance should be checked against.

7. Communities Committee Finance Monitoring Report Outturn 2013/14 and Period 2 2014/14

7.1 The Committee received the report by the Head of Budgeting and Financial Management (annexe 7) which informed the Committee on the outturn financial position of the service for 2013-14 and provided the first financial information for the new financial year. It set out variances from the original budget, emerging issues and the position on the expected use of reserves for Communities purposes.

7.2 The Committee **NOTED:-**

- The 2013-14 revenue outturn position of an £0.599m underspend
- The forecast revenue outturn position for 2014-15 as at period 2 of a balanced budget.
- The forecast capital outturn position for the 2014-15 capital programme.
- The current forecast for use of reserves.

8. Budget 2015-2018 – developing our approach

8.1 The Committee received the report by the Interim Head of Finance (annexe 8) which set out the proposed framework and timetable for the work between now and February to deliver the County Council's Revenue and Capital budget, and the forward plan for 2016-18 which would constitute the Medium Term Financial Strategy for 2015-18.

8.2 The Committee **RESOLVED**;

- To agree the approaches to assembling the budget for 2015/16.
- To agree the timetable for budget production
- To agree the scope of consultation required with residents in respect of 15/16 proposals
- To consider what further work they wished to undertake to inform their thinking for the 2016/18 Forward Plan.

9. Customer Service Progress Report

9.1 The Committee received the report by the Head of Communications and Customer Service (annexe 9). This highlighted progress of the current Customer Service Strategy and informed the Committee of the progress and plans for developing the next stage strategy (2015-2020). A presentation was given to the Committee by the Customer Access and Development Manager.

9.2 The Committee **RESOLVED**

- To note the progress reported. It agreed that the mechanisms for member involvement in the development of the 2014-2020 Customer Service strategy would be through party Spokespersons meetings.

10. Report on the Storm Surge of December 2013 and Flood and Water Management arrangements

10.1 The Committee received the report from the Interim Director of Environment, Development and Transport (annexe 10) which reported on the storm surge of December 2013 and the flood and water arrangements that had been put in place.

10.2 The Committee **RESOLVED**

- To endorse the report of the December 2013 Tidal Surge
- To note the approach to integrated risk management of flood and water management.
- To note the proposed principles, rules and timescales for administering the Coastal Fund.
- To ask the Interim Director of Environment, Development and Transport to clarify Committee leadership on the Coastal Erosion Fund because though the EDT Committee would administer the fund, its intended purpose was to support flooding resilience which was the responsibility of the Communities

Committee.

11. Review of the Forward Plan

11.1 The Chairman gave a presentation on the strategic aim of the forward plan, the objectives of what the Committee may wish to achieve and how they could do this.

11.2 The Committee **AGREED**

- That further areas as outlined in the presentation should be added to the Forward Plan but the detail and scheduling of doing so had yet to be decided.

The meeting closed at 13:40pm.

CHAIRMAN



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Appendix A**Norfolk County Council: Communities Committee****9 July 2014****Recorded Vote – Item No 4****Letter to the Fire Minister**

NAME	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
Paul Smyth – Chairman	X		
Margaret Wilkinson	X		
Colin Aldred	X		
Jonathon Childs	X		
David Collis (Substitute for Mike Sands)	X		
Emma Corlett	X		
Hilary Cox			X
Adrian Dearnley	X		
Margaret Dewsbury		X	
Nigel Dixon		X	
Harry Humphrey		X	
Jason Law		X	
Wyndham Northam		X	
Daniel Roper	X		
Nigel Shaw	X		
David Thomas			
John Ward		X	

For 9, Against 6, Abstention 1 - CARRIED