

## Norfolk County Council

### Minutes of the Meeting Held on 22 February 2021

**Present:**

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

**Present: 82**

## **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Sarah Butikofer.

### **1 Minutes**

- 1.1 The minutes of the Council meeting held on 23 November 2020 were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.
- 1.2 The minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 11 January 2021 were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

### **2 Chairman's Announcements**

- 2.1 Following incidence in Diss and Roydon of the South African variant of covid-19, the Chairman wished to place on record his thanks to the Public Health Team for their fast response and the work they had done in setting up a rapid testing centre for people living in Diss and Roydon.
- 2.2 The Chairman advised Council of the sad passing of former Labour County Councillor Harriet Panting, Ms Panting was elected on 1 May 1997 for Henderson Division until 2005 and then Wensum Division until 2009, serving on the Children's Services Review Panel as well as the Norwich Area Committee; Norfolk School Organisation Committee; Schools Admission Forum; Teacher Joint Consultative Committee and the Children's Services Area Working Group – Central.

Council held a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

### **3 Declarations of Interest**

- 3.1 Cllr Alison Thomas declared an other interest as she had been personally affected by the recent flooding in Long Stratton and was currently living in temporary accommodation.

### **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 Norfolk County Council Revenue and Capital Budget 2021-22 to 2024-25.**

- 5.2 Council received the report setting out the budget proposals.

- 5.3 The Leader of the Council, Cllr Andrew Proctor, moved the budget recommendations from Cabinet as set out below:-

#### **In respect of the Norfolk County Council Revenue Budget 2021-22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-25 report (Annexe 1):**

The Cabinet recommendations to County Council in respect of the Budget are shown below. As part of considering the proposed Revenue Budget on 1 February,

Cabinet also resolved to:

**note** the statements regarding the uncertain planning environment, robustness of budget estimates, assumptions and risks relating to the 2021-22 budget, **and authorise the** Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Finance, to make any changes required to reflect Final Local Government Finance Settlement information (if available), or changes in council tax and business rates forecasts from District Councils, in order to maintain a balanced budget position for presentation to Full Council. For the avoidance of doubt, to enable a final balanced Budget position to be recommended to County Council, Cabinet **agreed** that any additional resources which become available will be added to the Corporate Business Risk Reserve, and any income shortfall will be addressed from the Corporate Business Risk Reserve (to the extent possible).

All references in the recommendations relate to the annexed reports

**Cabinet RESOLVED to:**

**1) agree to recommend to County Council**

- a) The level of risk and budget assumptions set out in the Robustness of Estimates report (Appendix 4), which underpin the revenue and capital budget decisions and planning for 2021-25.
- b) The principle of seeking to increase general fund balances as part of closing the 2020-21 accounts and that in 2021-22:
  - i) any grant funding received from the Local Tax Income Guarantee scheme be added to the Corporate Business Risk Reserve to offset tax income losses resulting from COVID-19 as they arise;
  - ii) any further additional resources which become available during the year should be added to the general fund balance wherever possible.
- c) The findings of public consultation (Appendix 5), which should be considered when agreeing the 2021-22 Budget (Appendix 1).
- d) An overall County Council Net Revenue Budget of £439.094m for 2021-22, including budget increases of £127.170m and budget decreases of -£118.498m as set out in Table 11 of Appendix 1, and the actions required to deliver the proposed savings, subject to any changes required in line with recommendation 1 above to enable a balanced budget to be proposed.
- e) The budget proposals set out for 2022-23 to 2024-25, including authorising Executive Directors to take the action required to deliver budget savings for 2022-23 to 2024-25 as appropriate.
- f) With regard to the future years, that further plans to meet the remaining budget shortfalls in the period 2022-23 to 2024-25 are developed and brought back to Cabinet during 2021-22.
- g) To note the advice of the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services (Section 151 Officer), in section 7 of Appendix 1, on the financial impact of an increase in council tax, and confirm, or otherwise, the assumptions that:
  - i) the council's 2021-22 budget will include a general council tax increase of 1.99% and a 2.00% increase in the Adult Social Care precept, an overall increase of 3.99% (shown in section 7 of

- Appendix 1), and for 2022-23 a 1.00% Adult Social Care precept (being a partial deferral of the 2021-22 Adult Social Care precept), based on the current discretions offered by Government and as recommended by the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services.
- ii) the council's budget planning in future years will include general council tax increases of 1.99% for planning purposes, as set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS Table 4 in Appendix 2). These council tax assumptions have regard to the level of referendum threshold expected to be set for the year and take into account the Government's historic assumptions that local authorities will raise the maximum council tax available to them. Notwithstanding any decision to defer a portion of the Adult Social Care precept, the final level of council tax for future years is subject to Member decisions annually.
  - iii) Beyond the 1.00% deferral of the Adult Social Care precept, no further increases in the Adult Social Care precept for 2022-23 onwards are assumed based on current Government policy, but that these will be subject to Member decisions annually within and informed by any parameters defined by the Government.
  - iv) if the referendum threshold were increased in the period 2022-23 to 2024-25 to above 1.99%, or any further discretion were offered to increase the Adult Social Care precept (or similar), then it is likely that the Section 151 Officer would recommend the council take full advantage of any flexibility in view of the council's overall financial position as set out in the assumptions in section 6 of Appendix 1.
- h) That the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services be authorised to transfer from the County Fund to the Salaries and General Accounts all sums necessary in respect of revenue and capital expenditure provided in the 2021-22 Budget, to make payments, to raise and repay loans, and to invest funds.
  - i) agree the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-25 as set out in Appendix 2, including the two policy objectives to be achieved:
    - i) Revenue: To identify further funding or savings for 2022-23 to 2024-25 to produce a balanced budget in all years 2021-25 in accordance with the timetable set out in the Revenue Budget report (Table 1 of Appendix 1).
    - ii) Capital: To provide a framework for identifying and prioritising capital requirements and proposals to ensure that all capital investment is targeted at meeting the Council's priorities.
  - j) The mitigating actions proposed in the equality and rural impact assessments (Appendix 6).
  - k) Note the planned reduction in non-schools earmarked and general reserves of 43.0% over five years, from £113.949m (March 2020) to £64.953m (March 2025) (Reserves Table 6 in Appendix 3);
  - l) Note the policy on reserves and provisions in Section 3 of Appendix 3;
  - m) Agree, based on current planning assumptions and risk forecasts set out in Appendix 3:
    - i) for 2021-22, a minimum level of general balances of £19.706m, and
    - ii) a forecast minimum level for planning purposes of
      - 2022-23, £21.206m;

- 2023-24, £22.706m; and
- 2024-25, £24.206m.

as part of the consideration of the budget plans for 2021-25, reflecting the transfer of risk from Central to Local Government, and supporting recommendations;

Agree the use of non-school Earmarked Reserves, as set out in Reserves Table 5 of Appendix 3.

**In respect of the Capital Strategy and Programme 2021-22 report (Annexe 2):**

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:

- 2) refer the programme to the County Council for approval, including the new and extended capital schemes outlined in Appendix D;
- 3) recommend to County Council the Council's Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy for 2021-22 as set out in Section 5;

**In respect of the Annual Investment and Treasury Strategy 2021-22 report (Annexe 3):**

- 4) endorse and recommend to County Council the Annual Investment and Treasury Strategy for 2021-22 at Annex 1, including:
  - the capital prudential indicators included in the body of the report;
  - the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2021-22 at Appendix 1;
  - the list of approved counterparties at Appendix 4;
  - the treasury management prudential indicators detailed in Appendix 5.

5.4 The Cabinet Member for Finance, Cllr Andrew Jamieson, seconded the motion.

5.5 The Leader of the Labour Group, Cllr Steve Morphew, seconded by Cllr Emma Corlett, moved the following amendments to the Budget recommendations.

**REVENUE**

	<b>Service / funding source</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>Purpose</b>
1	Children's Centres Review of Tranche 5 allocation at period 6	£750,000	£0	To meet the new demand pressures as a result of Covid
2	Children's Centres Review of Tranche 5 allocation at period 6	£50,000	£1,500,000	6 months - 2021/22 - independent study to evaluate the impact of new model. 2022/2023 identify unmet need and barriers to access and where centres need to reopen or outreach needs to expand
3	Youth Service Review of Tranche 5	£1,000,000	£2,000,000	6 months - initiate youth service to provide support for

	allocation at period 6			mental health, career development, social development and independence
4	Laptops for disadvantaged young learners  Corporate Covid Risk Reserve	£150,000	£150,000	Continuing from the EDP's "Every Learner Online" initiative, establish a reliable and sustainable method of providing digital devices to young learners from disadvantaged backgrounds
5	No hungry children in Norfolk  Review of Tranche 5 allocation at period 6	£2,800,000	£1,000,000	To guarantee funding available to meet continued Free School Meals provision across school holidays if the Govt discontinues the Marcus Rashford money
6	Social Care  Adults Covid business risk reserve period 6 onwards	£100,000	£250,000	Commission an independent study to identify the whole cost of social care placements with a view to progressively insourcing services in future from 2022/23
7	Advice service for carers  Adults Covid business risk reserve	£75,000	£25,000	Meeting the new and existing demand pressures over and above those already commissioned, especially as a result of Covid
8	Disability Related Expenditure  Adults Covid risk reserve	£30,000	£0	To undertake analysis of the current level of DRE to determine the most appropriate level of disregard, identify improvements to the process and to ensure optimum use of Council resources
9	Sheltered housing warden service  Adults Covid risk reserve period 6 onwards	£1,000,000	£1,000,000	Re-establish a floating warden service for a proportion of sheltered housing
10	Covid	£250,000	£0	To provide financial

	Commemorative Fund			support for each school in Norfolk to plant a tree in memory of loved ones lost to the pandemic, as well as making funds available to community groups for commemorative projects
	Corporate Covid Risk Reserve			
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£6,205,000</b>	<b>£5,925,000</b>	

**Funded from the following areas:**

1. Costs for revenue projects are from using the Tranche 5 allocation of Covid grant and/or Covid business risk reserves spread over more than one year. Future costs to be included in determining budgets for years beyond 2022/23.
2. As set out in the table above, the funding for some of these proposals would come from the new Covid risk reserves. Items 4, 7, 8 and 10 are an immediate call on the reserve for that service.
3. Items 1, 2, 3, 5, 6 and 9 are subject to a review by the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services after period 6, and dependent on the Tranche 5 allocation and/or reserves not being required for other Covid related measures. If the funding available would be insufficient to meet the allocations, they will be scaled back in proportion to the amount available.

**CAPITAL AMENDMENTS / ADDITIONS**

<b>Project</b>	<b>2021/22</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>Details</b>
Parish Partnerships	£1,000,000	£1,000,000	Increase scheme to include local environmental and flood prevention measures as well as highways
Street Lights	£5,000,000	£0	Further conversion to LED street lights
Seedcorn funding for community ownership projects	£200,000	£200,000	To support communities setting up community owned pubs, shops and local enterprises
<b>Total</b>	<b>£6,200,000</b>	<b>£1,200,000</b>	

**Revenue Implications of Capital Expenditure to be funded by:**

4. Interest costs in 2021-22 would be circa £0.100m, this could be found from the existing treasury budget and will be addressed in future year's budget setting.

5.6 The Leader did not accept the proposed amendment which was debated by Council.

5.7 Following debate, the budget amendment from the Labour Group was put to a recorded vote (Appendix A). With 19 votes in favour, 54 votes against and 8 abstentions, the amendment was **LOST**.

5.8 The Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, Cllr Steff Aquarone, proposed the following amendment to the Budget recommendations, which was duly seconded by Cllr Dan Roper.

**Revenue Amendment: Emergency budget proposals to help Norfolk better prepare to recover from the effects of the Coronavirus Pandemic.**

**REVENUE**

	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>£m</b>
1.	Increased ring fenced funding for economic development to kick-start Norfolk's economic recovery	£1.000
2.	Protection of rural transport services by making funding available to bridge the period between any reduction in government funding and upturn in passenger revenues	£0.350
3.	One year trial of a Free Household DIY Waste Disposal day across Norfolk for people to properly dispose of DIY waste stored up during the pandemic. This will be available across all centres allowing disposal of up to three items free of charge for a fixed period.	£0.130
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1.480</b>

**Funded from the following areas:**

		<b>£m</b>
1.	A movement of £1m from the Community and Environmental Services COVID Business Risk Reserve accumulated during 2020/21 into the CES revenue budget	£1.000
2.	To be funded by hypothecating £350,000 of tranche 5 government COVID funding.	£0.350
3.	To allocate £130,000 from Community and Environmental Services Reserves to the revenue account	£0.130
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1.480</b>

**CAPITAL AMENDMENTS / ADDITIONS**

	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>£m</b>
1.	To reduce air pollution in Castle Meadow, Norwich through two "city tree" installations.	£0.100
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£0.100</b>

**Revenue Implications of Capital Expenditure to be funded by:**



		£m
1.	For maintenance of the “City trees” to be provided in year one by a reduction in travel budgets.	£0.001
2.	Revenue costs of borrowing	£0.002
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£0.003</b>

5.9 The Leader and proposer of the original motion did not accept the amendment which was then debated by Council.

5.10 Following a request from Cllr Aquarone, Council agreed to hold two separate votes on the Liberal Democrat Group proposed budget amendments, as follows.

Vote 1 - Economic Development to kick-start Norfolk’s economic recovery and Protection of Rural Transport services.

Vote 2 - One-year trial of free household DIY Waste Disposal and Reduce air pollution in Castle Meadow through “city tree” installations.

5.11 Following debate, the amendments from the Liberal Democrat Group (Economic Development to kick-start Norfolk’s economic recovery and Rural Transport services) were put to a recorded vote (Appendix B). With 23 votes in favour, 55 votes and 2 abstentions, the amendment was **LOST**.

5.12 Upon the second proposed budget amendments (One year trial of free household DIY waste disposal and Reduce air pollution in Castle Meadow through “city tree” installations) being put to a recorded vote (Appendix C), with 22 votes in favour, 55 votes against and 2 abstentions, the amendment was **LOST**.

Council adjourned from 12.15pm and reconvened at 12.45pm.

5.13 Cllr Sandra Squire moved the following Independent Group amendment which was seconded by Cllr Ed Maxfield.

### **REVENUE**

	Proposal	£
1.	To fund a feasibility study into the potential for providing off road cycle routes south of King’s Lynn, to include the potential upgrading of the Fen Rivers Way between Downham Market and King’s Lynn from a footpath to also include a cycleway.	£30,000
2.	To fund a feasibility study into the creation of a fully accessible cycle route from North Walsham to Mundesley via Knapton which would include the restoration of lost bridges across roads at Little London Road and Knapton Cutting.	£30,000
3.	To create a ‘Hedge Fund’ to fund the restoration of hedgerows in Norfolk, providing planting incentives to landowners and to be delivered through the Parish Partnership	£150,000

	scheme.	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£210,000</b>

**Funded from the following areas:**

		<b>£m</b>
1.	Item 1 to be funded by a reduction in the CES COVID Business Risk Reserve	£30,000
2.	Item 2 to be funded by a reduction in the CES COVID Business Risk Reserve	£30,000
3.	Item 3 to be funded by a reduction in the CES COVID Business Risk Reserve in 2021-2022 and recurring funding to be identified as part of setting the 2022-2023 budget.	£150,000
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£210,000</b>

- 5.14 Following a request by Cllr Squire, Council agreed to hold 2 separate votes on the proposals as follows:
- Vote 1 – Cycle routes south of King’s Lynn and cycle route from North Walsham to Mundesley.
- Vote 2 – To create of a “hedge fund” for restoration of hedgerows in Norfolk.
- 5.15 As proposer of the original motion, the Leader of the Council did not accept the amendment which was debated by Council.
- 5.16 Upon the first two budget amendments (Cycle routes south of King’s Lynn and Cycle route from North Walsham to Mundesley) being put to a recorded vote (Appendix D), with 11 votes in favour, 69 votes against and 0 abstentions, the amendment from the Independent Group was **LOST**.
- 5.17 Upon the second budget amendment (To create a “hedge fund” for restoration of hedgerows in Norfolk) being put to a recorded vote (Appendix E), with 11 votes in favour, 65 votes against and 0 abstentions, the amendment from the Independent Group was **LOST**.
- 5.18 The following amendment was proposed by Cllr Alexandra Kemp, Independent Member and seconded by Cllr Sandra Squire.

**Capital Amendment: Infrastructure First & Better Regional Connectivity and Prosperity for King’s Lynn and West Norfolk.**

1. Norfolk Council to provide the local contribution for the Major Route Network Funding shortfall (should Government provide funding) to create West Winch Bypass Major Route Network to link the A10 with the A47, and replace substandard West Winch Road, to enable connectivity, safety, trade, productivity, regional prosperity and housing, by providing a proper functioning Major Route Network to King’s Lynn and its international port from Ely, Cambridge, London, Felixstowe Container Terminal and Harwich Continental Ferry Port. The A10 is also the main route for the delivery of sugar beet from NW Norfolk, South Lincolnshire and North Cambs to the largest sugar beet factory in Europe at Wissington, which produces 400,000

tonnes of sugar a year.

2. A developer funding model for the local contribution would be disastrous for West Norfolk as it would lead to development before the bypass, increasing congestion and safety issues on the A10 in West Winch and Setchey, which has a high accident record of 32 Personal Injury Road Traffic Accidents in the last 5 years. Highways England have a 7 year holding objection to the Local Plan's development in West Winch, due to insufficient highway capacity and without the bypass, development cannot go ahead.

### **CAPITAL AMENDMENTS / ADDITIONS**

	<b>Proposal</b>	<b>£m</b>
1.	Set aside in the Capital Programme for 2022/23 the sum of £10m (being an indicative allocation) for the local contribution to the West Winch Bypass scheme	£10.000m
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£10.000m</b>

- 5.19 The proposed amendment was not accepted by the Leader and proposer of the original motion and was debated by Council.
- 5.20 Following debate and upon being put to a recorded vote (Appendix F), with 3 votes in favour, 59 votes against and 14 abstentions, the amendment was **LOST**.
- 5.21 Council then debated the substantive recommendations as set out on pages 41-43 of the agenda and in paragraph 5.3 above.
- 5.22 Following debate and upon being put to a recorded vote (Appendix G), with 54 votes in favour, 22 votes against and 1 abstention the recommendations were **CARRIED** and Council **RESOLVED** accordingly.

### **In respect of the Norfolk County Council Revenue Budget 2021-22 and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-25 report (Annexe 1):**

The Cabinet recommendations to County Council in respect of the Budget are shown below. As part of considering the proposed Revenue Budget on 1 February, Cabinet also resolved to:

note the statements regarding the uncertain planning environment, robustness of budget estimates, assumptions and risks relating to the 2021-22 budget, and authorise the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Finance, to make any changes required to reflect Final Local Government Finance Settlement information (if available), or changes in council tax and business rates forecasts from District Councils, in order to maintain a balanced budget position for presentation to Full Council. For the avoidance of doubt, to enable a final balanced Budget position to be recommended to County Council, Cabinet agreed that any additional resources which become available will be added to the Corporate Business Risk Reserve, and any income shortfall will be addressed from the Corporate Business Risk Reserve (to the extent possible).

All references in the recommendations related to the annexed reports

**Cabinet RESOLVED to:**

**1) agree to recommend to County Council**

- a) The level of risk and budget assumptions set out in the Robustness of Estimates report (Appendix 4), which underpin the revenue and capital budget decisions and planning for 2021-25.
- b) The principle of seeking to increase general fund balances as part of closing the 2020-21 accounts and that in 2021-22:
  - i) any grant funding received from the Local Tax Income Guarantee scheme be added to the Corporate Business Risk Reserve to offset tax income losses resulting from COVID-19 as they arise;
  - ii) any further additional resources which become available during the year should be added to the general fund balance wherever possible.
- c) The findings of public consultation (Appendix 5), which should be considered when agreeing the 2021-22 Budget (Appendix 1).
- d) An overall County Council Net Revenue Budget of £439.094m for 2021-22, including budget increases of £127.170m and budget decreases of -£118.498m as set out in Table 11 of Appendix 1, and the actions required to deliver the proposed savings, subject to any changes required in line with recommendation 1 above to enable a balanced budget to be proposed.
- e) The budget proposals set out for 2022-23 to 2024-25, including authorising Executive Directors to take the action required to deliver budget savings for 2022-23 to 2024-25 as appropriate.
- f) With regard to the future years, that further plans to meet the remaining budget shortfalls in the period 2022-23 to 2024-25 are developed and brought back to Cabinet during 2021-22.
- g) To note the advice of the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services (Section 151 Officer), in section 7 of Appendix 1, on the financial impact of an increase in council tax, and confirm, or otherwise, the assumptions that:
  - i) the council's 2021-22 budget will include a general council tax increase of 1.99% and a 2.00% increase in the Adult Social Care precept, an overall increase of 3.99% (shown in section 7 of Appendix 1), and for 2022-23 a 1.00% Adult Social Care precept (being a partial deferral of the 2021-22 Adult Social Care precept), based on the current discretions offered by Government and as recommended by the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services.
  - ii) the council's budget planning in future years will include general council tax increases of 1.99% for planning purposes, as set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS Table 4 in Appendix 2). These council tax assumptions have regard to the level of referendum threshold expected to be set for the year and take into account the Government's historic assumptions that local authorities will raise the maximum council tax available to them. Notwithstanding any decision to defer a portion of the Adult Social Care precept, the final level of council tax for future years is subject to Member decisions annually.
  - iii) Beyond the 1.00% deferral of the Adult Social Care precept, no

- further increases in the Adult Social Care precept for 2022-23 onwards are assumed based on current Government policy, but that these will be subject to Member decisions annually within and informed by any parameters defined by the Government.
- iv) if the referendum threshold were increased in the period 2022-23 to 2024-25 to above 1.99%, or any further discretion were offered to increase the Adult Social Care precept (or similar), then it is likely that the Section 151 Officer would recommend the council take full advantage of any flexibility in view of the council's overall financial position as set out in the assumptions in section 6 of Appendix 1.
  - h) That the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services be authorised to transfer from the County Fund to the Salaries and General Accounts all sums necessary in respect of revenue and capital expenditure provided in the 2021-22 Budget, to make payments, to raise and repay loans, and to invest funds.
  - i) agree the Medium Term Financial Strategy 2021-25 as set out in Appendix 2, including the two policy objectives to be achieved:
    - i) Revenue: To identify further funding or savings for 2022-23 to 2024-25 to produce a balanced budget in all years 2021-25 in accordance with the timetable set out in the Revenue Budget report (Table 1 of Appendix 1).
    - ii) Capital: To provide a framework for identifying and prioritising capital requirements and proposals to ensure that all capital investment is targeted at meeting the Council's priorities.
  - j) The mitigating actions proposed in the equality and rural impact assessments (Appendix 6).
  - k) Note the planned reduction in non-schools earmarked and general reserves of 43.0% over five years, from £113.949m (March 2020) to £64.953m (March 2025) (Reserves Table 6 in Appendix 3);
  - l) Note the policy on reserves and provisions in Section 3 of Appendix 3;
  - m) Agree, based on current planning assumptions and risk forecasts set out in Appendix 3:
    - i) for 2021-22, a minimum level of general balances of £19.706m, and
    - ii) a forecast minimum level for planning purposes of
      - 2022-23, £21.206m;
      - 2023-24, £22.706m; and
      - 2024-25, £24.206m.

as part of the consideration of the budget plans for 2021-25, reflecting the transfer of risk from Central to Local Government, and supporting recommendations;

Agree the use of non-school Earmarked Reserves, as set out in Reserves Table 5 of Appendix 3.

**In respect of the Capital Strategy and Programme 2021-22 report (Annexe 2):**

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:

- 2) refer the programme to the County Council for approval, including the new and extended capital schemes outlined in Appendix D;
- 3) recommend to County Council the Council's Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy for 2021-22 as set out in Section 5;

**In respect of the Annual Investment and Treasury Strategy 2021-22 report (Annexe 3):**

- 4) endorse and recommend to County Council the Annual Investment and Treasury Strategy for 2021-22 at Annex 1, including:
- the capital prudential indicators included in the body of the report;
  - the Minimum Revenue Provision Statement 2021-22 at Appendix 1;
  - the list of approved counterparties at Appendix 4;
  - the treasury management prudential indicators detailed in Appendix 5.

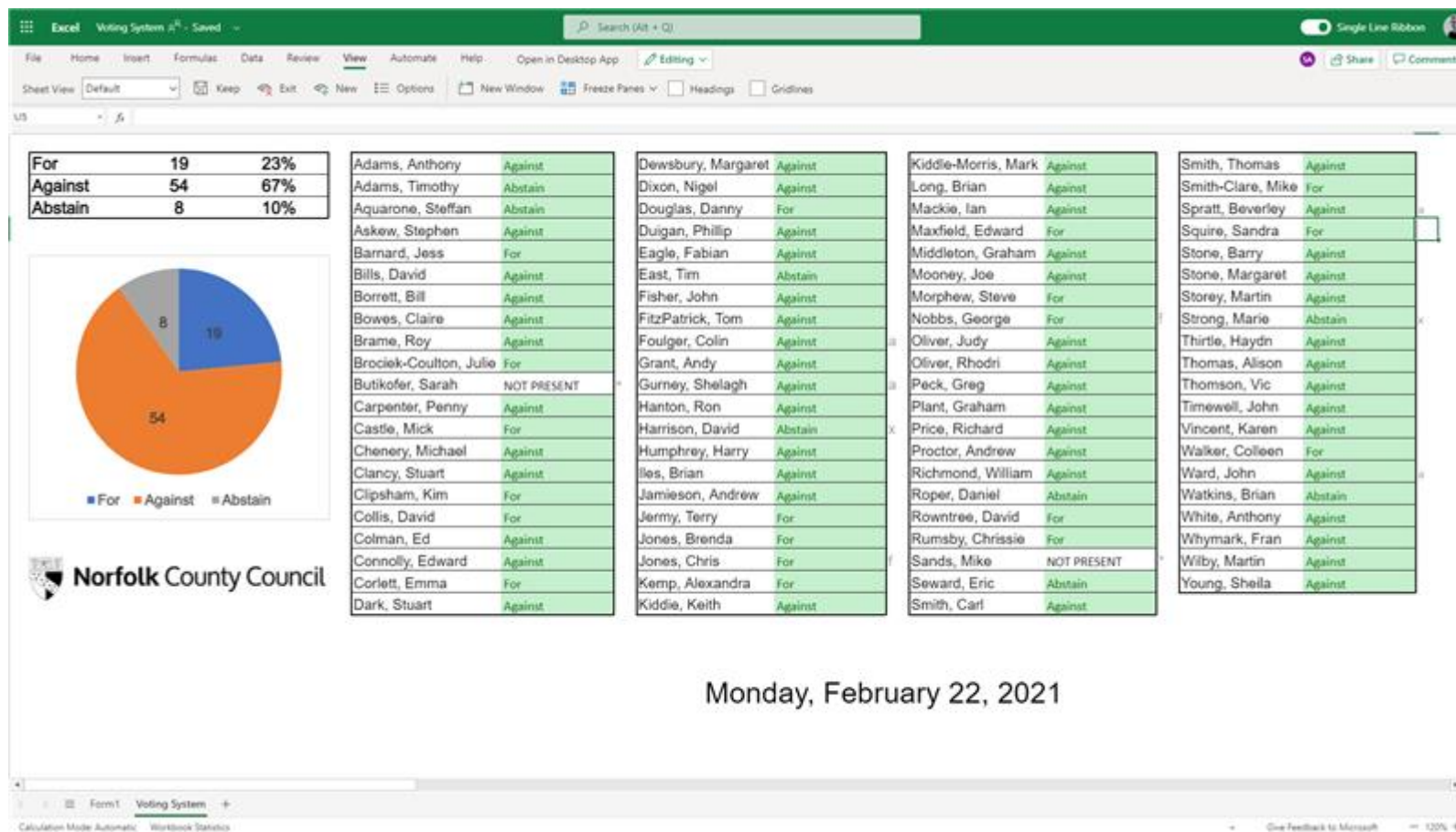
The meeting closed at 2pm.

**Chairman**



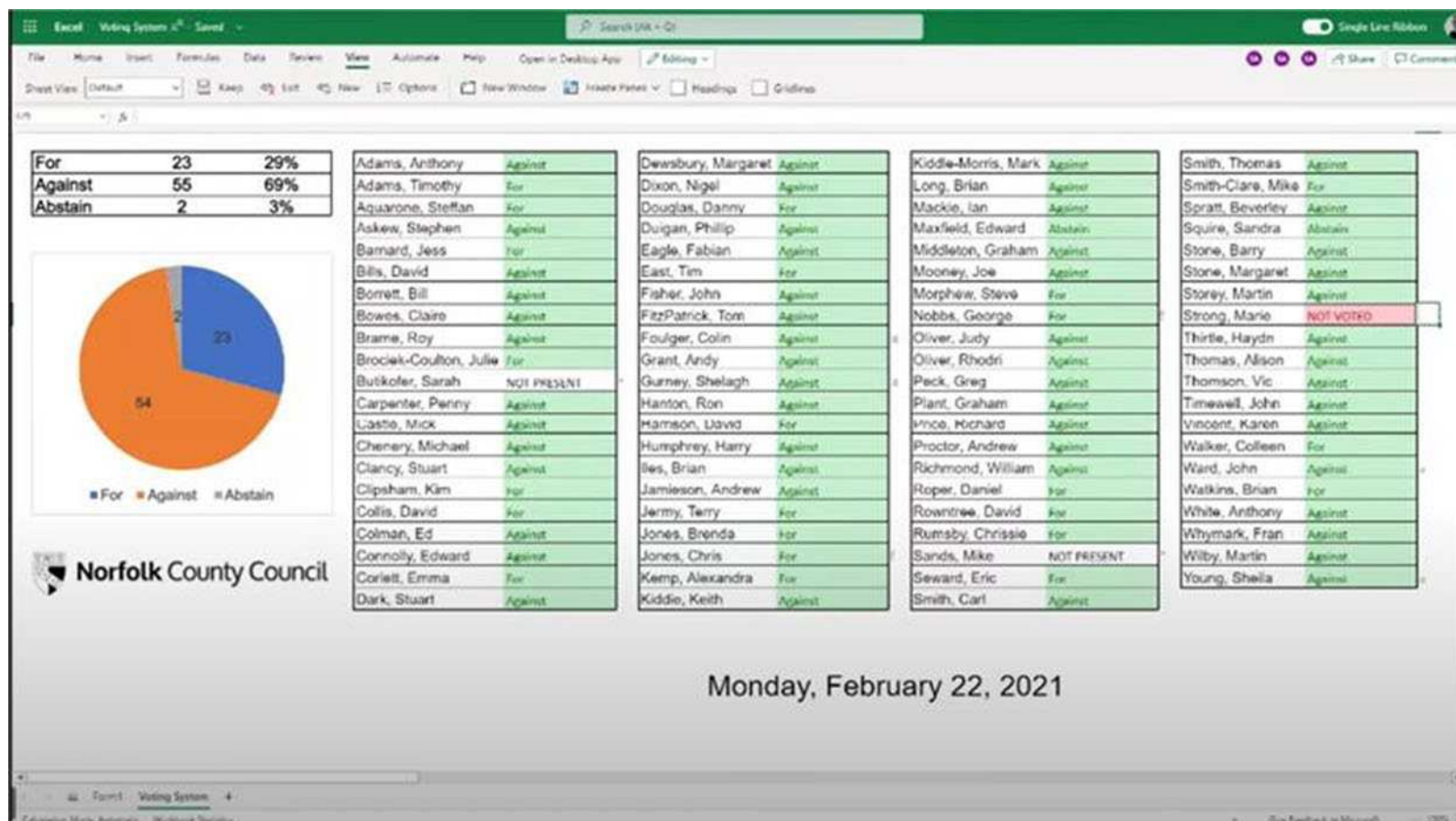
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Recorded Vote 1. Labour Group Budget Amendments.



With 19 Votes in favour, 54 votes against and 8 abstentions, the budget amendment was **LOST**.

Recorded Vote 2 – Liberal Democrat Group Amendments – Economic Development to kick-start Norfolk’s economic recovery and Protection of Rural Transport Services.

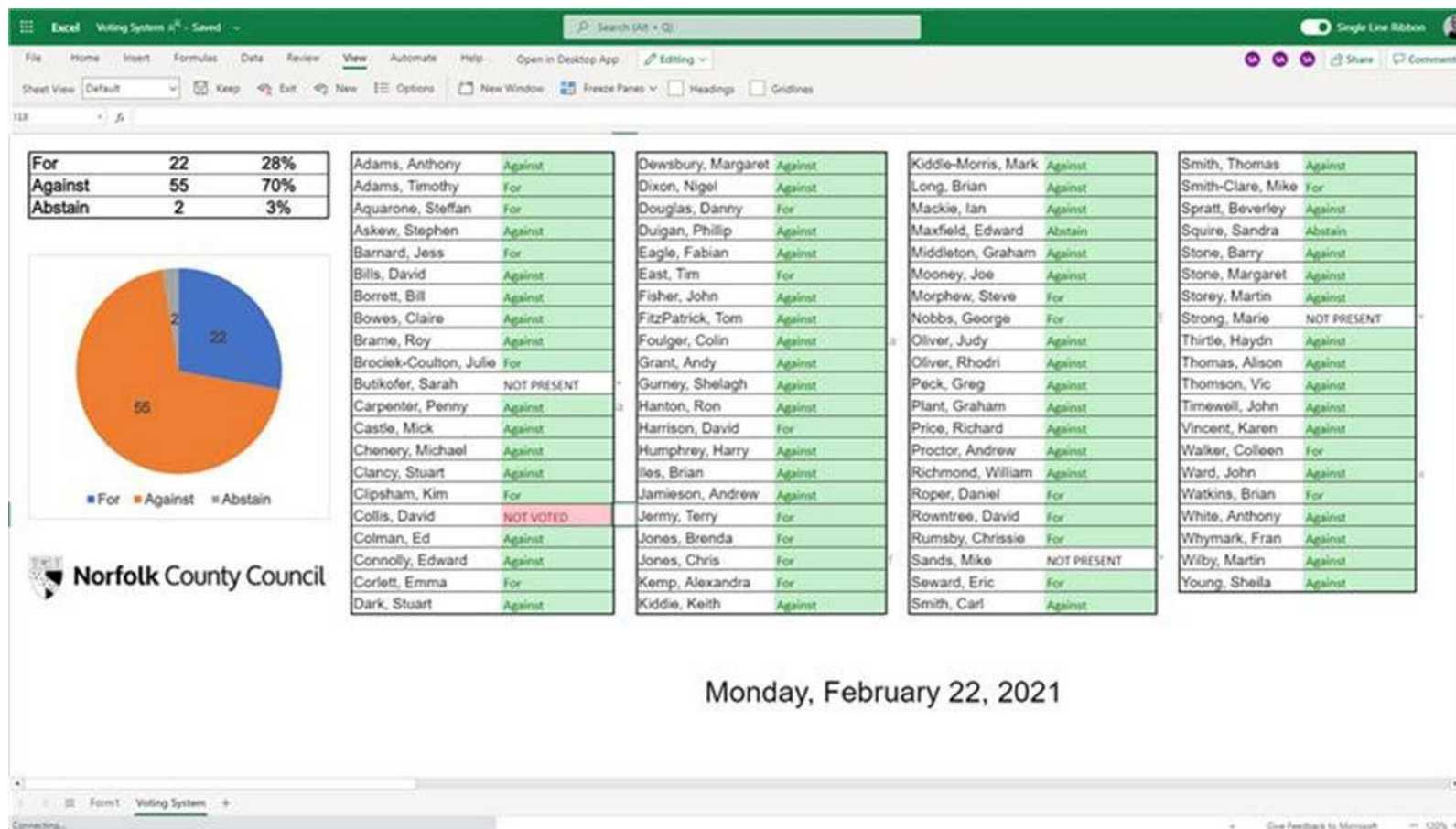


Monday, February 22, 2021

With 23 votes in favour, 55 votes against and 2 abstentions, the Liberal Democrat Group budget amendment was **LOST**.



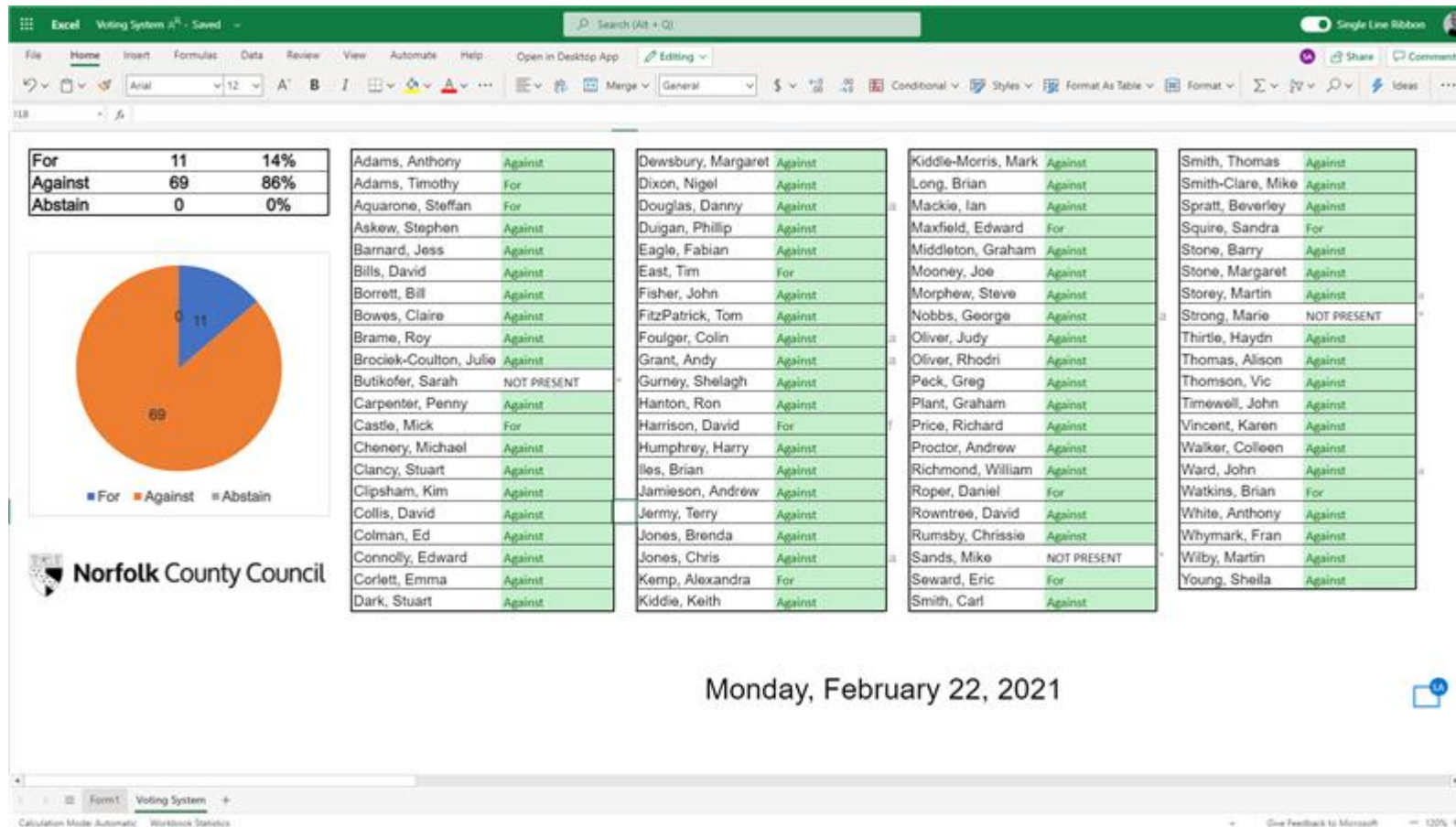
**Recorded Vote 3 – Liberal Democrat Budget Amendments One year trial of free household DIY Waste Disposal and Reduce air pollution in Castle Meadow through “city tree” installations.**



Monday, February 22, 2021

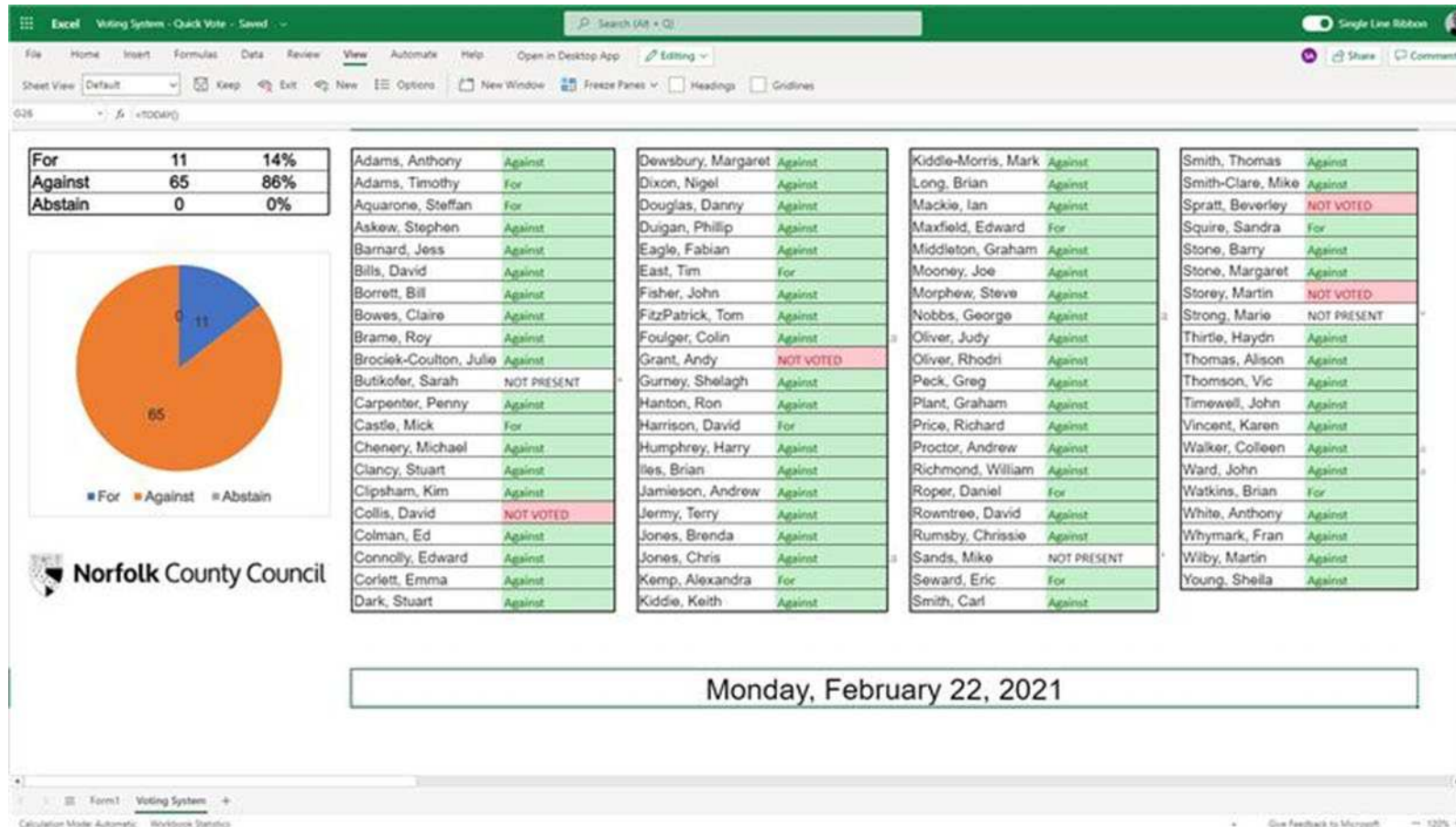
With 22 votes in favour, 55 votes against and 2 abstentions the Liberal Democrat budget amendment was **LOST**.

**Recorded Vote 4 – Independent Group – Cycle routes south of King’s Lynn and cycle route from North Walsham to Mundesley.**



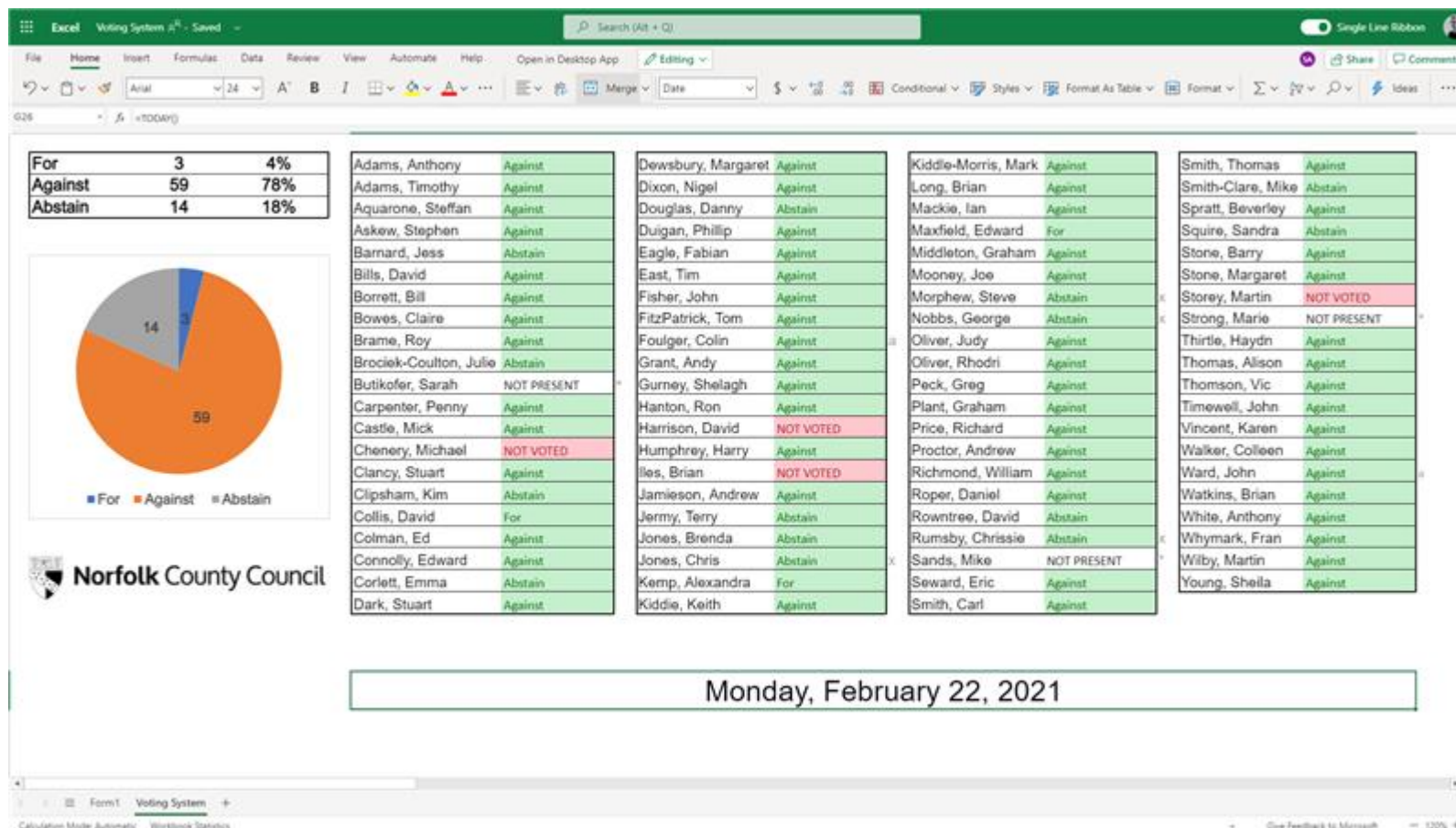
With 11 votes in favour, 69 votes against and 0 abstentions, the proposed budget amendment from the Independent Group was **LOST**.

Recorded Vote 5 – Independent Group proposed budget amendment – Create a “hedge fund” for restoration of hedgerows in Norfolk.



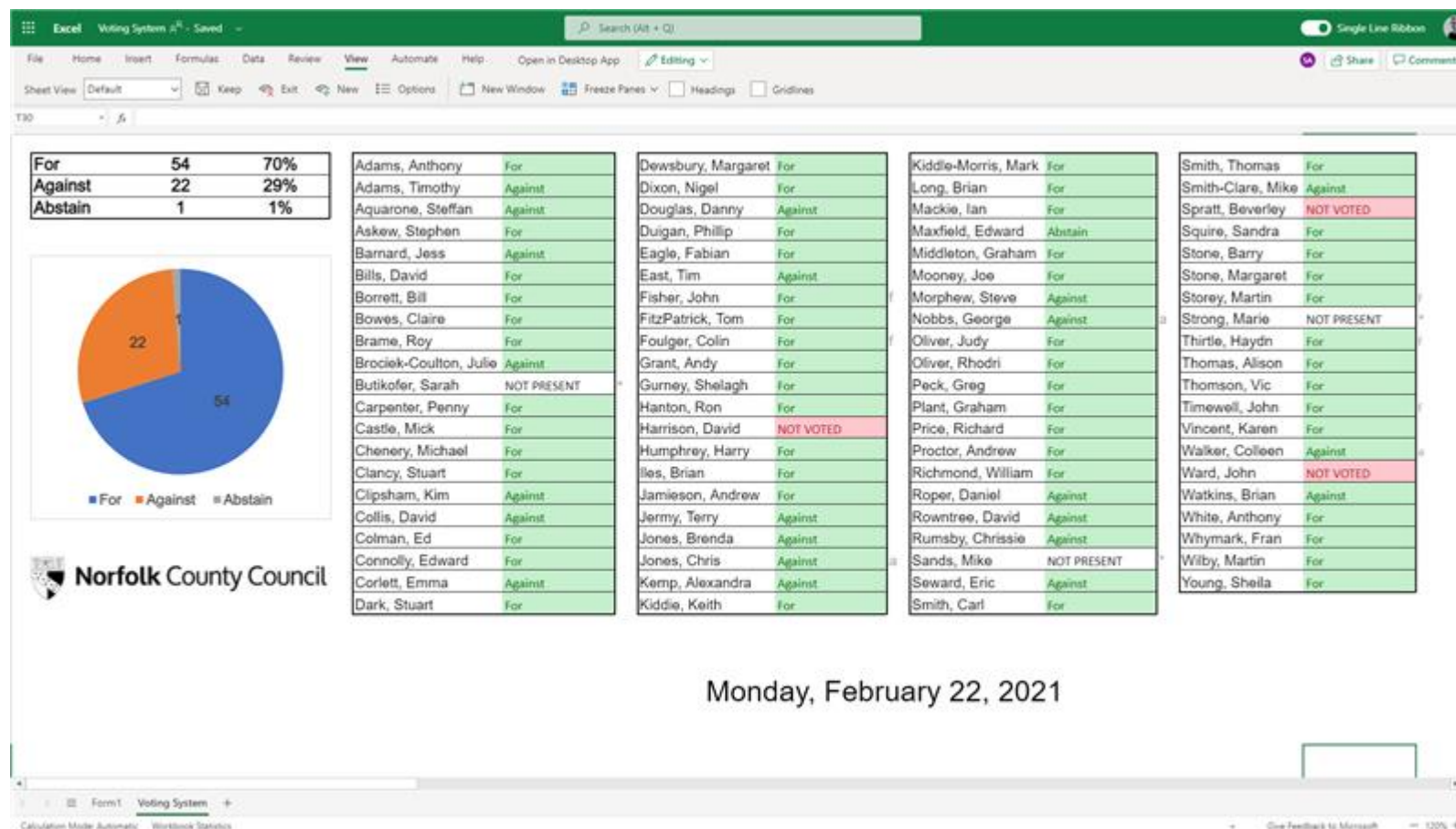
With 11 votes in favour, 65 votes against and 0 abstentions, the proposed budget amendment was **LOST**.

Recorded Vote 6 – Proposed Budget Amendment from Cllr Alexandra Kemp.



With 3 votes in favour, 59 votes against and 14 abstentions, the proposed budget amendment was **LOST**.

Recorded vote 7 - Substantive Budget Recommendations from Cabinet.



With 54 votes in favour, 22 votes against and 1 abstention the budget recommendations from Cabinet were **CARRIED** and Council **RESOLVED** accordingly.