

**Norfolk County Council****Minutes of the Meeting Held on Monday 16 October 2017****Present:**

Mr T <b>Adams</b>	Ms A <b>Kemp</b>
Mr Tim <b>Adams</b>	Mr K <b>Kiddie</b>
Mr S <b>Aquarone</b>	Mr M <b>Kiddle-Morris</b>
Mr S <b>Askew</b>	Mr B <b>Long</b>
Ms J <b>Barnard</b>	Mr I <b>Mackie</b>
Mr D <b>Bills</b>	Mr G <b>Middleton</b>
Mr B <b>Borrett</b>	Mr J <b>Mooney</b>
Mr R <b>Brame</b>	Mr S <b>Morphew</b>
Mrs J <b>Brociek-Coulton</b>	Mr G <b>Nobbs</b>
Mrs P <b>Carpenter</b>	Mrs J <b>Oliver</b>
Mr M <b>Castle</b>	Mr G <b>Peck</b>
Mr S <b>Clancy</b>	Mr G <b>Plant</b>
Ms K <b>Clipsham</b>	Mr A <b>Proctor</b>
Mr E <b>Colman</b>	Mr W <b>Richmond</b>
Ms E <b>Corlett</b>	Mr D <b>Roper</b>
Mr S <b>Dark</b>	Mr D <b>Rowntree</b>
Mrs M <b>Dewsbury</b>	Ms C <b>Rumsby</b>
Mr N <b>Dixon</b>	Mr M <b>Sands</b>
Mr D <b>Douglas</b>	Mr E <b>Seward</b>
Mr P <b>Duigan</b>	Mr C <b>Smith</b>
Mr T <b>East</b>	Mr T <b>Smith</b>
Mr S <b>Eyre</b>	Mr M <b>Smith-Clare</b>
Mr J <b>Fisher</b>	Mr B <b>Spratt</b>
Mr T <b>FitzPatrick</b>	Ms S <b>Squire</b>
Mr C <b>Foulger</b>	Mr B <b>Stone</b>
Mr T <b>Garrod</b>	Mr M <b>Storey</b>
Mr A <b>Grant</b>	Mr H <b>Thirtle</b>
Mrs S <b>Gurney</b>	Mrs A <b>Thomas</b>
Mr R <b>Hanton</b>	Mr V <b>Thomson</b>
M Chenery of <b>Horsbrugh</b>	Mr J <b>Timewell</b>
Mr H <b>Humphrey</b>	Ms K <b>Vincent</b>
Mr B <b>Iles</b>	Mrs C <b>Walker</b>
Mr A <b>Jamieson</b>	Mr J <b>Ward</b>
Mr T <b>Jermy</b>	Mr B <b>Watkins</b>
Mrs B <b>Jones</b>	Mr A <b>White</b>
Dr C <b>Jones</b>	Mr M <b>Wilby</b>
Mr C <b>Jordan</b>	

**Present: 73**

## **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence were received from Ms C Bowes; Mrs S Butikofer; Mr D Collis; Mr F Eagle; Mr D Harrison; Mr E Maxfield; Mr R Oliver; Mr R Price; Mrs M Stone; Dr M Strong and Mrs S Young.

## **1 Minutes**

- 1.1 The minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 24 July 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **2 Chairman's Announcements**

- 2.1 The Chairman announced that for the second year in a row, Norfolk County Council's library service had won the prestigious national award for "Libraries Change Lives" which had demonstrated how libraries made a difference to communities. The county's library service, which operated under contract to HMP Norwich had won the award after setting up a cognitive stimulation therapy group, working with prisoners with dementia and memory loss in the elderly lifer unit at the prison, alongside the local voluntary group Forget-me-nots. Council joined the Chairman in congratulating the library service on achieving this award.
- 2.2 The Chairman went on to inform Council of his numerous visits since the last meeting, highlighting in particular a visit to the new Air Academy which had been opened by the Hon. Group Captain Carol Vorderman, and meeting Prince Edward, the Earl of Wessex on a visit to Springwood School, King's Lynn where he had spoken with pupils engaged in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, the running of which he had taken over from his father. The Chairman also referred to his reception where he had launched his theme to promote and raise awareness for the county's youth organisations and the importance of adult volunteering.

## **3 Declarations of Interest**

- 3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

## **4 Questions to Leader of the Council**

### **4.1 Question from Mr S Morphew**

- 4.1.1 Mr Morphew said he had got the impression that the budget consultation process this year was going to be held on as few issues as possible, for as little time as possible making it difficult for people to respond. He asked if the Leader could reassure him whether the consultation would be expansive and whether there would be a proper dialogue and an opportunity for a lot of people to raise a lot of issues which could influence council policy. He also asked the Leader how he intended to carry out the consultation.
- 4.1.2 The Leader replied that the same process for consultation on the budget would be used as had been used previously which, as far as he was aware had not changed. The Leader added that public meetings would be held, although these were not specifically about budgets, they were to ascertain what services Norfolk

people wanted. He added that the first public meeting would be held on 7 November 2017 at Mattishall.

**4.2 Question from Mr D Roper**

4.2.1 Mr Roper referred to the proposals to house children's centres and libraries in the same buildings where possible. He said he represented a rural division which only had a children's centre, and that a neighbouring division only had a library. He asked the Leader which community should feel most worried about the proposals.

4.2.2 The Leader replied that neither community should feel worried as the aim of the proposals was to improve the service. He added that the proposals were trying to improve services and was not about buildings so no community should feel worried.

**4.3 Question from Mrs C Walker**

4.3.1 Mrs Walker asked if the Leader shared the concerns that the CQC had once again placed Norfolk & Suffolk Foundation Trust (NSFT) in special measures and if he would be calling on the NSFT Board to resign, or at least retire, so that the public could have confidence in the health services.

4.3.2 The Leader replied that he wouldn't normally comment on issues about the National Health Service as it did not come under his remit, but he was genuinely concerned about mental health provision in Norfolk and had been for many years. He added that personally, he thought more could be done.

**4.4 Question from Mr E Seward**

4.4.1 Mr Seward asked if the Leader expected to continue to reimburse a proportion of second homes council tax to District Councils in the next financial year 2018-19.

4.4.2 The Leader replied there was a small proportion of the money going back to District Councils but this would finish the following year. He added that second homes council tax was County Council money, with a subsidy given to District Councils which was soon coming to a close.

**4.5 Question from Mr M Sands**

4.5.1 Mr Sands said that, at the last Full Council meeting, Mr Roper had asked the Leader to explain how residents were too dependent on Council services. The Leader had failed to provide the examples asked for and had said in a recent interview that Council should stop spoon-feeding people. He asked the Leader to provide the examples Mr Roper had asked for and explain fully what it was that we were spoon-feeding people that we should stop.

4.5.2 The Leader replied that he was talking in general but he was trying to help people be independent as their independence was important to him as it should be to them.

**4.6 Question from Mr S Askew**

4.6.1 Mr Askew asked if the Leader, and the rest of Council, would join him in congratulating the Police Force in Norfolk. He added that, as Council was aware, during the summer in his division, a hideous murder had taken place in East Harling and the way the police had handled the matter was fantastic. Mr Askew had received many reports from local people, including the Clerk of the

Parish Council in East Harling who wanted to congratulate the police for the way they had dealt with the public and parish council and kept them informed as well as the way they had gone about their work.

- 4.6.2 The Leader responded that he would be happy to join with Mr Askew's request and in his opinion and experience he considered Norfolk had one of the best police forces in the country.

4.7 **Question from Ms A Kemp**

- 4.7.1 Ms Kemp said her question was about Brexit and the interests of Norfolk in the negotiations. She added that when 52% of people voted last year to leave the EU, they didn't want to lose jobs and they didn't want to become poorer. She continued that it was now known that two large firms in Norwich were at risk and one of the reasons given was the low pound during the Brexit uncertainty. Ms Kemp asked what part was being played by rural areas and other county council's in the negotiations as the Local Government Network had said we needed to be represented. Ms Kemp asked if the Leader had been asked to take part in negotiations and if not, why not and also asked about assurances for the £9m Leader Fund which we had from the EU to help business start-ups and business growth, and subsidies particularly for small farmers that might otherwise go under because nobody wanted to pay more for food than they already did. Ms Kemp asked the Leader what was happening.

- 4.7.2 The Leader replied that Brexit was being negotiated nationally and that these negotiations were being closely monitored. He added that Brexit was Brexit and he could not add anything further.

4.8 **Question from Mr B Watkins**

- 4.8.1 Mr Watkins referred to the news that Norwich had ranked 323<sup>rd</sup> out of 324 districts for social mobility and this was a cause for great concern. He said in order to try to address this deficiency, the Government had made Norwich an opportunity area with £6m worth of funding to cut the rate of exclusions, get more young people into higher education, or higher level apprenticeships and halve the attainment gap between disadvantaged and all pupils. Mr Watkins asked the Leader if he thought this was good news for the city and if so, how did he respond to the consultants hired by the Government who had already said opportunity areas were unlikely to meet its own targets for increased social mobility.

- 4.8.2 The Leader replied that he had not read that report but he would try to get a copy. He added that he thought it was great news for the people of Norfolk.

4.9 **Question from Ms E Corlett**

- 4.9.1 Ms Corlett referred to the recent interview with the EDP where the Leader had said that there would be some pain with the forthcoming cuts. She asked the Leader to tell Council who he thought was most likely to bear the pain of the cuts.

- 4.9.2 The Leader responded that he genuinely did not know where the pain would be felt, although situations changed and there may be less pain than he imagined.

4.10 **Question from Mr S Aquarone**

- 4.10.1 Mr Aquarone asked the Leader what he would say to a recipient of social care in his division who had been told they would have to pay more from their own

limited funds in the next three years as a result of the front-loading budget cuts over 3 years rather than 4.

- 4.10.2 The Leader replied that the claims system had been set up and he assumed the individuals qualified. He added that he was being asked to comment on what specifically he would say, but that he would not know what to say until he knew the details which he assumed Mr Aquarone did.

## **5 Notice of Motions**

- 5.1 The following motion was proposed by Ms A Kemp and seconded by Mr D Roper:

“This Council appreciates and acknowledges all the Waste Advisory Group's (WAGs) good work in setting Norfolk on the road to recycling and therefore RESOLVES to reconstitute it with immediate effect; the WAG has a strategic role in leading the Norfolk Waste Partnership and was formed to draft Strategy and Policy for the County Council; this approach led to the full Council adopting 20 Waste Policies, committing the Council to the Moving Towards Zero Waste Delivery Plan; the WAG oversaw procurement of Residual Waste Contracts for Services, that led to the end of reliance on landfill for the first time; the valuable input of the WAG in the process was widely recognised and would be lost if the WAG is disbanded.”

- 5.1.1 The following amendment was proposed by Mr T East and seconded by Mr J Timewell:

“This Council appreciates and acknowledges WAG's success in committing the Council to a Moving towards Zero Waste Delivery Plan and overseeing procurement of Residual Waste Contracts for Services. Given that WAG has a strategic role in leading the Norfolk Waste Partnership and was formed to draft Strategy and Policy for the County Council, this Council RESOLVES to reconstitute it with immediate effect.

Norfolk County Council is the lead strategic authority in Norfolk. We need a specific, committed policy group in order to fulfil this role and provide the direction that the Norfolk Waste Partnership needs. Without it, it will fall to our voting representatives who are only two amongst many, to carry forward strategic waste policy”.

- 5.1.2 As proposer of the original motion, Mrs A Kemp accepted the amendment, which became the substantive motion.

- 5.1.3 Following debate, and upon being put to a vote, with 24 votes in favour, the motion was **LOST**.

- 5.2 The following motion was proposed by Mr S Morphew and seconded by Ms E Corlett:

### A New Deal for Counties.

“Council welcomes the publication of the County Council Network (CCN) report ‘A New Deal For Counties: Our Plan For Government’. On devolution and the industrial strategy, CCN is calling on the government to prioritise county economies and their role in securing economic growth. They argue that the manifesto commitment on the removal of the mayoral requirement for devolution

deals and promise of a 'common devolution framework' should be delivered.

Norfolk County Council agrees to adopt the principles set out in the report and commits to join in with other authorities to lobby the government to agree to the Fairer Funding Formula as a matter of urgency."

- 5.2.1 The following amendment was proposed by Mr C Jordan and seconded by Mr T Smith:

~~"Council welcomes~~ **notes** the publication of the County Council Network report 'A New Deal For Counties: Our Plan For Government'. ~~On devolution and the industrial strategy, CCN is calling on the government to prioritise county economies and their role in securing economic growth. They argue that the manifesto commitment on the removal of the mayoral requirement for devolution deals and promise of a 'common devolution framework' should be delivered.~~

Norfolk County Council commits to join in with other authorities ~~agrees to adopt the principles set out in the report and commits to join in with other authorities~~ to lobby the government to agree to the Fairer Funding Formula as a matter of urgency."

- 5.2.2 As proposer of the original motion, Mr S Morphey accepted the amendment, which became the substantive motion:

Council notes the publication of the County Council Network report 'A New Deal For Counties: Our Plan For Government'.

Norfolk County Council commits to join in with other authorities to lobby the government to agree to the Fairer Funding Formula as a matter of urgency.

- 5.2.3 Following debate and upon being put to a vote, Council unanimously voted in favour of the motion and it was **CARRIED**.

- 5.3 The following motion was proposed by Ms E Corlett and seconded by Mr T Jermy:

- 5.3.1 Public Sector Pay.

Norfolk County Council supports moves to remove the pay cap for public service workers. These workers have had real term pay cuts as pay settlements have been significantly below inflation. Council calls upon the government to fully fund agreements made by pay review bodies and through negotiated agreements within the recognised collective bargaining system.

- 5.3.2 The following amendment was proposed by Mr C Jordan and seconded by Mr B Stone:

Norfolk County Council supports moves to remove the pay cap for public service workers. ~~These workers have had real term pay cuts as pay settlements have been significantly below inflation. Council calls upon the government to fully fund agreements made by pay review bodies and through negotiated agreements within the recognised collective bargaining system~~ any pay increases that the government themselves impose.

- 5.3.3 As proposer of the original motion, Ms E Corlett accepted the amendment, which became the substantive motion:

Norfolk County Council supports moves to remove the pay cap for public service workers. Council calls upon the government to fully fund any pay increases that the government themselves impose.

5.3.4 Following debate, and upon being put to a vote, with 71 votes in favour, 0 votes against and 2 abstentions, the motion was **CARRIED**.

5.4 The following motion was proposed by Mr M Sands and seconded by Mrs J Brociek-Coulton:

5.4.1 Unpaid Carers Charter.

Norfolk County Council believes carers deserve a fair deal. Council recognises that carers can face difficulties with their employers, young carers in their education and all carers potentially risk becoming more isolated because they cannot take advantage of social activities because of their caring responsibilities.

To help combat these three problems council agrees to a cross party commission with representatives of appropriate interests including carers to produce a Carers Charter with recommended standards for employers, educational establishments and community organisations. These standards could include but not be restricted to

- a) Carer friendly practices employers could adopt to enable employees with carer responsibilities to work more flexibly
- b) Support that schools could provide to students with caring responsibilities whose studies and participation in school life might be adversely affected
- c) Support that the county council can offer or be part of to support community organisations in providing respite and social activities for carers who activities may be restricted by caring responsibilities

Council agrees to establish the Commission no later than December 2017 with a target date to report by June 2018.

5.4.2 The following amendment was proposed by Mr C Jordan and seconded by Mrs S Gurney:

Norfolk County Council believes carers deserve a fair deal. Council recognises that carers can face difficulties with their employers, young carers in their education and all carers potentially risk becoming more isolated because they cannot take advantage of social activities because of their caring responsibilities.

To help combat these three problems council agrees to **ask the Adult Social Care committee to consider setting up** a cross party commission with representatives of appropriate interests including carers to produce a Carers Charter with recommended standards for employers, educational establishments and community organisations. These standards could include but not be restricted to

- a) Carer friendly practices employers could adopt to enable employees with carer responsibilities to work more flexibly
- b) Support that schools could provide to students with caring responsibilities whose studies and participation in school life might be adversely affected

- c) Support that the county council can offer or be part of to support community organisations in providing respite and social activities for carers who activities may be restricted by caring responsibilities

Council agrees to establish the Commission no later than December 2017 with a target date to report by June 2018.

- 5.4.3 As proposer of the original motion, Mr M Sands accepted the amendment, which became the substantive motion:

Norfolk County Council believes carers deserve a fair deal. Council recognises that carers can face difficulties with their employers, young carers in their education and all carers potentially risk becoming more isolated because they cannot take advantage of social activities because of their caring responsibilities.

To help combat these three problems council agrees to ask the Adult Social Care committee to consider setting up a cross party commission with representatives of appropriate interests including carers to produce a Carers Charter with recommended standards for employers, educational establishments and community organisations. These standards could include but not be restricted to

- a) Carer friendly practices employers could adopt to enable employees with carer responsibilities to work more flexibly
- b) Support that schools could provide to students with caring responsibilities whose studies and participation in school life might be adversely affected
- c) Support that the county council can offer or be part of to support community organisations in providing respite and social activities for carers who activities may be restricted by caring responsibilities

Council agrees to establish the Commission no later than December 2017 with a target date to report by June 2018.

- 5.4.4 Following debate, and upon being put to a vote, the motion was unanimously **CARRIED**.

- 5.5 The following motion was proposed by Mr M Smith-Clare and seconded by Mrs C Walker:

5.5.1 Alderman Swindell School

Council believes the concerns expressed by the parents and community during the consultation on the future of Alderman Swindell School should be fully discussed and debated by all members of the Children's Services Committee before any decisions are made under delegated powers by the Director of Children's Services.

- 5.5.2 The following amendment was proposed by Ms E Corlett and seconded by Mr M Sands:

Council believes the concerns expressed by the parents and community during the consultation on the future of Alderman Swindell School should be fully discussed and debated by all members of the Children's Services Committee before any decisions are made under delegated powers by the Director of Children's Services. **Should the Alderman Swindell School close, Council commits to retaining the land for educational use.**

- 5.5.3 As proposer of the original motion, Mr M Smith-Clare accepted the amendment which became the substantive motion:



Council believes the concerns expressed by the parents and community during the consultation on the future of Alderman Swindell School should be fully discussed and debated by all members of the Children's Services Committee before any decisions are made under delegated powers by the Director of Children's Services. Should the Alderman Swindell School close, Council commits to retaining the land for educational use.

5.5.4 Following debate and upon being put to a vote, with 23 votes in favour, the motion was **LOST**.

5.6 The following motion was proposed by Mr S Morphew and seconded by Dr C Jones:

5.6.1 Protecting Jobs and Brands for Norwich.

Council welcomes the campaign to protect the jobs and keep the iconic brands manufactured by Britvic and Unilever where they belong in Norwich. They are a crucial part of the city and county's manufacturing base and economy. Robinsons, one of Britvic's brands, has been based in Norwich for more than 90 years, while Unilever produces arguably Norwich and Norfolk's most iconic brand, Colman's Mustard, made in the city for more than 200 years.

Council commits to support the campaign and use its powers and influence to keep those jobs and brands in Norwich.

5.6.2 The following amendment was proposed by Mr C Jordan and seconded by Mr S Clancy:

Council welcomes the campaign to protect ~~the jobs~~ and keep the iconic brands manufactured by Britvic and Unilever where they belong in Norwich **and acknowledges the practical work already being done by the EDP campaign and council officers to help find a solution.** ~~They are a crucial part of the city and county's manufacturing base and economy. Robinsons, one of Britvic's brands, has been based in Norwich for more than 90 years, while Unilever produces arguably Norwich and Norfolk's most iconic brand, Colman's Mustard, made in the city for more than 200 years.~~

~~Council commits to support the campaign and use its powers and influence to keep those jobs and brands in Norwich.~~

5.6.3 As proposer of the original Motion, Mr S Morphew did not accept the amendment, which was then debated by Council.

5.6.4 Following debate, and upon being put to a vote, with 23 votes against the amendment the amended motion was **CARRIED** and became the substantive motion:

Council welcomes the campaign to protect and keep the iconic brands manufactured by Britvic and Unilever where they belong in Norwich and acknowledges the practical work already being done by the EDP campaign and council officers to help find a solution.

5.6.5 Upon the substantive motion being put to the vote, the motion was unanimously **CARRIED**.

The meeting adjourned at 12.25pm and reconvened at 12.35pm.

## **6 Recommendations from Service Committees**

### **6.1 Policy & Resources – 25 September 2017**

6.1.1 Mr C Jordan, Chairman of Policy & Resources Committee, moved the recommendations in the report.

#### **6.1.2 New Anglia Economic Strategy**

6.1.2.1 The following amendment to the recommendation was proposed by Mr E Seward and seconded by Mr D Roper:

The New Anglia Economic Strategy for endorsement as part of the Council's policy framework –

“subject to a number of changes being made which seek to better reflect the challenges and opportunities faced by more rural areas of the two counties, including North Norfolk.”

6.1.2.2 As Chairman of the Policy & Resources Committee, Mr C Jordan did not accept the amendment which was then debated by Council.

6.1.2.3 Upon the amendment being put to a vote, with 19 votes in favour the amended Recommendation was **LOST**.

6.1.2.4 Upon the substantive Recommendations being put to the vote, with 6 votes against and 11 abstentions, Council **RESOLVED** to:

#### **New Anglia Economic Strategy:**

- Endorse the New Anglia Economic Strategy, as part of the Council's policy framework.
- Note that a Norfolk investment plan will be developed.

#### **6.1.3 Consents for the appointment of company directors – Repton Property Developments.**

Council **RESOLVED** to:

- Appoint the nominated directors to Repton Property Developments as set out in the report at Appendix 2 of the agenda papers.

#### **6.1.4 Petition Scheme – Trigger Points**

Council **RESOLVED** to:

- Amend the Petition Scheme to reduce the number of signatures on a petition for a Council debate as set out in the report to 0.5% of the population to the nearest 100.
- Agree that the provision for a petition to require a senior officer to attend a service committee meeting and given evidence/answer questions is

deleted.

## **6.2 Children's Services Committee – 12 September 2017**

6.2.1 Mrs P Carpenter, Chairman of Children's Services Committee, moved the recommendations in the report.

### **6.2.2 Norfolk County Council Adoption Agency Annual Review**

Council **RESOLVED** to:

- Approve the Statement of Purpose.

### **6.2.3 Statement of Purpose of Norfolk's Fostering Services Annual Review.**

Council **RESOLVED** to:

- Approve the Statement of Purpose.

### **6.2.4 Annual Review of Norfolk Residential Service**

Council **RESOLVED** to:

- Approve the Statements of Purpose and Functions for all the Local Authority children's homes to comply with the Care Standards Act 2000.

### **6.2.5 Norfolk Youth Justice Plan 2017-18**

Council **RESOLVED** to:

- Approve the Norfolk Youth Justice Plan 2017-18.

## **7 Reports from Service Committees (Questions to Chairman)**

### **7.1 Report of the Adult Social Care Committee meeting held on 4 September 2017.**

Mr B Borrett, Chairman of Adult Social Care Committee moved the report.

#### **7.1.1 Question from Mr B Watkins**

Mr Watkins said that the Department of Health had made clear its expectations to health and social care systems to hit new stringent targets for delayed transfers of care. For Norfolk and Waveney that meant a reduction of 16% between July 2017 and March 2018 and that delays attributable to Adult Social Services must reduce by 21% over the same period. He asked the Chairman how realistic he thought the governments delayed transfer of care targets were and if we failed to meet them, what the likely implications were. He also asked if it could mean the Council, through the Better Care process, would receive less funding as a result in future.

The Chairman replied that Mr Watkins was right to highlight this as a matter of concern as there was a very real risk that some of the Better Care Fund money may not be received. He added that we had chosen to work with the NHS, but

the targets were demanding at the very least and there was a real risk that they would not be met. Through working very closely with the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG's) and the hospitals across Norfolk a good working relationship had been established, even if it might be fractious at a national level. The Chairman added that he would not pretend everything was fine, but thought the CCGs, hospitals and County Council working together and fostering the culture of cohesion and openness, would benefit us in the future.

**7.1.2 Question from Mr M Sands**

Mr Sands said that the question on the Autism Act of 2009 had not been answered at last Council and asked if the Council was any further forward in implementing this, addressing the needs and inclusivity of the Autism community?

The Chairman replied that this was something Adult Social Care Committee was aware of and he had nothing further to report. He was hoping that the topic may be discussed at the next Adult Social Care Committee meeting.

**7.1.3 Question from Mr S Askew**

Mr Askew asked if the Chairman of Adult Social Care would join him in congratulating the care home in his division, Beeches in East Harling, which had achieved an outstanding rating in its assessment during the summer. He added that he had been given to understand that it was the only care home in the county that had achieved this rating.

The Chairman replied that he couldn't agree with Mr Askew more about the fabulous result at Beeches in East Harling and he was glad he had chosen to raise it so they received recognition for all the hard work the people who worked there had put in to achieve that excellent result.

**7.1.4 Question from Mr M Sands**

Mr Sands raised the topic of Mundesley mental health hospital which remained in special measures, and the most recent CQC inspection, published on 18 September 2017, which had found that sufficient improvements had not been made and the hospital was at risk of having its licence revoked. Mr Sands asked if the Chairman agreed that it was wholly unacceptable that, due to a lack of beds and alternatives to hospital admission, our Approved Mental Health professionals were having to place patients detained under the mental health act in a failing hospital. He also asked the Chairman to confirm what contingency plans had been discussed and agreed with Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust and the Clinical Commissioning Groups in the event that the hospital was closed by the CQC?

The Chairman replied that he was very concerned about the result of the inspection on the Mental Health Trust and clarified for those Members who were not familiar with the hospital that this was not a judgement on the County Council. The Chairman said he understood that a quality summit would now be called by the CQC for Partners to discuss how best to support the service and confirmed that the Director of Adult Social Care at Norfolk County Council and the Chair of the Adult Safeguarding Board would be part of that summit.

**7.1.5** Dr C Jones said that Mundesley Hospital was a private hospital, with the Chairman replying that he would still expect a similar summit to be held.

**7.1.6** Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

7.2 **Report of the Business & Property Committee meeting held on 8 September 2017**

Mr K Kiddie, Chairman of Business & Property Committee moved the report.

7.2.1 **Question from Mr B Spratt**

Mr Spratt said he wanted to congratulate the Chairman on purchasing the 440 acres of arable land recently as he felt it was a great asset to the Norfolk County Council portfolio. He asked the Chairman if any more land would be purchased in due course.

The Chairman said that he had taken the opportunity to visit Bank House Farm recently which was in the west of the County Farms Estate. He added that it was breath-taking to stand on the side of the 18ft drain and see this wonderful piece of farmland which was most productive and fertile. The Chairman added that Norfolk County Council had purchased the land at a very good deal which confirmed its commitment to our county farms and tenant farmers and helped rationalise our estate in the west. The purchase had taken the total amount of land owned by the County Farms Estate to 16,700 acres and confirmed that any opportunities to purchase more land in the future would be considered if appropriate to do so.

7.2.2 Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

7.3 **Report of the Children's Services Committee meeting held on 12 September 2017**

Mrs P Carpenter, Chairman of Children's Services Committee moved the report.

7.3.1 **Question from Ms E Corlett**

Ms Corlett asked if the Chairman of Children's Services Committee welcomed the cross-party report from the Local Government Association "A country that works for all children" and accepted the evidence that we heard at conference last week from the Association of Directors of Children's Services and the Children's Commissioner on the impact of child poverty and in particular its link to increased child protection cases? Ms Corlett continued that if the Chairman did agree, would she work with opposition spokespeople to make representations to Government on behalf of all Norfolk children to both pause the roll-out of universal credit, and provide funding for children's social care to address the £20 billion funding gap, and make tackling child poverty in Norfolk a priority?

The Chairman responded that she had attended the same conference and heard the same things and she would be willing to work cross-party, as always.

7.3.2 **Question from Ms A Kemp**

Ms Kemp referred to the Youth Justice Report, which she felt was an excellent report and a credit to the social workers and probation workers. Ms Kemp drew Members' attention to the HM Inspectorate report which said that when they had their national inspection of accommodation of homeless 16 and 17 year old children working with Youth Offending Teams, they found that 1 in 3 of the children whose cases they inspected were in unsuitable or unsafe accommodation, some placements even putting children at risk from unsafe adults. Ms Kemp continued that she knew this was a national report but there were 6 Local Authorities and as far as this related to Norfolk, what were we doing to ensure all young people were

in safe accommodation.

The Chairman replied that this matter had arisen at a recent Corporate Parenting Board meeting and had happened prior to the election in March this year, adding that all Members were aware of the need to tighten the service we had and improve the service by working more closely with the providers. The Chairman said she was acutely aware of the situation and that the service was working towards better systems of delivery.

**7.3.3 Question from Mr B Spratt**

Mr Spratt said that in his Division of Tacolneston, there was a concern that the borders were going to be changed for the catchment area and some of the pupils from Tacolneston school would no longer be eligible to attend Wymondham schools. He asked if the Chairman could give some assurance as to whether this was the case, or if a consultation would be held if it was not correct.

The Chairman responded that she would provide a written response to the question.

**7.3.4 Council RESOLVED** to note the report.

**7.4 Report of the Communities Committee meeting held on 6 September 2017.**

Mrs M Dewsbury, Chairman of Communities Committee, moved the report.

**7.4.1 Question from Mr D Roper**

Mr Roper asked if the Chairman of Communities Committee agreed with the Leader of the Council, who in his recent Facebook Live session had said that mobile libraries were of their time?

The Chairman replied that mobile libraries didn't offer as many facilities as other libraries and listed some of the work carried out with adults and children. She continued by saying that people spent about 15-20 minutes choosing enough books to see them through a couple of weeks from the mobile library and then they moved on. The Chairman continued that it was not possible to include all the services carried out in libraries on the mobile libraries so it probably was right that they were of their time, but what was needed was to find somewhere where there was a bigger building to make computers available for people to learn how to use them to order groceries, or maybe just to access a wider range of books which were not always available on a mobile library. The Chairman also said that some libraries offered "knit and natter" clubs or offered board games, but it was not a matter of saying we don't need books for people in rural areas because they are often elderly and lonely people who read because they don't have anything else. The Chairman asked Members in the rural areas to think of ideas how services could be improved to give people in rural areas more than just 15-20 minutes choosing a library book.

**7.4.2 Question from Mr I Mackie**

Mr Mackie congratulated the library service on an excellent "libraries week" and also the award the Chairman of the County Council had announced at the start of the meeting. He added that we all know how important libraries, as hubs, have become in our communities, for example in his division there was a dementia café as well as the summer reading scheme. He asked the Chairman if she could confirm that there were no plans to reduce the number of Norfolk libraries.

The Chairman replied that there was no intention to close libraries and that the proposal was about libraries evolving. She added that a library was a collection of books and far more than that was currently being offered by our libraries, including the award they had just won for healthy libraries as well as the opening of the Business and Intellectual Property Centre at the Forum, rolled out through Fakenham, Thetford and other market towns, supporting local economy and helping people to set up small businesses. There were all sorts of things taking place for elderly people, including knit and natter, walk and talk every Monday from Hethersett, coffee mornings. Other schemes for children had included a reading scheme, a writing scheme and also the introduction of a maths scheme to try to help parents learn more about maths and how they could help their children, keeping young people interested in maths during the summer holidays. She continued that the service also helped social mobility by offering other activities. Libraries were innovative.

#### **7.4.3 Question from Ms J Barnard**

Ms Barnard referred to the issue of drug and alcohol performance across the board on opiates/alcohol or other substances, Norfolk fell well below the national average on service users entering recovery, not to mention shockingly behind our own set targets. Substance addition was a serious issue in our communities impacting on families/health/crime levels and housing.

Ms Barnard continued that Communities Committee had acknowledged that there were a number of key elements to recovery including improvements to health, wellbeing, access to opportunities but crucially housing. As the number of homeless people in Norfolk continued to rise more people were vulnerable to turning to substance use or falling into addiction but we continued to fail these vulnerable people in our communities.

Ms Barnard asked if the Chairman could tell the Council what would be done to address this as a matter of urgency, importantly would she be calling for NCC to assess what action would be taken locally to address the affordable/social housing crisis which was no doubt a catalyst in this situation and a huge barrier to recovery for many of the homeless community suffering from addiction.

The Chairman replied that we were putting a drug and alcohol contract out to tender because the current service wasn't working well. When it came to housing, the Chairman said she had heard of people sleeping in doorways at Yarmouth library so something needed to be done, although housing was the responsibility of the District Council. It was hoped that the District Councils could work with us on that as well as adult social care services.

#### **7.4.4 Question from Mr Tim Adams**

Mr Adams said he was very interested to listen to the comments on libraries but that he was not convinced that our mobile libraries were safe. He asked the Chairman to confirm that if a mobile library was not a frontline service, what was?

The Chairman replied that she thought they were a statutory provision and as they were the face of the county council people went to them for all sorts of advice and information.

#### **7.4.5 Question from Mr G Nobbs**

Mr Nobbs asked Mrs Dewsbury if she would make an attempt to answer Mr Mackie's question which required a yes or no answer.

The Chairman replied “no, there were no plans to reduce the number of libraries”.

7.4.6 **Question from Mr T Jermy**

Mr Jermy asked, given Communities Committee’s remit for public health, if the Chairman of the Committee was aware of a raffle taking place at a Downham Market GP surgery to fund equipment needed at that surgery. He continued by asking if the Chairman thought it was a good idea to fund vital health services in this way and was she aware that the same surgery was running its publicly funded flu clinic in the local conservative club in Downham Market and if she considered that was appropriate.

The Chairman replied she didn’t know about the raffle or the flu clinic in the conservative club but would provide a written answer to the question.

7.4.3 Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

7.5 **Report of the Digital Innovation & Efficiency Committee meeting held on 18 September 2017.**

Mr T Garrod, Chairman of the Digital Innovation & Efficiency Committee moved the report.

7.5.1 Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

7.6 **Report of the Environment, Development and Transport Committee meeting held on 15 September 2017.**

Mr M Wilby, Chairman of EDT Committee moved the report.

7.6.1 **Question from Mr T East**

Referring to item 13 of the report (Norfolk Town Networking Improvement Strategy), Mr East asked the Chairman what Swaffham had that Fakenham didn’t have and what the underlying reason was behind the proposal at the Environment, Development & Transport Committee to elevate Swaffham from second bottom of the list to 5<sup>th</sup> in the first tranche. He asked the Chairman to elaborate on his decision.

The Chairman replied that as far as he was concerned all of Norfolk’s market towns were equal and as he considered we should aim for five towns in the first twelve months he had proposed adding an additional town which was Swaffham.

7.6.2 **Question from Mr T Jermy**

Mr Jermy referred to the Facebook Live video with the Leader and the EDP which had recently taken place, where Mr Jordan had alluded to the overspend in relation to the NDR being significant. Mr Jermy asked if the Chairman of EDT had any proposals about how the overspend would be financed given the dire financial position.

The Chairman replied that no-one knew the final figure.

7.6.3 **Question from Mr B Spratt**

Mr Spratt said that he had heard rumours about the Council not replenishing salt bins this winter. He asked the Chairman if that was the case.



The Chairman replied that it was on the agenda for discussion at the next EDT Committee meeting.

7.6.4 **Question from Ms A Kemp**

Ms Kemp asked the Chairman about the Road Safety Reduction Partnership which had been abolished. She added that it was a very important Partnership because the number of people killed or seriously injured in Norfolk had risen by 50. She continued that the Group produced detailed expert reports with statistics regarding vulnerable road users together with recommendations. Ms Kemp continued that she had been assured that the Committee would be receiving reports at its meetings, but she had not found any reports on line. Ms Kemp asked for the Road Casualty Reduction Partnership to be restored because it had a crucial and important role to play and why it was that when we had funding and resources for a new Digital Committee we couldn't we have the Road Casualty Reduction Partnership restored.

The Chairman replied that this subject came under the remit of Communities Committee and he would ask the Chairman of Communities Committee to reply. The Chairman of Communities Committee responded that the Committee would be receiving a detailed report on people killed or seriously injured in Norfolk at its meeting in November 2017.

7.6.5 Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

7.7 **Report of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 25 September 2017.**

Mr Jordan, Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee, moved the report.

7.7.1. **Question from Mr D Roper**

Mr Roper referred to the Committee papers and the fact that there were various budget proposals going forward about capitalising revenue spending for the second year running. He asked the Chairman for some reassurance that he didn't treat capitalisation as some sort of money tree and that it impacted on services.

The Chairman replied that he treated it as a very serious matter.

7.7.2 Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

**Other Committees**

7.8 **Report of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 20 July and 7 September 2017.**

M Chenery of Horsbrugh, Chairman, moved the report.

7.8.1 **Question from Ms E Corlett**

Ms Corlett referred to the availability of mental health beds and said she was concerned that the recent CQC report on NSFT cast doubt on some of the assurances that Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee had been given. She added, in light of a recent announcement that NSFT were back in special measures, could the Chairman advise Council what steps were being taken by

HOSC to safeguard the provision of mental health services for the people of Norfolk.

The Chairman replied that a quality summit was not going to be held, instead there would be an oversight meeting by the NHS. He added that he would be attending the first meeting to build up a picture of what was happening and that he was hoping to add the topic to the HOSC forward work programme at the next meeting, for a one-item agenda on 7 December which would give the Scrutiny Manager time to invite witnesses and for the Committee to consider the topic.

7.8.2 Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

7.9 **Report of the Audit Committee meeting held on 21 September 2017.**

Mr I Mackie, Chairman, when moving the report thanked the Finance team for achieving an unqualified set of accounts for 2016-17. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

7.10 **Report of the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting held on 27 September 2017.**

Mr B Borrett, Chairman, moved the report.

7.10.1 **Question from Mr B Watkins**

Mr Watkins referred to the reference in the Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) in the report to the new Independent Chair of the STP Oversight Board, the RH Patricia Hewitt who had admitted that public consultation and engagement needed to be improved. He continued that a lot of people had been sceptical about the STP process and this was a welcome admission. Mr Watkins asked the Chairman how he would respond to paragraph 2.2 of the report which said that the future focus for the STP would be on the delivery of outcomes, particularly NHS ones and as a consequence prevention and wellbeing seemed to be rather long-term aspirations.

The Chairman replied that we were very lucky to get a very high ranking Independent Chair for the Norfolk STP and that he was glad Patricia Hewitt had stepped into the role. The STP was going to have a large amount of authority going forward with a spend of £2.6bn on health, including the money the county council spent and we needed to see a more integrated delivery and health and social care. He continued by saying that the entire adult social care strategy was based on moving towards prevention, which takes longer to have an effect and realise benefits. He continued that it was no surprise to hear that the STP was talking about prevention being a longer-term goal because it was not so easy to deliver. The Chairman said he was keen to support the way the STP was moving forward and would like to see more accountability which was one of the reasons the Chairman of the STP and the lead officer had attended the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting and had been given a standing invitation to attend, together with a standing item on the agenda to report on progress with the STP. The Chairman said he was very keen to achieve a broad strategy going forward which had not previously come into the public domain as there had not been anywhere else for them to reside. As the plan progressed, it was hoped that the STP would become more accountable.

Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

**7.11 Report of the Standards Committee meeting held on 4 October 2017.**

Mr M Kiddle-Morris, Chairman, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

**7.12 Report of the Norwich Highways Agency Joint Committee meetings held on 20 July and 21 September 2017**

Mr J Fisher, Chairman, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

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

None

**9 To answer questions under Rule 8.3 of the Council Procedure Rules**

**9.1 Question from Mr S Morphew to Chair of Policy & Resources Committee/Leader:**

When the proposed budget cuts are put out for public consultation, will the Leader, his deputy, and his Committee chairs be attending public consultation meetings across the county to hear the views of those likely to be affected by their proposals?

The Leader replied that he had answered that question earlier and would be holding public meetings.

**9.2 Question from Ms E Corlett to the Chairman of Children's Services Committee:**

At the Policy & Resources Committee meeting in July, Cllr Carpenter told Cllr Morphew there would be no closure of children's centres. Does she still stand by that?

The Chairman responded that circumstances never remained static and having gained much more experience of children's services, she was less concerned about having a set number of children's centre buildings. She considered that the service provided, rather than what building hosted it, was the most important factor to the public. The Chairman said she was reassured from experiences elsewhere that successful children's centre services could be provided from buildings shared with other services and partners. The Chairman added that she cared very much about this service and she was determined to remain faithful to the Surestart values which meant, at every stage, focus would remain on protecting the service.

**9.3 Question from Mr M Sands to the Chairman of Adult Social Care Committee:**

Would the Chair agree that spreading the pain of cuts over 4 years rather than 3 would mean some services for vulnerable people are protected for longer?

The Chairman replied that the question had been asked by the Labour Group at the Adult Social Care Committee and had been answered.

**9.4 Question from Mr T Jermy to the Chairman of Environment, Development & Transport Committee:**

The crucial announcements about the next round of investment in the rail network were delayed until October. If the Secretary of State for Transport has not made the announcement by the time council meets, it should be imminent. Will the Chair please provide details of the lobbying he and council officers have done to influence the investment in rail services affecting Norfolk for Control period 6 begging in 2019?

The Chairman said he could reassure Mr Jermy that he did rally for all infrastructure improvements, including rail, as did all officers at every opportunity and that infrastructure was a big priority for the Council.

**9.5 Question from Mr D Rowntree to the Chairman of Digital Innovation & Efficiency Committee:**

How will the DIEC contribute to assisted technology proposals being developed as part of the forthcoming budget cuts?

The Chairman replied that the Committee would consider the various opportunities to enable assisted technology and advise Adult Social Care and Policy & Resources Committee and any other Committee as necessary who would own the overall business case and services put in to implement the technology. The Committee would also action its own research to inform it of likely suppliers.

**9.6 Question from Mrs C Walker to the Chairman of Business & Property Committee:**

Has the Committee Chair met with the workers or management of Britvic or Unilever yet?

The Chairman said this had already been discussed and reiterated that he would continue to engage with Norwich City Council to move the matter forward.

**9.7 Question from Mr T Jermy to the Chairman of Business & Property Committee:**

The Charles Burrell Centre, which occupied the former Charles Burrell High School in Thetford had recently been awarded £112,500 from the national 'Power to Change' programme. The funding will be utilised to create further space on site to support small businesses and provide employment and training opportunities for local residents. Since its creation, enabled by Norfolk County Council, over 20 new businesses have been created and over 150 jobs supported. Will the Chairman of Business and Property Committee congratulate the Centre on this achievement and undertake to evaluate the success thus far with a view to adopting this approach utilising other County Council owned assets?

The Chairman replied that the Business and Property Committee was highly supportive of job creation across the county and would congratulate any organisation or enterprise that helped people to gain employment. He added that the Committee would be pleased to receive an update when it became available as well as any proposals to help generate further growth across the county.

**9.8 Question from Mrs J Brociek-Coulton to the Chairman of Communities Committee:**

Would the Chair agree that the amalgamation of fire and police control rooms could be the start of the slippery slope towards the Police & Crime Commissioner taking over Norfolk's Fire and Rescue Service?

The Chairman replied "No".

The meeting concluded at 1.45p.m.

**Chairman**



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