



Norfolk County Council

at your service

Norfolk County Council

Minutes of the Meeting Held on 23 November 2009

Present: Mrs S C Gurney in the Chair

Mr A D Adams	Mr M A Kiddle-Morris
Mr R Bearman	Mr M C Langwade
Mr W P Borrett	Mr S R Little
Dr A P Boswell	Mr B W C Long
Mr J S Bremner	Mr I J Mackie
Mr A J Byrne	Mrs J Mickleburgh
Mr D R Callaby	Mr J Mooney
Mr J A Carswell	Mr P D Morse
Mr M R H Carttiss	Mr D Murphy
Miss C L Casimir	Mrs J A Murphy
Mrs J R M Chamberlin	Mr G Nobbs
Mrs M Chapman-Allen	Mr R E Parkinson-Hare
Baron M Chenery of Horsbrugh	Mr J H Perry-Warnes
Mr S M Clancy	Mr G R Plant
Mrs D M Clarke	Mr A J Proctor
Mr B J E Collins	Mr P K Rice
Mr N Dixon	Mr R C Rockcliffe
Mr A J Dobson	Mr J D Rogers
Mr S Dorrington	Mr M J Scutter
Mr S Dunn	Mr N C Shaw
Mr T East	Mr J R Shrimplin
Mr R A Edwards	Mr R A Smith
Mr T S C Garrod	Mr B H A Spratt
Mr A J Gunson	Mrs A Steward
Mr B J Hannah	Dr M Strong
Mr R C Hanton	Mrs A M Thomas
Mr P A Hardy	Mrs H Thompson
Mr D G Harrison	Mr A D Tomkinson
Mr D Harwood	Ms J S Toms
Mr M Hemsley	Mrs C M Walker
Mr J R Herbert	Mr J M Ward
Mr H A S Humphrey	Mr P A G Wells
Mrs S E L Hutson	Mr A M White
Mr B J M Iles	Mr M J Wilby
Mrs D Irving	Mr A T Williams
Mr G R Jones	Dr F C Williamson
Mr C Jordan	Mr A J Wright
Mr J M Joyce	

Total present: 76

Also Present: - Mrs J Middleton, Standards Committee Chairman

Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from Mr S Bett, Mr M P Brindle, Mr P G Cook, Mr D Cox, Mr P Duigan, Mr I A C Monson, Mr W J Nunn and Mr R J Wright.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 September 2009 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendments:

Paragraph 10, final sentence to read: "The meeting was therefore suspended at 12.33pm and reconvened at 1.10pm with Mr Tomkinson in the Chair."

2. Chairman's Announcements

Mrs Valerie Guttman

The Chairman announced that Mrs Valerie Guttman, a former member, had sadly passed away. Mrs Guttman was elected to the County Council in April 1973 and she served as a County Councillor and local member for the Crome division until May 1981. Mrs Guttman was also the Lord Mayor of Norwich in 1979. Council stood in silence in honour of her memory.

Chairman's Events

The Chairman announced that since the last Council meeting she had attended a number of events including the following:

- Gooderstone Primary School where she met The Duke of Gloucester.
- Group Lotus in the presence of the King and Queen of Malaysia.
- Installation of the Rt Rev'd Alan Winton as Bishop of Thetford at Norwich Cathedral.
- A number of 'Build your own future" days for schools children in years 10, 11 and 12.
- The opening of a re-furbished Great Yarmouth Library.
- The opening of a £1.3M vocational centre at Watton.
- Various Battle of Britain Services and Remembrance Services.
- The Annual Fire Brigade Awards
- The Green Apple Environment Awards in London where the Chairman received a bronze award on behalf of the County.
- The Chairman also hosted a reception for Norfolk's Caring Communities at Hellesdon Community Centre.

The Chairman thanked the Vice Chairman for deputising for her at various events whilst she was unwell.

Mr Rockcliffe offered his congratulations to the Chairman on her birthday last Saturday and was pleased that she was able to spend part of that day on an informal visit to King's Lynn and The Green Quay.

3. Declarations of Interest

The Chairman advised on the following:

“In relation to the report at Item 5, the Code of Conduct provides an exemption which means that members do not have a prejudicial interest where the business relates to the authority’s functions in respect of allowances. Therefore all members can stay in the Council Chamber for, debate and vote on the recommendations of the Independent Panel. However, that provision does not extend to any other matters you may wish to debate in relation to twin-hatters, such as conflicts of interest, dedication to public service, time commitments etc. There are two places on the agenda where issues relating to twin hatters might be discussed – the report on allowances at Item 5 and the report of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee meeting of 27 October 2009 and consequently where prejudicial interests may arise. The Standards Dispensations Sub-Committee has considered requests made by members for dispensations to take part in the debates upon these reports and has determined that they may. A list of the members who have received dispensation has been distributed to all members this morning. Therefore there is no need for those members to declare their interests in these matters or to withdraw from the room. My ruling on this matter is final, in accordance with Procedure Rule 22.”

The following Members declared interests:

- Mr R Smith declared a personal interest in the Report of the Cabinet meeting held on 12 October 2009, paragraph 3 and the Report of the Cabinet meeting held on 9 November 2009, paragraph 1.2, as he is a trustee of Whitlingham Charitable Trust, the tenant of the site.
- Dr Boswell declared personal interests in Item 5, ‘Review of Members Allowances Scheme 2009’, particularly with reference to the Special Responsibility Allowance recommendation 6.2, and Item 7 ‘Standards Committee – Appointment of Independent Members, Report of the Selection Panel’ as a member of the Selection Panel.
- Mr Borrett declared a personal interest in the Report of the Cabinet Meeting held on 9 November 2009, paragraph 12, ‘A47/A1067 Link Road’ as the Local Member for Elmham and Mattishall.
- Mr Bremner, declared a personal interest in Item 5, ‘Review of Norfolk County Council Members’ Allowances Scheme by Independent Remuneration Panel’ and Item 8, the Report of the Cabinet Scrutiny Meeting held on 27 October 2009, paragraph 2 which refers to the proposed item of scrutiny in relation to twin-hatters, as a County Councillor.
- Mrs Thompson declared a personal interest in the Report of the Meeting of the Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, held on 15 October 2009, paragraph 5 ‘Cromer Hospital Redevelopment’, as the Local Member and a possible user of the services of Cromer Hospital.

The following Members declared personal interests in the Report of the Cabinet Meeting held on 9 November 2009, paragraph 2.2, concerning Flood Sirens:

- Mr Rice, as he lives in the flood risk area.

- Dr Strong, as an unpaid volunteer flood warden for Wells and unpaid volunteer representing North Norfolk senior flood wards on the Norfolk Resilience Forum (Voluntary Sector).
- Mr Hanton, as a member of the Norfolk Constabulary.
- Mr Humphrey as a member of the Police Authority.
- Mrs Mickleburgh, as the Borough Councillor for St Margaret and St Nicholas Ward, King's Lynn, an area of high risk to flooding.
- Mr Perry-Warnes, as a member of the Police Authority.
- Mr Rockcliffe, as a family member owns property at North Beach, Heacham.
- Mr Tomkinson, as a member of the Police Authority.
- Mr Iles, as a member of the Police Authority.
- Mr Shrimplin, as a member of the Police Authority.
- Mr Wells, as a member of the Police Authority.
- Mr Dorrington, as a member of the Police Authority.
- Mr Hardy, as a member of the Police Authority.
- Mr Byrne, as a member of the Police Authority.
- Mr Hannah, as a member of the Police Authority.

4. Motion by Mr T East

Mr East moved the following motion, which was seconded by Mr Joyce:

“That this Council believes it is vital that Norfolk demonstrates political leadership at all levels and across all parties in response to climate change.

This Council notes the declared support of Liberal Democrat, Labour and Conservative MPs to the objective of the 10:10 campaign which calls for 10 per cent greenhouse gas emission reductions by the end of 2010; and encourages individual Members of Norfolk County Council to personally sign up to the 10:10 campaign and publicise what actions they are taking to reduce their own carbon emissions by 10% in the year 2010.”

Mr Smith moved an amendment to this motion, which was seconded by Mr Nobbs:

“That this Council believes it is vital that political leadership is demonstrated in response to climate change and encourages World Leaders to reach an agreement in Copenhagen next month.

This Council recognises that Norfolk County Council is attempting to play its part in addressing the causes and impacts of climate change.

That this Council urges all residents of Norfolk, including Members of Norfolk County Council, to reduce their carbon footprint, for instance, in the manner suggested by the current 10:10 Campaign.”

The amendment was CARRIED and then became the substantive motion.

Dr Boswell moved a further amendment, seconded by Mr Bearman, that an additional paragraph be included as follows:

“That this Council recognises that there is a climate change emergency and will write to the Prime Minister to call for the Government to do everything possible to reach a lasting agreement at the Copenhagen Climate Summit.”

The amendment was CARRIED and then became part of the substantive motion.

RESOLVED: Following debate the motion was CARRIED unanimously, as follows:

“That this Council believes it is vital that political leadership is demonstrated in response to climate change and encourages World Leaders to reach an agreement in Copenhagen next month.

That this Council recognises that there is a climate change emergency and will write to the Prime Minister to call for the Government to do everything possible to reach a lasting agreement at the Copenhagen Climate Summit.

This Council recognises that Norfolk County Council is attempting to play its part in addressing the causes and impacts of climate change.

That this Council urges all residents of Norfolk, including Members of Norfolk County Council, to reduce their carbon footprint, for instance, in the manner suggested by the current 10:10 Campaign.”

5. Review of Norfolk County Council Members’ Allowances Scheme by Independent Remuneration Panel

Mr Bremner left the room for this item and took no part in the debate.

Mr Murphy moved the recommendations contained within the Independent Remuneration Panel’s Report.

Following debate, all the recommendations as set out in the Panel’s report were approved, except the recommendation relating to a Special Responsibility Allowance for the leader of the 2nd opposition group, which was not approved.

Mr Little proposed an amendment to the recommendation relating to the Carers’ Allowance, seconded by Mr Edwards, to add the following:

“That the issue of carers’ allowances be subject to further review with particular reference to payments to carers and the period of time for which the carers allowance is paid.”

RESOLVED: to agree the above amendment and the following recommendations:

Basic Allowance:

- i) That the Basic Allowance remains at £8,929 for the financial year 2010/11, with no index-linked uprating in that year.
- ii) That in 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14, the Allowance be increased at the same percentage rate as the local authority employee pay award (if one is paid).
- iii) That the next review be undertaken by the Panel in 2013, with any resulting changes to be implemented in 2014.

Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs):

- i) That with immediate effect, the limit on the number of Deputy Cabinet Member/Cabinet Support Member SRA posts is increased from 6 to 7 but that the level of the SRA for DCM posts is contained within the present sum of

£39,168 (6x £6,528) so that the overall expenditure on these posts does not rise.

- ii) That there be no increase in SRA levels in 2010/11, but that in 2011/12, 2012/13 and 2013/14, SRAs be increased in line with the pay award for local government employees.
- iii) That SRAs next be reviewed by the Panel in 2013 with any resulting changes to be implemented in 2014.

Carers' Allowances:

- i) That no change is made to the current rate for the Carers' Allowance and that it continues to be maintained at a rate of 10% above the national minimum wage.
- ii) That the Allowances Scheme be amended with immediate effect to read as follows:
 - A. Councillors who incur costs for the care of children for whom they have parental responsibility or for dependent relatives in order to allow them to carry out their Council duties can claim a Carers' Allowance. The rate for the Allowance is set out in Appendix A of this scheme. A Carers' Allowance can be claimed only in respect of approved duties as set out in Appendix C of the scheme.
 - B. In the case of a Carers' Allowance for childcare:-
 - (i) The allowance is available for the care of children under 14 years of age who normally reside with the councillor
 - (ii) The allowance cannot be claimed for the care of children of compulsory school age during normal school hours except where the child is absent from school due to illness
 - iii) That the issue of carers' allowances be subject to further review with particular reference to payments to carers and the period of time for which the carers allowance is paid.
 - C. In the case of a Carers' Allowance for the care of a dependent relative, the relative must normally reside with the councillor, be dependent on the councillor and require constant care
 - D. Expenditure incurred will be reimbursed up to the maximum hourly rate (as set out in Appendix A of this scheme) for each hour of absence from home
 - E. Payment will only be made for the period of the qualifying meeting and the travelling time to and from the councillor's home
 - F. A signed receipt from the carer, showing their name, signature and address, the period worked and the amount received must be submitted with the claim
 - G. A Carers' Allowance can be paid only for care provided by a registered childminder or other statutory approved childcare provider, or to agencies or persons professionally qualified or registered to provide the care required by the dependent relative. An allowance will not normally be paid for care provided by anyone else or by someone who is a close relative of the councillor. In exceptional circumstances, where a councillor is unable to find a suitable statutory provider or registered professional carer, a claim to pay another person may be considered, subject to the approval of the Head

of Finance before the expense is incurred. If an exceptional circumstances claim relates to care provided by a family member, it must be accompanied by a statement signed by the carer and the councillor verifying that the carer incurred a loss of income in order to provide the care.

Travel and Subsistence Allowance – Approved Duties:

To amend with immediate effect the approved duty category relating to Cabinet Members to read:

“Attendance by Cabinet Members and Deputy Cabinet Members/Cabinet Support Members at meetings of Informal Cabinet and at pre-arranged briefing meetings with Chief Officers/Senior Officers on matters relating to their areas of responsibility.”

The Council also reaffirmed its current position in respect of Co-optees Allowances and Pensions for Councillors.

6. County Council Summary – Statement of Accounts 2008-09

In moving the report, Mr Smith drew Members’ attention to key items and invited questions.

Mr Mackie offered his congratulations to Mr Smith and the Senior Officers concerned for the enormous amount of work involved in producing the Statement of Accounts.

Mr Nobbs said that it would be useful to include information on the previous year’s figures in the report. In response, Mr Smith said that the Audit Committee would take this suggestion forward.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

7. Standards Committee – Appointment of Independent Members – Report of the Selection Panel

Mr Jones, Chairman of the Selection Panel, moved the recommendations contained within the report and thanked Dr Boswell and Mrs Chamberlin for their work as members of the Selection Panel. All the applicants had been outstanding and Members could be assured of the independence of those appointed.

RESOLVED: to approve the appointments of:

Mr Paul Bland – 3 year term – 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2012

Ms Lesley Cunneen – 4 year term – 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2013

Mr Peter Gibbs – 3 year term as Vice-Chairman – 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2012

Mr Jocelyn Goodey – 4 year term – 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2013

Mr Stephen Revell – 4 year term as Chairman – 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2013

8. Report of the Cabinet Meeting held on 12 October 2009

In moving the report, Mr Murphy drew Members’ attention to key items and invited questions.

Public Questions, Paragraph 1.1

Mr Harrison asked whether the construction of a waste compost plant on land at Wood Farm Marsham, had been confirmed.

In his absence, it was agreed that Mr Monson, Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste, would provide a written answer.

Public Questions, Paragraph 1.3

Dr Boswell asked the new Cabinet Member to confirm that the principles contained in a report by the Government's Sustainable Farming and Food Adviser had been reflected in the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee Working Group's recommendations and remained the policy framework for the ongoing management of the Farms Estate. Secondly, Dr Boswell asked what this authority was doing to promote the production of renewable energy and local food on County Farms. Finally, he asked whether the Cabinet Member or a member of the County Farms team would attend the free one day workshop, organised by Farming Future, on the business case for investing in renewable energy for farmers and land managers.

In response, Mr Borrett, Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and Efficiency, confirmed that the principles contained within the report remained the policy framework for the ongoing management of the Farms Estate including recommendations for renewable energy and local food production. Further, Mr Borrett requested Dr Boswell forward details of the workshop.

Local Member Questions, Paragraph 2.1

Mr Bremner asked whether it was possible to instigate a record system concerning attendance at conferences, seminars and away days by officers and/or councillors of this Authority to ensure that attendance at all events was necessary and the money well spent. Mr Nobbs agreed and said that it was ludicrous that the authority had no idea of how much was spent on attendance at these events.

In response, Mr Borrett agreed to provide details concerning attendances at conferences and would see what could be done to instigate a record system. Mr Gunson, Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation, said that there was great value in officers attending conferences but that gathering information on the amount of officer travelling time would outweigh its use.

Local Member Questions, Paragraph 2.2

Dr Boswell said that he had not received a breakdown of the summary of annual expenditure on the Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NDR) and Norwich Area Transport Strategy (NATS) and he asked that the Cabinet Member provide this information.

In response, Mr Gunson, Cabinet Member for Planning and Transportation, advised that this information had been forwarded to Dr Boswell last week but he would forward it again.

Strengthening Norfolk County Council's Commissioning from the Third Sector, Paragraph 7

Mr Little said that the report mentioned supporting local communities, and, given that Adult Social Services were expecting the third sector to fill the gap, he asked how it was intended to increase capacity when support was being

reduced and he asked that the Cabinet take note of the concerns of voluntary organisation.

Mr Morse noted that the Cabinet minutes about voluntary sector contracts did not show a timescale and he asked when this information would be brought back to the Cabinet. He referred to previous concerns he had about contract management in social care and street lighting, the former with contracts in the voluntary sector. He said that the authority should ensure organisations deliver what the authority requires but must also recognise that one size does not fit all and further, that some voluntary organisations are quite large.

In response to both questions, Mr Harwood, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services said that the importance of the voluntary sector had been recognised and the authority worked closely with the voluntary sector on all issues, as they were extremely important in the delivery of services – providing 70% of total services. No decisions would be made until the results of the consultation were made available.

Submission of an Outline Business Case to the Department for Children, Schools and Families for the City Academy Norwich, Paragraph 8

Mr Bearman said that the City Academy Norwich had received £100K for involvement in the local community. He said that as the Local Member he should have been kept informed of what was happening with regard to the spinney and the proposed swimming pool.

In response, Mrs Hutson, Cabinet Member for Children's Services said that she would provide a written answer concerning the swimming pool and Spinney.

Norwich Area Transport Strategy (NATS) Update including Norwich Northern Distributor Road (NDR), Paragraph 10

Dr Boswell said that the Cabinet Member had indicated that the Department for Transport (DfT) had requested further information to be supplied by 16 November. He asked for confirmation that all of the information had now been provided, including updated and additional models from Norfolk County Council and partner Mott MacDonalds and the final report sent to the DfT.

In response, Mr Gunson advised that the information requested by the DfT had been provided but that this was an ongoing process and they might require further information before making a decision in December.

Mr East asked whether there was any likelihood that the Government might revise its promises in terms of procurement and further, whether the authority had a Plan B if it did not receive approval for the NDR.

In response, Mr Gunson confirmed that, of course, the Government could refuse funding to proceed with the NDR. However, South Norfolk District Council, Broadland District Council, Norwich City Council and the County Council all agreed that the NDR would bring adequate infrastructure to enable the growth in the Norwich area that the Government requires.

Mr Bearman said that EEDA had published a Transport Carbon Study which found that transport CO2 emissions would increase by 33% between 2006 and 2031. He asked in view of the 25,000 extra tonnes of CO2 if the NDR is built, what sectors of the authority would be cut in order to reduce this by 34% by 2020, in line with legally binding targets. Further, Mr Bearman asked that a

report on the EEDA publication be presented to the next Planning and Transportation Overview & Scrutiny Panel.

In his absence, it was agreed that Mr Monson would provide a written answer.

Norfolk's Draft Joint Dementia Commissioning Strategy, Paragraph 12

Mr Morse noted that the draft Norfolk Dementia Strategy would be released for a three-month period of public consultation and he requested that any decisions made following this period be made available as soon as possible.

In response, Mr Harwood, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services said the outcome should be available on 7 June 2010. An action plan was being drawn up with the voluntary sector, as consistent systems and a corporate approach were required. The consultation would continue until mid-February and the Cabinet would receive a report in March 2010. A report concerning dementia would be made available as soon as possible.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

9. Report of the Cabinet Meeting held on 9 November 2009

In moving the report, Mr Murphy drew Members' attention to key items and invited questions.

Mr Morse said that the Cabinet Meeting of 9 November had heralded the introduction of three new Cabinet Members and he wished to offer thanks, on behalf of the Liberal Democrat Group, to the previous Cabinet Members, Mrs Chamberlin, Mr Williams and Mr Iles who had always dealt with questions openly and been supportive on Division issues. He noted that whilst one of the previous Cabinet Member's responsibilities included Partnerships and Performance, the new Cabinet Member role excluded Partnerships and he asked how the Cabinet would ensure partnerships would be developed and made fit for purpose. Dr Boswell endorsed Mr Morse's thanks to the previous Cabinet Members and noted that Commercial Services was also no longer included in Cabinet Member responsibilities.

In response, Mr Murphy said that he would ask Mr Cox, as Leader of the Council, to provide a written response concerning the changes but he could confirm that Commercial Services would come under the remit of Mr Borrett, the new Cabinet Member for Corporate Affairs and Efficiency.

Public Questions, paragraph 1.3

Mr Joyce said that the Honingham to Lenwade (A1067/A47) road improvements were badly needed and he asked that funds be found to instigate the proposed scheme as soon as possible.

In response, Mr Gunson said that this would depend on funding being made available and whilst the authority would do its best to instigate the proposed scheme, if it were to go ahead there would be an impact on other schemes.

Local Member Questions, paragraph 2.2

Dr Strong said that the country had, once again, witnessed the appalling devastation wrought by flooding and she implored the administration to uphold its manifesto promise to ensure that the County siren system would be retained – or at the very least to extend the deadline. She said she had been advised by

another Flood Warden team that without the sirens it would not be able to assist with evacuation.

In response, Mr Humphrey, Cabinet Member for Fire and Community Protection, said that the Environment Agency had been made aware that Flood Warning Direct in Norfolk did not have full support. However, parish and district councils had been given until January 2010 to decide whether they wished to take over responsibility for the flood sirens. Mr Humphrey noted Dr Strong's comment that without the sirens Flood Warden Teams would not be able to assist with evacuation but he advised that the authority would direct funding towards training.

Members requested that the Chairman write to the Chairman of Cumbria County Council, on their behalf, to express their condolences for the recent terrible flooding that had occurred in the Cumbria region.

Local Member Questions, paragraph 2.5

Mrs Walker noted that the amount spent by the authority on consultants over the last four years should have been included in the report. Mr Nobbs said that the figure quoted had been £3.87m and the Leader of the Council had stated that a lot of the authority's VAT costs had been returned to the authority because of the consultants work. Mr Nobbs asked why there were no members of staff in the Legal Department who could have undertaken this work.

Mr Murphy said that VAT was a highly specialised area of law.

2009-10 Finance Monitoring Report, Paragraph 4

Dr Boswell said that the Joint Core Strategy Proposed Submission document published this month by the Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP) stated that the NDR costs were £110m and that the Postwick Hub would be £25m, a total of £135m. The discussion at Cabinet had been based on a total figure of £127m with £21m being for the Postwick Hub. The additional £8M appeared to be £4m for the NDR and a further £4m for the Postwick Hub. Dr Boswell asked for an explanation as to what these cost rises related and how they would be funded.

In response, Mr Gunson advised that there had been no increase in the cost of the NDR and the full costs had been set out in the 12 October Cabinet Report. Further, Mr Gunson said he would check with GNDP why their document was different to the County figures.

Future Commissioning Models – Community Care In House Day Services, paragraph 5

Mr Scutter welcomed the fact that the Administration would be consulting with regard to the Essex Rooms, Silver Rooms and Hempnall Mill and he sought reassurance that the consultation would be wide ranging.

Mr Little requested that all stakeholders be included in the consultation proposals and he asked who these would be.

Mr Harwood confirmed that there would be full consultation with all who use the services at these centres, their families and all other agencies involved.

Mr Bremner said that the Independent Living Norfolk, part of the Norfolk Coalition for Disabled People had been set a target of introducing 4000 personal budgets by 2009-10. He voiced concern that the target had been set too high

and he asked on what basis the targets had been set. Further, he asked whether Independent Living Norfolk would be paid by results and whether they had a vested interest in encouraging elderly people towards personal budgets. Finally, he asked how much the authority would be spending to encourage people to manage their own personal budgets.

Mr Bremner said that in response to the Green Paper 'Shaping the Future of Care Together' the authority had stated that the Green Paper did not give a high enough profile to prevention but that the authority had cut prevention services. He asked how the authority intended to deliver and fund prevention work in the future.

Finally, Mr Bremner asked whether Age Concern would in future provide bathing services provided by the authority.

Mr Harwood agreed to provide written answers to Mr Bremner's questions.

Implications of the Carbon Reduction Commitment for Norfolk County Council, paragraph 8

Mr Joyce noted that the Cabinet had "agreed to encourage the Council to embed carbon reduction strategies within policy and project decision-making"; but for the past two years he, together with Mr East, had requested that a statement be included on all Council reports concerning environmental impact and he asked why the Cabinet would not agree to this proposal. Dr Boswell said that there had been unanimous cross-party support for this proposal.

In his absence, it was agreed that Mr Monson would provide a written answer.

Mr Little asked how the authority would insist that contractors build to the highest efficiency standards when building schools for the future.

In response, Mrs Hutson said that there was a great deal of ongoing discussion concerning efficiency standards for school developments and the authority did comply with the green standards. With reference to the Open Academy, everything possible had been done to achieve low carbon emissions.

Waste Procurement Strategy, paragraph 9

Mr East sought reassurance that all contracts would include the costs of transporting waste and he asked what progress had been made to agree disposal contracts with other authorities in the interim period.

Mr Perry-Warnes asked why the existing waste disposal and landfill contracts were being extended when it had earlier been stated that they would close in 2011.

In his absence, it was agreed that Mr Monson would provide written answers to these questions.

Hunstanton to Kelling Shoreline Management Plan – Consultation Response, paragraph 11

Dr Strong said that a number of coastal villages had been concerned that the Environment Agency's Shoreline Management Plan might endanger flood defences. On behalf of these villages Dr Strong thanked the Cabinet for insisting that the Environment Agency address these concerns before the County expressed approval, and, on behalf of concerned residents, she sought

confirmation that the Cabinet would ensure the Environment Agency did not act without resubmitting their proposals to the County Council.

East of England Plan Review to 2031 – EERA consultation on scenarios for housing and economic growth up to 2031, paragraph 13

Mr Little asked whether the authority was willing to adopt a sustainable approach to housing development.

In response, Ms Steward, Cabinet Member for Economic Development said that the authority had always recognised constraints to growth in Norfolk and would continue to make these points forcefully and at every opportunity.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

10. Report of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 29 September 2009

RESOLVED: to note the report.

11. Report of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 27 October 2009

RESOLVED: to note the report.

12. Report of the Standards Committee Meeting held on 14 October 2009

In moving the report, the Chairman of the Standards Committee recommended that Members be invited to consent to their individual Register of Interest entries being published on the Internet, subject to it being affordable.

RESOLVED: Members agreed to their individual Register of Interest entries being published on the Internet, subject to it being affordable.

The Chairman said that this was the last meeting of the Full Council that Mrs Middleton would attend as Independent Chairman of the Standards Committee. Mrs Middleton had served two terms of office as an Independent Member of the Standards Committee and would have completed just over eight years service by the end of December 2009. Mrs Middleton was appointed as Chairman of the Committee in 2003 and had carried out that role since then. She played a major part in guiding the Standards Committee through a period of significant change in the ethical framework within local government and she was instrumental in developing the processes and procedures to enable the Committee to meet the challenges arising from those changes. On behalf of the Council, the Chairman thanked Mrs Middleton for her contribution to this vitally important area of local government and she presented a bouquet of flowers to Mrs Middleton as a sign of the Council's appreciation for all her work over the last eight years.

13. Report of the Audit Committee Meeting held on 24 September 2009

Mr Smith, Chairman of the Audit Committee, moved the report and drew Members' attention to page 81 of the report which made reference to the internal audit of Members and Chief Officers Expenses and Allowances. This audit identified no particular issues in procedures or compliance and the message from the Audit Committee to Members and Officers was to continue with strict compliance to procedures.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

14. Report of the Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 15 October 2009

Mr Humphrey asked about the additional £750,000 required to build a new decontamination unit for endoscopy equipment and he requested clarification concerning the legislation for this. Mrs Thompson endorsed Mr Humphrey's request for clarification.

In response, Mr Cartiss, Chairman of the Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, said that this report related to an initial meeting of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee; the NHS Foundation Trust had been asked to report back to the 21 January 2010 meeting of the Committee as this proposal for Cromer hospital represented a substantial variation which necessitated public consultation. A public consultation process would be completed next month and the Committee would then determine whether it agreed with the proposals. Mr Cartiss confirmed that, due to legislation, there could be no endoscopy unit at the Cromer Hospital without the decontamination unit.

RESOLVED: to note the report.

15. Report of the Planning (Regulatory) Committee Meeting held on 16 October 2009

RESOLVED: to note the report.

16. Report of the Norwich Highways Agency Joint Committee held on 24 September 2009

RESOLVED: to note the report.

17. Matters considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Panels

RESOLVED: to note the report.

18. Appointments to Committees/Panels for the Ensuing Year

Mr Murphy moved the report and noted the following appointments made by the Chief Executive under delegated powers:

- Mr P Wells to replace Mr A J Byrne on the Children's Services Overview & Scrutiny Panel
- Mr A J Byrne to replace Mr P Wells on the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee

The meeting concluded at 1.20pm.

CHAIRMAN



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