

Norfolk County Council

Minutes of the Meeting Held at 10am on Monday 20 January 2020

Present:

Cllr Tony Adams	Cllr Keith Kiddie (Vice-Chairman)
Cllr Timothy Adams	Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris
Cllr Steffan Aquarone	Cllr Brian Long
Cllr David Bills	Cllr Ian Mackie
Cllr Bill Borrett	Cllr Ed Maxfield
Cllr Claire Bowes	Cllr Joe Mooney
Cllr Roy Brame	Cllr Steve Morphew
Cllr Julie Brociek-Coulton	Cllr George Nobbs
Cllr Sarah Butikofer	Cllr Judy Oliver
Cllr Penny Carpenter	Cllr Greg Peck
Cllr Mick Castle	Cllr Graham Plant
Cllr Stuart Clancy	Cllr Andrew Proctor
Cllr Kim Clipsham	Cllr William Richmond
Cllr David Collis	Cllr David Rowntree
Cllr Ed Colman	Cllr Chrissie Rumsby
Cllr Emma Corlett	Cllr Mike Sands
Cllr Margaret Dewsbury	Cllr Eric Seward
Cllr Nigel Dixon	Cllr Carl Smith
Cllr Danny Douglas	Cllr Thomas Smith
Cllr Phillip Duigan	Cllr Mike Smith-Clare
Cllr Fabian Eagle	Cllr Bev Spratt
Cllr Tim East	Cllr Sandra Squire
Cllr John Fisher	Cllr Barry Stone
Cllr Tom FitzPatrick	Cllr Marie Strong
Cllr Colin Foulger	Cllr Haydn Thirtle
Cllr Andy Grant	Cllr Alison Thomas
Cllr Shelagh Gurney	Cllr Vic Thomson
Cllr Ron Hanton	Cllr John Timewell
Cllr David Harrison	Cllr Karen Vincent
Cllr Chenery of Horsbrugh	Cllr Colleen Walker
Cllr Harry Humphrey (Chairman)	Cllr John Ward
Cllr Brian Iles	Cllr Brian Watkins
Cllr Andrew Jamieson	Cllr Tony White
Cllr Terry Jermy	Cllr Fran Whymark
Cllr Brenda Jones	Cllr Martin Wilby
Cllr Chris Jones	Cllr Sheila Young
Cllr Alexandra Kemp	

Youth Parliament Presentation.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting, Council received a presentation from Members of the Norfolk Youth Parliament and had an opportunity to ask questions. The Cabinet Member for Children's Services thanked the representatives on behalf of council for attending.

Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Stephen Askew; Cllr Ed Connolly; Cllr Stuart Dark; Cllr Graham Middleton; Cllr Rhodri Oliver; Cllr Richard Price; Cllr Dan Roper; Cllr Margaret Stone; Cllr Martin Storey.

1 Minutes

- 1.1 The minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 25 November 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendments:

Paragraph 5.6.

Remove the word "not" from the penultimate sentence to read: "She added that nothing had yet been built on the Willows site and there was no certainty that there would be a power station there).

Paragraph 7.15. Remove the words "in her opinion" from the first sentence and replace with the word "stated".

Paragraph 7.20. (Cllr East asked a procedural question about taking questions in group order and moving to the next group if a questioner didn't ask a question as it had been similar to a question already asked and answered. He felt the next opportunity to ask a question should be given to the same Group. The Chairman agreed to take the point on board and consider the suggestion).

The Chairman accepted the suggestion.

2 Chairman's Announcements

- 2.1 The Chairman announced the sad passing of Brian Hannah, County Councillor for Sheringham from June 2001 to May 2017. Brian was Vice-Chairman of Norfolk County Council in 2013-14 and Chairman of Norfolk County Council in 2014-15 and Members of the Council paid tribute to his work whilst a County Councillor and stood in a minute's silence in his memory.
- 2.2 The Chairman highlighted some of the events he had attended, including the 34th Annual Thanksgiving Eve Service at Ely Cathedral organised by the United States Air Force at Lakenheath; the inaugural Priscilla Bacon Hospice 'Reflect and Remember' Service in Norwich Cathedral; receptions at RAF Mildenhall and King's Lynn Town Hall together with a number of Services at Great Yarmouth, Thetford, Wisbech including the St John's Ambulance Annual Carol Service.
- 2.3 The Chairman invited Councillors to attend Citizenship Ceremonies which were held at County Hall on the first Wednesday of each month. Any Councillor wishing to attend should contact Suzanne Morson, Executive Assistant to the Chairman in the first instance.

3 Declarations of Interest

- 3.1 Cllr Emma Corlett declared an Interest in agenda item 7 (Questions to Cabinet Members – question from Cllr Alexandra Kemp about Domestic Abuse) as she was Chair of Trustees at Leeway.

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

- 4.1 There were no items of urgent business.

5 Questions to Leader of the Council

5.1 Question from Cllr Steve Morphew

Cllr Morphew stated that Councillors were informed a special Council meeting had been called for Monday 3 February and asked why, given the relatively light agenda on 20 January, the Leader had not proposed delaying this meeting and combining the two meetings. He added that this would have saved money and Councillor time. Cllr Morphew also said that the issue relating to the call-in deadline for the Cabinet meeting on 13 January being after the Council meeting on 20 January would have been avoided and would also have avoided the Council report being delayed until March. Cllr Morphew suggested that, if the Leader had spoken to Group Leaders about how to manage the business, rather than handing them a decision as a fait accompli, it might have saved time, money and improved the smooth running of the Council. He asked why Group Leaders had not been consulted.

The Leader replied that, as Cllr Morphew was aware, the Boundary Review Working Group had been set up to consider the boundary review. The Labour Group and the Liberal Democrat Group had chosen not to participate in that Working Group. The Leader added that, as part of the process, the original submission had been due earlier and the final submission to the Boundary Commission was now due around 11 February 2020. He also added that the Boundary Commission would make the final decision and he felt it was important an extraordinary meeting was held to consider all of the proposals rather than rush the papers through at the meeting on 20 January.

Cllr Morphew considered that his question as to why this Council meeting had not been delayed until 3 February hadn't been answered and also why Group Leaders had not been consulted.

The Leader responded that there was business on the agenda at this meeting that needed to be concluded before 3 February.

5.2 Question from Cllr Brian Watkins

Cllr Watkins stated, in the past few weeks, Members had heard that the Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital had the worst record of any hospital in the country for dealing with accident and emergency cases within four hours. He asked what the Leader would say to Lacey Taylor and her mum about how the Council would use its influence, particularly through its regular meetings with the NHS, to seek the urgent improvements that accident and emergency patients needed and deserved.

The Leader replied that he didn't think anyone could doubt that the performance

of all hospitals, including the Norfolk & Norwich University Hospital needed improving. He added that one of the things Council was doing, in conjunction with its regular meetings with the NHS, was to see how improvements could be made by collaborative working. He added that he was sure some of those significant issues could be dealt with through collaboration.

5.3 Question from Cllr Sandra Squire

Cllr Squire stated that on 16 and 17 January 2020, Members had attended meetings and workshops with the Local Government Association (LGA) to discuss how they considered the current arrangements were working with the Cabinet system and new Committees. Cllr Squire asked if the Leader could confirm whether the feedback Councillors had given, and the comments made, would be acted upon and not just ignored.

The Leader replied that as Councillors were aware, the Governance Review had emanated from the Corporate Peer Review held in October 2019 and the key part of the work on 16 and 17 January, undertaken by the Peer Review Manager and Baroness Scott, was to undertake the governance review of the Council, which had been carried out in a proper manner with everyone having a chance to feed into the review. The Leader continued that he hadn't seen the report from the review and that he wouldn't be seeing it, as it would be presented to the Monitoring Officer who had Commissioned the review. He added that once the Monitoring Officer had received the report, Councillors could consider if any changes were needed.

5.3 Question from Cllr Brian Long

Cllr Long asked the Leader, although there was a motion on the agenda regarding the topic, what actions had been taken regarding the Greater Anglia rail service and the current performance issues.

The Leader responded that the motion would be considered later in the meeting, and also referred to the public consultation on the Rail Prospectus which had now been launched. He added that, to focus on the Greater Anglia issues, he had met with Brandon Lewis MP recently, the result of which was that both he and Chloe Smith MP, had written a letter to the Managing Director of Greater Anglia which had been published in the press on Friday 17 January 2020. The Leader said he felt sure all Members supported the views and that whilst there were issues with the Greater Anglia performance, there were also issues about how Network Rail had responded. He added that Theresa Coffey MP had also been involved in trying to resolve the issues.

The Leader said it was also worth adding, in the context of the new Government and its focus on the infrastructure revolution, that he was hoping more investment would be seen in the rail service to ensure the east of England received its fair share of funding. The Leader also referred to a meeting scheduled for 5 February 2020, organised by the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), supported by the local authorities in Norfolk and Suffolk, together with MPs in Norfolk and Suffolk, to commence work on the infrastructure agenda.

5.4 Question from Cllr Mike Sands

Cllr Sands asked the Leader, given the lack of decision in Westminster on Adult Social Care until the end of 2020 and according to the Prime Minister, not coming into force until 2025, what action he would take to expedite adequate funding for

adult social care in the interim.

The Leader responded that he was not sure the Prime Minister had said it would not take effect until 2025 and that one of the key things from the Queen's Speech was the focus on the costs and charging for adult social care and children's social care. He added that he had tried to explain the budget position at the Cabinet meeting on 13 January 2020 at which the Cabinet Member for Finance had given a very good summary of the financial situation. He continued that there were two things flowing from that - Council must, and would, keep lobbying Government to get the right level of funding, not only for adult social care, but for children's social care as well as all other services, and in doing that, we would be more than happy to work with all groups involved to take that lobbying forward.

5.5 Question from Cllr Tim Adams

Cllr Adams stated that, yet another Prime Minister had made a commitment for a social care green paper, and he was sure the Leader would agree that cross-party consensus on social care was needed. He asked if the Leader was concerned that everyone appeared to disagree with him on the minimum income guarantee as no commitment had been given to reverse the changes to the minimum income guarantee despite increased social care funding. He asked what the Leader would say to those people who had been put into poverty as a result of the minimum income guarantee.

The Leader replied that he agreed with Cllr Adams that cross-party consensus on this matter was needed. He added that, in response to an earlier question, he had tried to explain the overall financial position; how Cabinet wanted to move forward with lobbying and from that point of view it was not a matter of saying one issue was finished, as it was not. He continued that the other aspect, which he was sure Cllr Adams would understand, was in terms of the Council's finite resources, reiterating that there were finite resources available, and that even though the budget of £1.4bn was quite significant, it needed to be spent across the whole of Norfolk, for the benefit of all residents and communities.

5.6 Question from Cllr Mick Castle

Cllr Castle asked if the Leader would agree that the retention and future improvement of the Norwich to Liverpool cross-country rail service was vital to ensuring good connectivity with the Midlands and the North, as well as to London and the South-East. He also asked if the Leader could reassure him that Cabinet would seek the support of other East Anglian councils to secure government commitment to putting in key new rail infrastructure at Ely and elsewhere, to make this possible.

The Leader replied that he hoped Cllr Castle would accept that the aim was to see all forms of connectivity across the whole country and the Norwich to Liverpool line was one element. He added that, regarding the Ely junction, some preparatory work had begun to improve that junction and referred to his earlier answer about the infrastructure revolution and the work the Local Enterprise Partnership was doing in conjunction with local authorities to ensure investment and services were obtained.

5.7 Question from Cllr Carl Smith

Cllr Smith asked if the Leader would join him in congratulating all the Norfolk recipients announced in the New Year's Honours List.

The Leader replied that the first recipient he wanted to single out was Amanda Reeve, a Curriculum Manager at Norfolk County Council who had been awarded the British Empire Medal. He also highlighted other significant awards in Norfolk – David Gray, on the Police staff at Norfolk Constabulary who had been awarded an OBE; Barry Payne, a Headteacher and founder of the Norfolk Wherry School who had been awarded an OBE; Anna Morgan, Director of Nursing Quality at the Norfolk Community Health & Care NHS Trust who had been awarded an MBE and Heidi Fisher, a founder of Making an Impact Community Interest Company who had been awarded an MBE.

The Leader also added that he had attended the Palace when his late father had been awarded an OBE and that his father had been very proud and very respectful of the award. He said that he was sure Members would agree that people receiving awards were proud of the award they received and were respectful of it and that he struggled to understand why anyone who had received an award would contemplate returning it.

5.8 Question from Cllr Emma Corlett

Cllr Corlett asked the Leader, if there was any raise in welfare benefits in March or in future budgets, if he would commit to raising the minimum income guarantee (MIG) for social care rises in line with any welfare rise, otherwise the additional money would not go to the individuals as intended to meet the increased cost of living, and the cost of living with a disability, but would be entirely taken by the County Council.

The Leader replied that the minimum income guarantee was directed from Government, adding that if government funding was received it could be done. Regarding changes in benefit, any decisions would need to be made at the appropriate time.

5.9 Question from Cllr Steffan Aquarone

Cllr Aquarone stated that, if Cllr Proctor had been listening to BBC Radio Norfolk, he would have heard Catherine Rowlett MEP talking about her report being published about how Norfolk could become carbon neutral by 2030. He asked, given her experience and credentials and the stated importance of this issue to the Council as well as Norfolk's young people, if the Leader would be reading the document himself.

The Leader replied that he hadn't heard the report himself, but notwithstanding that, the Environmental Working Group, under the direction of Cllr Grant, was working on the environmental policies Council had agreed and to take that forward into intended actions by 2030.

5.10 Question from Cllr Alexandra Kemp

Cllr Kemp asked, following the Peer Review, how Council was taking action on its new organisational value of making better use of evidence in its decision-making. She added that making evidence-based policy was really important and referred to the fact that Hardings Way Bus Lane speeds up the passage of buses by four minutes and increasing the viability of the commercial bus service had not been heard by the Committee which made the Traffic Order. She asked what progress had been made in setting up the new Norfolk office for Data and Analytics and if Councillors could have assurance going forward that, under his

leadership, Council would take more evidence-based decisions.

The Leader replied that he felt Cllr Kemp was taking the wrong approach about information for making decisions, saying that decisions were made based on the evidence and the relevant facts. He continued that, with regard to data sharing, there was a data sharing protocol being established which was GDPR compliant and included a model for multiple organisations to work together to share data across the county, and which would be reported to the Norfolk Chief Executives Meeting on 30 January 2020. The Leader added that he thought that there were 7 centres across the country so Norfolk was leading the way, although the most important thing was how organisations worked together to share data for the best use for all residents and communities.

6 Cabinet Recommendations from the meeting held on 2 December 2019.

- 6.1 The Chairman highlighted that, as per the email from the Assistant Head of Democratic Services, the recommendations from the Cabinet meeting held on Monday 13 January 2020 would be held over until the Council meeting on 23 March 2020, apart from the items relating to the Budget which would be considered by Council at its meeting on 17 February 2020.

6.2 Finance Monitoring Report 2019-20 P7 : October 2019.

Cllr Andrew Proctor, Leader and Chairman of Cabinet, moved the recommendations in the report from the meeting held on 2 December 2019.

Cllr Morphew asked if the Leader could tell Council whether the recommendations could have waited until the 3 February meeting and if so, what other items of business on the agenda could not have waited until the 3 February meeting.

The Chairman of Cabinet responded that he felt it was important to get business completed as soon as possible, therefore the recommendations were important enough to be agreed at this meeting.

- 6.2.1 Council **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** the recommendation as outlined in the report.

6.4 Mid-Year Treasury Management Monitoring Report 2019-20.

The Leader moved the recommendations in the report. Council **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** the recommendations as outlined in the report.

7. Cabinet Reports (Questions to Cabinet Members)

Cllr Andrew Proctor, Leader and Chairman of Cabinet, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** the report.

7.1 Question from Cllr Alexandra Kemp to Cllr Andy Grant, Cabinet Member for Environment & Waste.

Cllr Kemp asked what help Council would give to the people of Clenchwarton at the Planning Inquiry on 5 February about the Fosters Development. She added that the high risk of tidal, groundwater and surface water flooding was so great that some residents had one foot of water permanently lying under their

floorboards in Coronation Road and in one case a house had been flooded and garages were flooded every time it rained. She asked why this hadn't been picked up and what was going to be done about it.

The Cabinet Member agreed to provide a written response.

Cllr Steve Morphey raised a point of order, asking the Chairman for the order he was taking questions to Cabinet Members. The Chairman responded that he had accepted the question from the only person who had raised their hand at that point, but accepted the comment and would take further questions as per the procedure note.

7.2 Question from Cllr Mike Smith-Clare to Cllr John Fisher, Cabinet Member for Children's Services.

Cllr Smith-Clare said he had not received a response to the question he had raised at the meeting in November 2019 about the number of permanent exclusions and asked the Cabinet Member for a reply.

The Cabinet Member apologised to Cllr Smith-Clare, saying that he thought he had replied, but as December had been really busy with the election, it may have been missed. Cllr Fisher said that permanent exclusions were reducing and in the period from September to the end of November 2019 there were 62 permanent exclusions, some of which were still being investigated. He added that the total number of referrals to pupil numbers being excluded from Norfolk schools in 2018-19 was actually 234, compare with 252 in 2017-18.

7.3 Question from Cllr Eric Seward to Cllr John Fisher, Cabinet Member for Children's Services.

Cllr Seward stated that the Schools Local Growth and Investment Plan had been approved by Cabinet on 13 January 2020. The report had identified a range of areas where new schools were likely to be required to meet rising demand. Cllr Seward added that he could see no reference in the report to North Walsham, even though it had been earmarked in the District Council's draft Local Plan as a growth town with up to 2000 new houses, and where it was acknowledged a new primary school would be required, which was known to council officers. Cllr Seward asked why North Walsham had been omitted from the report and why North Walsham was Norfolk's forgotten town.

The Cabinet Member responded that officers were fully aware of where expansion would be taking place as local plans predicted exactly where new houses would be and what the predicted pupil numbers would be. He added that North Walsham was currently being reviewed and although there were no specific plans at the present time, as houses came on line, he could assure all Councillors that the children's services department was fully up to speed and new schools would be in place, together with funding for those new schools, as soon as relevant numbers of pupils were present in the community.

7.4 Question from Cllr Alison Thomas to Cllr Martin Wilby, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport.

Cllr Thomas said she was very pleased to be able to attend, with Cllr Wilby in December 2019, the planting of a tree to celebrate the opening of the Hempnall roundabout. She asked the Cabinet Member to give Council an outline of when the landscaping was going to be completed and what planting was expected.

The Cabinet Member replied that he had enjoyed planting the tree to mark the special opening of the Hempnall roundabout and said that wherever he went he received compliments about the design, the layout and the standard of workmanship during its construction. The Cabinet Member said he believed tree planting was due to start on 20 January, with approximately 37 new trees being planted in and around the site, together with approximately 1km of new hedging and he looked forward to seeing them becoming established.

7.5 Question from Cllr Brenda Jones to Cllr Bill Borrett, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health & Prevention.

Cllr Brenda Jones stated that the Government had provided extra money to councils for social care and asked if the Cabinet Member still intended to support the effective reduction to the income of working age disabled people by another 10% this year and did he realise the terrible impact this was having on people and their families.

The Cabinet Member replied that Cabinet welcomed the Government's positivity about social care and that the Leader had already referred to the comments of the Prime Minister which he fully supported. He added that the extra money was very welcome although there were huge pressures in adult social care as Members were aware. He continued by saying that, even though the money the County Council was spending was increasing every year, the amount of demand placed on that money was rising even faster. The decision made by Council in February 2019 before we knew the Government recommended levels was not in the Cabinet papers, so the final decision would be made when Council discussed the budget in February 2020. The Cabinet Member continued that the Council had a duty to protect all the services we delivered because of the vulnerable people that relied on those services and also reiterated the need for the Council to set a balanced budget.

7.6 Question from Cllr Sandra Squire to Cllr Bill Borrett, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health & Prevention.

Cllr Squire asked if the Cabinet Member would agree that the recent problems with the direct payment scheme, including with PA's not being paid on time, was not good enough and give his assurance that payments would be issued correctly and on time in future.

The Cabinet Member replied that he couldn't give a direct assurance on individual cases, although he supported Cllr Squire's comments that if someone is entitled to a payment it was only fair that they received it when they should do so and they should have a lot of hassle around receiving money which they were due. He added that he echoed the comments made by Cllr Squire which he had raised with officers to ensure payments were made in a competent and timely manner.

7.7 Question from Cllr Tim Adams to Cllr Martin Wilby, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport.

Cllr Adams said he had been contacted by taxi drivers, both from within and beyond his Division, who had complained about delays they experienced on the NDR slip road which joined the A140 at the roundabout near the airport. Cllr Adams asked if the Cabinet Member had been informed of the issues, which he understood were occurring before 9am in the morning, and whether he was

investigating any means of mitigating them.

The Cabinet Member replied that the Broadland Northway was continually being monitored and that he was aware of the issues of congestion in certain areas at certain times of the day. He added that the highways department would continue to explore ways to improve the areas concerned.

7.8 Question from Cllr Mick Castle to Cllr Bill Borrett, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health & Prevention.

Cllr Castle asked if the Cabinet Member would join him in congratulating the Centre 81 Charity in Great Yarmouth on securing a £0.25m grant from the New Anglia LEP to enable it to relocate into larger and more modern premises on the Better Furniture site in Southtown Road in Great Yarmouth, and if he would pledge that the County Council would always take into account the important role of charitable and third sector organisations in providing services to the public and the difficulties they faced in an era of austerity and Council budget cuts.

The Cabinet Member responded that he didn't agree with the word 'cuts', although he did agree that the grant of £250k for Centre 81 from the LEP was very welcome and congratulated everyone at Centre 81 who had been involved in bidding for that money.

The Cabinet Member continued that third sector and the voluntary sector was a very important part of how services were delivered in the County Council and he felt it was something that should be on the radar of all Councillors. He continued by saying that, due to the changing demographics and population in the county for all sorts of reasons people were living longer, which was something he welcomed, but meant the Council was needing to find ways of managing that older population which had not been needed previously. The Cabinet Member agreed that the third sector was going to play a vital part of that and that he agreed with Cllr Castle's comments.

7.9 Question from Cllr Joe Mooney to Cllr Andrew Jamieson, Cabinet Member for Finance.

Cllr Mooney said, during a recent Cabinet meeting, the Cabinet Member for Finance had used the term 'running to stand still' to explain the pressures the County Council's budget was under. Cllr Mooney asked the Cabinet Member to explain to Council why he used that term.

The Cabinet Member replied that there was no getting away from how hard the Council was having to run to stand still, adding that service department cost pressures totalling approximately £65m needed to be met from the forthcoming budget. He continued by saying that this year, investment in adult social care would increase by a total of £35m to meet those cost pressures and to utilise new services. He added that investment of a further £23m in children's services would be shown and, despite the constraints the council was operating under, more money would be invested in Community & Environmental Services department, including approximately £900k in the Fire Service.

The Cabinet Member continued that, although there was an original budget shortfall of £35m and, despite all the new pressures that had emerged during the year, with the combination of savings, additional funding and the higher council tax, Council had been able to balance the revenue budget.

The Cabinet Member referred to the Medium-Term Financial Strategy, which forecast a significant gap in resources, which was why work was being carried out to make a case to Government for fair and adequate funding of local services. He added that work with local MP's, by speaking and writing to relevant Ministers to put Norfolk's case front and centre in the Government's thinking when investing infrastructure, social care and economic priming would continue.

7.10 Question from Cllr Danny Douglas to Cllr Martin Wilby, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport.

Cllr Douglas asked the Cabinet Member, with the counties increased commitment to cut carbon emissions, if he would commit to spending the sustainable transport element of the capital budget on sustainable transport and not road repairs in the forthcoming budget.

The Cabinet Member replied that the Council was continuing to invest in infrastructure across the county, not only in the city but also in applying for the Transforming Cities Fund as well as the Future Mobility Fund, which would have a big impact on emissions across the Greater Norwich area and across the whole of the county.

7.11 Question from Cllr Sarah Butikofer to Cllr Margaret Dewsbury, Cabinet Member for Communities & Partnerships.

Cllr Butikofer referred to the fact that the Fire Service response times were ever increasing and whilst it had been a few seconds here and there, it had increased and now an extra minute had been added to response times which could make a huge difference to the outcome of the people affected and impacted. Cllr Butikofer asked what was being done to try to bring those figures back on track because people in North Norfolk didn't have the same access to enable the fire service to attend emergencies from reciprocal areas.

The Cabinet Member replied that the report had appeared in the press on 20 January so many people may not have read it. The Cabinet Member continued that the report was a national report and in some areas there had been cuts in staffing which hadn't happened in Norfolk. The Cabinet Member continued that the reason Norfolk's figures were slightly down from last year, was because Norfolk had experienced a lot of heath fires which had taken a long time to douse completely on site. She added that the slight overspend on last year's budget was due to people being called out to cover the heath fires, and that Norfolk was slightly different to the rest of the country. She added that from her perspective this was a ten-year response period in the report and she would repeat the response by the Assistant Chief Fire Officer.

7.12 Question from Cllr Alexandra Kemp to Cllr Margaret Dewsbury, Cabinet Member for Communities & Partnerships.

Cllr Kemp said she wished to thank Cabinet for agreeing to guarantee the funding for the Domestic Violence Change Champion Trainers based in Children's Services for 2020-21. She added that when she had set up the One Billion Rising Campaign in King's Lynn against Domestic Violence, the Police Commissioner and his female deputy had funded a Domestic Violence Coordinator at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Cllr Kemp asked what steps were being taken to ensure the funding for the Domestic Abuse Champion Trainers

would continue next year, as the Domestic Homicide Review had said more front-line professionals needed to be trained to ask questions about domestic abuse, provide support and save women's lives. Cllr Kemp also asked when Norfolk would see a woman Police Commissioner.

The Cabinet Member for Communities & Partnerships replied that she didn't consider the question was relevant to her portfolio, although as far as customer services was concerned, training on domestic abuse was being carried out for all frontline staff.

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services added that Cllr Kemp had raised the question at Cabinet on 13 January and that Children's Services department had identified the budget for next year to fight domestic abuse and that he would provide a formal written response to the question.

7.12.1 Cllr Emma Corlett declared an Interest at this point as she was Chair of Trustees at Leeway.

7.13 **Question from Cllr Barry Stone to Cllr Martin Wilby, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport.**

Cllr Stone asked if the Cabinet Member could give Council an update on the latest position with the funding application for the Transforming Cities Fund and when a response from the Government was expected.

The Cabinet Member replied that the bid had been submitted to central Government which, if successful, had the potential to transform travel in the Greater Norwich area. The Transport for Norwich Partnership was seeking an overall investment in the region of £100m from the Dft Transforming Cities Fund, which aimed to make it easier for people to access jobs, training, retail and respond to issues around carbon reduction and improve local air quality, with a strong focus on improving public transport, including walking and cycling.

The Cabinet Member continued by saying if the Council was successful it planned to generate an additional 4000 bus trips per day and improve access to employment for thousands of residents in the most deprived parts of the city, with bus passengers seeing reduced journey times with more frequent services and connecting options. By moving to more sustainable transport options the Council hoped to tackle congestion, reduce single car occupancy and achieve a 16000 tonne reduction in CO2 across the city with particular focus on current pollution hotspots. He went on to say this would support the ambitious 2030 carbon neutral target which was set out in the latest Council Environmental Policy.

The Transforming Cities Proposals, developed in partnership, had been widely supported by key stakeholders across the city and the Greater Norwich area, with some bus operators pledging to make some fleet upgrades should the funding be awarded, with the potential to introduce electric buses through other government sources.

This funding bid also had the potential to deliver investment in sustainable transport infrastructure on an unprecedented scale, transform how people travelled around Norwich, boost the local economy and deliver real benefits in terms of health, employment and environment for years to come.

The Cabinet Member continued that the level of support shown for the proposals was testament to the partnership approach to date and the commitment shown to invest by bus operators was a clear indication of confidence in our joint approach to delivery.

All of our current proposals are available on the website and the decision from the Department for Transport regarding funding was expected by the end of March 2020 after which all the funded schemes in the proposals would be subject to further local consultation and detailed design.

Transport for Norwich was a partnership between Norfolk County Council, Norwich City Council, and the district authorities of Broadland and South Norfolk. The Transforming Cities Fund was a government fund totalling £1.2bn and Greater Norwich was one of the twelve city areas on the shortlist to apply for funding.

The Cabinet Member also added that, as he had previously mentioned, alongside this bid, Norfolk County Council had also submitted an application to fund further transport innovation that sought to significantly reduce levels of single car occupancy in Norwich through the future mobility zone fund and this bid included an all-electric fleet for park and ride services, with additional information in the bus operators' letters of support.

7.14 Question from Cllr Terry Jermy to Cllr Andrew Jamieson, Cabinet Member for Finance.

Cllr Jermy stated, given how tight budgets were at the moment and with cuts to services, there was understandable concern about the additional council meeting being held in February and the financial implications. He added, with this in mind, if the Cabinet Member could confirm the average cost of staging a full Council meeting, including everyone's expense claims and officer time.

The Cabinet Member responded that he would provide a written response, adding that one point he would make was that accountability was an immensely important part of the council process and whilst he thought the Scrutiny Committee was a key cog in that process, this was an out-facing moment when the council could demonstrate accountability to the people of Norfolk and be held to account, which should not be dismissed as part of the process.

7.15 Question from Cllr Brian Watkins to Cllr Bill Borrett, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health & Prevention.

Cllr Watkins stated that in 2018-19 the Council estimated the annual staff turnover of registered nurses in older people's care homes in Norfolk was 49.5% per year; 36% of registered nurses were aged 55 or over and 26% were from the European Union. He added that a job in the care market needed to be appealing and held in high regard by society and asked what the Cabinet Member would do to ensure this was seen to be the case in Norfolk and ensure the impending crisis in registered nurses did not happen.

The Cabinet Member replied that the Council was very aware of the shortage of professionals in the care industry and as such, as the Cabinet report presented at the Cabinet meeting on 13 January reported, for the second year running the County Council was proposing to include an inflation-busting increase into the

amounts people were paid by the County Council, in some cases well over the rate of inflation, amounting to an extra £11m last year with a proposal to include an additional £13m this year. He continued that the increase in the living wage had been fully funded by the County Council, so that would go directly to the people who were working and not be passed on by employers. The Cabinet Member added that he agreed with Cllr Watkins' point and that he could easily and able demonstrate the County Council's point and that it was putting its money where its mouth was.

7.16 Question from Cllr Mick Castle to Cllr John Fisher, Cabinet Member for Children's Services.

Cllr Castle said he welcomed the roll out of the new SRBs to augment the county's provision for children with special needs and asked the Cabinet Member to reassure Council that due diligence had been carried out to ensure the academies chosen to run them were financially sound.

The Cabinet Member replied that no decision had yet been made as to who would be running the academies and reassured Council absolute and thorough due diligence would be carried out to ensure anyone running any SRBs and the new schools would be checked and investigated and that there would be no incidents where they could not run those facilities.

7.17 Question from Cllr Chenery of Horsburgh to Cllr John Fisher, Cabinet Member for Children's Services.

Cllr Chenery asked if Norfolk County Council was any further forward in handing the former Bircham School building back to the Sandringham Estate.

The Cabinet Member agreed to provide a written response.

7.18 Question from Cllr Julie Brociek-Coulton to Cllr Bill Borrett, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health & Prevention.

Cllr Brociek-Coulton said, at Cabinet on Monday 13 January, one of the parents of a young person with a learning disability said her daughter was at the Cabinet meeting because her PA hadn't shown up to take her to her new job. She asked if the Cabinet Member could tell Council how many people had experienced this as well with their PA's not showing up and why were people being billed if they were not receiving a service from the County Council. She asked why this kept happening.

The Cabinet Member replied that he couldn't speak about individual cases, but he could say, in answer to Cllr Squire's earlier question, it wasn't acceptable for someone to be charged for something they were not receiving, and although he didn't know what the individual cases were, he had raised the matter with officers. He reassured Council it was an issue the department would continue to address.

7.19 Question from Cllr Tim East to Cllr Martin Wilby, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport.

Cllr East asked if the Cabinet Member could confirm that the Transforming Cities Bid was inextricably linked with the Transport for Norwich scheme.

In reply, the Cabinet Member said the Transforming Cities Bid was a bid put forward by Norfolk County Council, along with South Norfolk and Broadland

which specifically covered the whole of the greater Norwich area.

Cllr East reiterated that his question as whether the Transforming Cities Bid was inextricably linked with the Transport for Norwich scheme.

The Cabinet Member said he had given his answer.

7.20 Question from Cllr Sandra Squire to Cllr Andy Grant, Cabinet Member for Environment & Waste.

Cllr Squire asked, given the recent flooding and the many flood warnings in Norfolk, if the Cabinet Member could give Council an update on the Regional Flood and Coastal Committees (RFCC) and confirm how much funding was being allocated to Norfolk.

In reply, the Cabinet Member said the budget through RFCC had been completed and he would provide a written response as to the works to be carried out in Norfolk for the forthcoming year.

7.21 Question from Cllr Mike Sands to Cllr Bill Borrett, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health & Prevention.

Cllr Sands asked if the Cabinet Member could confirm that a decision due in December on the provision of meaningful training and activity for those with disabilities was made, as those providers in his division and across the county, were still waiting for confirmation of a date for the forum for providers in preparing their submissions for their own long-term planning.

In reply, the Cabinet Member replied that they would be notified shortly.

8. Committee Reports

8.1 Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 17 December 2019

Cllr Steve Morphew, Chair, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

8.2 Norwich Highways Agency Joint Committee meeting held on 19 December 2019.

Cllr Tony Adams, Chairman, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

9. Appointments to Committees, Sub-Committees and Joint Committees (Standard Item).

9.1 No appointments were made.

10. Notice of Motions

10.1 The following motion was **WITHDRAWN** by Cllr Terry Jermy:

Council regrets the continued unreliability of rail services to Norfolk and the lack of investment in the infrastructure that is required to give residents, businesses and visitors the service they deserve and pay for. Council further regrets the latest fare

increases at a time when services have deteriorated.

Council believes urgent action is required to tackle the problems and to invest in the infrastructure for delivery of high quality rail services to the county, and connectivity far beyond. Council also recognises that good public transport is essential to helping achieve our ambitious carbon reduction targets.

Council therefore resolves to

1. request the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Transport asking him to personally intervene to urgently bring an end to the current chaos
2. request the Secretary of State to review the franchises of companies serving Norfolk to determine whether the franchise agreements and companies holding the franchises are fit for purpose
3. further request the Secretary of State to prioritise investment in railway infrastructure in the East of England that services Norfolk
4. urge the LEP to lobby government on behalf of private and public sector partners whose businesses and economic development plans are damaged by the ongoing uncertainty
5. welcome any investigation undertaken by the Scrutiny Committee either on its own or in conjunction with other county councils in the East of England affected by the same service disruptions as Norfolk into the causes, consequences and actions required as a result

- 10.2 The following motion was proposed by Cllr Mike Smith-Clare and seconded by Cllr David Rowntree.

The Council fully accepts that the hunting of wild animals with dogs is illegal under the terms of the Hunting Act 2004, except where an exemption applies.

With a continual threat to the environment and on wild and domestic animals, the Council proposes that the Environmental Working Group considers the impact of removing trail hunting and the exercising of packs of dogs from Norfolk County Council owned land including County Farms.

- 10.2.1 Upon being put to a vote with 18 votes in favour, the motion was **LOST**.

- 10.3 The following motion was proposed by Cllr Emma Corlett and seconded by Cllr Penny Carpenter:

Council recognises that receiving a terminal health diagnosis is devastating news for any employee.

Council is committed to being a compassionate employer and will fully support any employee facing a terminal diagnosis.

Council commits to supporting the TUC “Dying To Work” campaign and will sign up to the following charter that sets out an agreed way in which our employees will be supported, protected and guided throughout their employment, following a terminal diagnosis.

- * We recognise that terminal illness requires support and understanding and not additional and avoidable stress and worry.
- * Terminally ill workers will be secure in the knowledge that we will support them following their diagnosis and we recognise that safe and reasonable work can help maintain dignity, offer a valuable distraction and can be therapeutic in itself.
- * We will provide our employees with the security of work, peace of mind and the right to choose the best course of action for themselves and their families which helps them through this challenging period with dignity and without undue financial loss.
- * We support the Dying to Work campaign so that all employees battling a terminal illness have adequate employment protection and have their death in service benefits protected for the loved ones they leave behind.
- * We will use our collective influence to encourage other Norfolk employers to adopt this charter.

10.3.1 Following debate and upon being put a vote, Council unanimously voted in favour and the motion was **CARRIED**.

10.4 The following motion was proposed by Cllr Sandra Squire and seconded by Cllr Ed Maxfield.

This Council believes that a quality Education is the cornerstone of a successful society, it is the foundation for improving life chances and should be accessible to all. While Council recognises that the differing Educational attainment rates between boys and girls is an issue seen Nationally, Council is concerned by the Educational Achievement Standards in Norfolk and especially with the continuing underperformance of boys in Norfolk, particularly amongst white working class boys.

Therefore, Council urges the Cabinet and the People & Communities Select Committee to make this issue a priority concern for 2020. Taking into account current research on strategies for addressing this issue and identifying appropriate Community or Academy Schools in the County, to launch pilot schemes in the 2020-21 Academic Year with the aim to improve achievement standards in boys.

10.4.1 The following amendment was proposed by Cllr John Fisher. The amendment was accepted by Cllr Sandra Squire, as proposer of the original motion, and became the substantive motion.

This Council believes that a quality Education is the cornerstone of a successful society, it is the foundation for improving life chances and should be accessible to all. While Council recognises that the differing Educational attainment rates across genders is an issue seen Nationally, and occurs at varying ages Council identifies that the Educational Achievement Standards in Norfolk vary up to key stage 2.

Recent studies have identified that work in the early years on speech and language has the most significant impact on closing the gender gap in attainment. Council

urges the Cabinet and the People & Communities Select Committee to focus on a concerted campaign to close the gender gap by end of reception year with the aim of improving achievement across Norfolk.

10.4.2 The following amendment was proposed by Cllr Emma Corlett:

This Council believes that a quality Education is the cornerstone of a successful society, it is the foundation for improving life chances and should be accessible to all. While Council recognises that the differing Educational attainment rates across genders is an issue seen Nationally, and occurs at varying ages Council identifies that the Educational Achievement Standards in Norfolk vary ~~up to key stage 2.~~

Recent studies have identified that work in the early years on speech and language has the most significant impact on closing the gender gap in attainment. Council urges the Cabinet and the People & Communities Select Committee to focus on a concerted campaign to close the gender gap by end of reception year with the aim of improving achievement across Norfolk.

10.4.3 As proposer of the substantive motion, Cllr Sandra Squire accepted the amendment which became the substantive motion -

This Council believes that a quality Education is the cornerstone of a successful society, it is the foundation for improving life chances and should be accessible to all. While Council recognises that the differing Educational attainment rates across genders is an issue seen Nationally, and occurs at varying ages Council identifies that the Educational Achievement Standards in Norfolk vary.

Recent studies have identified that work in the early years on speech and language has the most significant impact on closing the gender gap in attainment. Council urges the Cabinet and the People & Communities Select Committee to focus on a concerted campaign to close the gender gap by end of reception year with the aim of improving achievement across Norfolk.

10.4.5 Upon being put to a vote, the motion was unanimously **CARRIED**.

11. To answer questions under Rule 8.3 of the Council Procedure Rules

No questions were received.

The meeting concluded at 12.20pm.

Chairman



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Questions requiring written responses from the Council Meeting – Monday 20 January 2020

	Question and response:
<p>Question from Cllr Alexandra Kemp to Cllr Andy Grant, Cabinet Member for Environment & Waste.</p>	<p>Cllr Kemp asked what help Council would give to the people of Clenchwarton at the Planning Inquiry on 5 February about the Fosters Development. She added that the high risks of tidal, groundwater and surface water flooding was so great that some residents had one foot of water permanently lying under their floorboards in Coronation Road and in one case a house had been flooded and garages were flooded every time it rained. She asked why this hadn't been picked up and what was going to be done about it.</p> <p>Response: The County Council's Flood & Water Management Team have not, yet, received reports of flooding at Coronation Road, Clenchwarton which you mentioned. We would encourage local residents to report the flooding via our online Flood Report Form: https://online.norfolk.gov.uk/floodreport/ or if this is not possible, we can send out paper questionnaires. If the reported flooding meets our thresholds, we will undertake a formal investigation.</p> <p>Accurate knowledge of local flooding issues can inform the Council's responses to consultations on planning applications. Officers in the Flood & Water Management Team have assessed the drainage proposals for the development and were able to recommend conditions on the design and construction of the drainage system. As the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) does not have an outstanding objection to the development, officers from the LLFA will not be attending the appeal hearing.</p>
<p>Question from Cllr Alexandra Kemp to Cllr John Fisher, Cabinet Member for Children's Services</p>	<p>Cllr Kemp said she wished to thank Cabinet for agreeing to guarantee the funding for the Domestic Violence Change Champion Trainers based in Children's Services for 2020-21. She added that when she had set up the One Billion Rising Campaign in King's Lynn against Domestic Violence, the Police Commissioner and his female deputy had funded a Domestic Violence Coordinator at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Cllr Kemp asked what steps were being taken to ensure the funding for the Domestic Abuse Champion Trainers would continue next year, as the Domestic Homicide Review had said more front-line professionals needed to be trained to ask questions about domestic abuse, provide support and save women's lives. Cllr Kemp also asked when Norfolk would see a woman Police Commissioner.</p> <p>Response: The Cabinet Member for Communities & Partnerships replied that she didn't consider the question was relevant to her portfolio, although as far as customer services was concerned, training on domestic abuse was being carried out for all frontline staff.</p> <p>The Cabinet Member for Children's Services added that Cllr Kemp had raised the question at Cabinet on 13 January and</p>

	<p>Question and response:</p> <p>that Children's Services department had identified the budget for next year to fight domestic abuse and that he would provide a formal written response to the question.</p> <p>Children's Services view Domestic Abuse (DA) as one of its top priorities to address in significantly improving outcomes for children and young people growing up in Norfolk, both systemwide and in respect of our social care response.</p> <p>As such, we have agreed to take over the funding of the DA Change Coordinators for 20/21, and we are in the process of finalising where they will be best based in our new operating model. This is in addition to the considerable investment we are making in new DA Specialist roles embedded in all localities working alongside our social care case holders to enhance the support provided to families to reduce the risk and harm caused to children.</p> <p>So in addition to continuing to support our network of 1500+ DA Champions across the County from a range of different services, they will provide training and leadership role to the Domestic Abuse Specialists currently being recruited to."</p>
<p>Question from Cllr Terry Jermy to Cllr Andrew Jamieson, Cabinet Member for Finance.</p>	<p>Cllr Jermy stated, given how tight budgets were at the moment and with cuts to services, there was understandable concern about the additional council meeting being held in February and the financial implications of this. He added, with this in mind, if the Cabinet Member could confirm the average cost of staging a full Council meeting, including everyone's expense claims and officer time.</p> <p>Response: The convening of Full Council incurs £1,500 -£2,000 of direct costs, plus circa £3,000 of "opportunity cost" of officer time.</p>
<p>Question from Michael Chenery of Horsbrugh to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services.</p>	<p>Cllr Chenery asked if Norfolk County Council was any further forward in handing the former Bircham School building back to the Sandringham Estate.</p> <p>Response: The site will be transferred back to HM The Queen; an asbestos survey has been carried out as requested by the Sandringham Estate Land Agent, and NP Law have been instructed to proceed with the transfer.</p>
<p>Question from Cllr Sandra Squire to Cllr Andy Grant, Cabinet Member for Environment & Waste.</p>	<p>Cllr Squire asked, given the recent flooding and many flood warnings in Norfolk, if the Cabinet Member could give Council an update on the Regional Flood and Coastal Committees (RFCC) and confirm how much funding was being allocated to Norfolk.</p> <p>Response: In reply, the Cabinet Member said the budget through RFCC had been completed and he would provide a written</p>

	Question and response:
	<p>response as to the works to be carried out in Norfolk for the forthcoming year.</p> <p>The RFCCs oversee a programme of flood protection and mitigation schemes to reduce the flood risk to people, property and infrastructure. All Risk Management Authorities can receive funding from this programme if their proposed schemes meet the correct criteria.</p> <p>In Norfolk, in the financial year 2019/20, £23,836,637 was spent on flood protection and mitigation schemes and £30,743,53 is allocated for the financial year 2020/21.</p> <p>Further information has been requested from the RFCC, to provide detail on the schemes within the programme and the officer will update you when this information is received.</p>