

Norfolk County Council

Date: **Tuesday, 12 December 2023**

Time: **10am**

Venue: **Council Chamber, County Hall, Martineau Lane,
Norwich NR1 2DH**

To: All members of the Council. You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council for the purpose of transacting the business set out in this agenda.

Advice for members of the public:

This meeting will be held in public and in person.

It will be live streamed on YouTube and members of the public may watch remotely by clicking on the following link: [Norfolk County Council YouTube](#)

We also welcome attendance in person, but public seating is limited, so if you wish to attend please indicate in advance by emailing committees@norfolk.gov.uk.

Current practice for respiratory infections requests that we still ask everyone attending to maintain good hand and respiratory hygiene and, at times of high prevalence and in busy areas, please consider wearing a face covering.

Please stay at home if you are unwell, have tested positive for COVID 19, have symptoms of a respiratory infection or if you are a close contact of a positive COVID 19 case. This will help make the event safe for attendees and limit the transmission of respiratory infections including COVID-19

Prayers

AGENDA

1. Apologies

2. Minutes

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 26 September 2023

(Page 5)

3. To receive any announcements from the Chair, Leader or Chief Executive (maximum of 15 minutes)

4. Members to declare any interests

If you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in a matter to be considered at the meeting and that interest is on your Register of Interests you must not speak or vote on the matter. It is recommended that you declare that interest but it is not a legal requirement. If you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in a matter to be considered at the meeting and that interest is not on your

Register of Interests you must declare that interest at the meeting and not speak or vote on the matter.

In either case you may remain in the room where the meeting is taking place. If you consider that it would be inappropriate in the circumstances to remain in the room, you may leave the room while the matter is dealt with.

If you do not have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest you may nevertheless have an Other Interest in a matter to be discussed if it affects to a greater extent than others in your division:

- Your wellbeing or financial position, or
- that of your family or close friends
- Any body –
 1. Exercising functions of a public nature.
 2. Directed to charitable purposes; or
 3. One of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union);
 4. of which you are in a position of general control or management.

If that is the case then you must declare such an interest but can speak and vote on the matter.

5. Petitions presented to Council: none

6. Business (if any) remaining from the last Council meeting: none

7. Member questions to the Leader (a maximum of 15 minutes will be allowed for this item)

Procedure Note attached.

(Page 32)

8 Recommendations from Cabinet

8.1 Meeting held on 2 October

(Page 34)

9. Cabinet Reports and questions to Cabinet Members

(Page 35)

Procedure Note attached.

9.1 Report from the meetings held on 2 October and 6 November 2023

(Page 36)

10. Recommendations from the Scrutiny Committee and Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

No recommendations from Scrutiny or Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

- 11. Recommendations from Committees:**
- No recommendations from Committees
- 12. Report from Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 20 September, 25 September, 18 October, 31 October and 22 November 2023** (Page 43)
- 13. Report from Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 9 November 2023** (Page 49)
- 14. Reports from other Committees**
- 14.1 Audit and Governance Committee** (Page 52)
Meeting held on 10 October 2023
- 14.2 Planning (Regulatory) Committee** (Page 54)
Meetings held on 29 September and 24 November 2023
- 14.3 Pensions Committee**
No meetings held since last Council meeting.
- 14.4 Employment Committee**
No meetings held since last Council meeting.
- 14.5 Health and Wellbeing Board** (Page 55)
Meetings held on 27 September and 8 November 2023
- 15. Reports from Select Committees**
- 15.1 Corporate Select Committee** (Page 59)
Meeting held on 13 November 2023
- 15.2 Infrastructure and Development Select Committee** (Page 61)
Meeting held on 15 November 2023
- 15.3 People and Communities Select Committee** (Page 63)
Meeting held on 17 November 2023
- 16. Reports about the business of joint arrangements and external organisations**
- 16.1 Norfolk Joint Museums Committee** (Page 65)
Meeting held on 27 October 2023
- 16.2 Norfolk Records Committee** (Page 66)
Meeting held on 27 October 2023
- 17. Specific Business Items**

- 17.1 Proportional Allocation of Places on Committees and Appointment of Chair/Vice Chair for Committee (Page 67)**
- 17.2 Consideration of a County Deal for Norfolk (Page 70)**
- 18. Notice of Motions (Page 90)**
- 19. Questions on notice under Rule 9.3: none**
- 20. Appointments to Committees, Sub-Committees and Joint Committees**



Tom McCabe
Chief Executive
County Hall
Martineau Lane
NORWICH
NR1 2DH

Agenda Published: Monday 4 December 2023



**Norfolk County Council
Minutes of the Meeting Held at 10 am on
Tuesday 26 September 2023**

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Present: | | |
| | ADAMS Timothy | |
| | ADAMS Tony | KIDDIE Keith |
| | ANNISON Carl | LONG Brian |
| | AQUARONE Steffan | MACKIE Ian |
| | ASKEW Stephen | MASON BILLIG Kay |
| | BAMBRIDGE Lesley | MORPHEW Steve |
| | BENSLY James | NEALE Paul |
| | BILLS David | PECK Greg |
| | BIRMINGHAM Alison | PENFOLD Saul |
| | BLUNDELL Sharon | PLANT Graham |
| | BORRETT Bill | PRICE Ben |
| | BOWES Claire | RICHMOND Will |
| | BROCIK-COULTON Julie | Reilly Matthew |
| | CARPENTER Penny | ROPER Dan (arrived at 12:46) |
| | CLANCY Stuart | ROWETT Catherine |
| | COLWELL Robert | RUMSBY Chrissie |
| | CONNOLLY Ed | SANDS Mike |
| | CROFTS John | SAYERS David |
| | DALBY Michael | SAVAGE Robert |
| | DARK Stuart | SHIRES Lucy |
| | DAWSON Christopher | SMITH Carl |
| | DIXON Nigel | SMITH-CLARE Mike |
| | DUIGAN Phillip | STONE Barry |
| | EAGLE Fabian | STOREY Martin |
| | ELMER Daniel | THOMAS Alison |
| | FITZPATRICK Tom | VARDY Eric |
| | FISHER John | VINCENT Karen |
| | GRANT Andy | WALKER Colleen |
| | GURNEY Shelagh | WARD John |
| | HEMPSALL Lana | WATKINS Brian |
| | HORSBRUGH Michael Chenery of | WEBB Maxine |
| | JAMES Jane | WHITE Tony |
| | JAMIESON Andrew | WHYMARK Fran |
| | JERMY Terry | WILBY Martin |
| | KEMP Alexandra | |

Present: 68

1. Apologies

- 1.1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Vic Thomson, Cllr William Nunn, Cllr Julian Kirk, Cllr Mark Kiddle Morris, Cllr Brenda Jones, Cllr Richard Price, Cllr Andrew Proctor, Cllr Margaret Dewsbury, Cllr Ed Maxfield, Cllr Jim Moriarty, Cllr Dan Roper, Cllr Judy Oliver, Cllr Steve Reilly, Cllr Rhodri Oliver, Cllr Graham Carpenter, Cllr Emma Corlett and Cllr Jamie Osborn.
- 1.2 The Chair reminded Councillors that meetings of the Council would not normally extend beyond 3 hours unless this was extended in accordance with rule 11. 1 (n) of the Council Procedure Rules, however it was his intention to enact rule 4 (v) and rule 4 (vi) of the constitution once the meeting period had elapsed if any business remained. The practical application of this would be that the meeting continued on a vote only basis.
- 1.3 The Chair also said that he intended to adjourn the meeting after about 2 hours for a short comfort break.

2. Minutes

- 2.1 The minutes of the Council meeting held on 18 July 2023 were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. To receive any announcements from the Chair, Leader, or Chief Executive

- 3.1 The Leader welcomed back Cllr Martin Wilby to Council after a period of illness. She said that she had had a meeting, with the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to discuss information relating to the devolution deal. The Leader and Deputy Leader had also held a constructive meeting with Norfolk MPs about the assisted living and housing schemes. They had also attended a County Council Networking event where they had been able to speak with the Local Government Finance Minister. They requested a fairer funding for Norfolk and a three-year settlement rather than the annual one that was currently received.
- 3.2 The Chair welcomed Cllr John Crofts to his first meeting of the County Council following his election as the new County Councillor for Freebridge Lynn Division at the by-election held on Thursday 3 August 2023.
- 3.3 The Chair shared that the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service was holding a 385-mile relay between all 42 fire stations in the county where more than 250 fire fighters and fire staff will take part to raise money for The Fire Fighters Charity. This would take place between Thursday 28 September 2023 and Sunday 1 October 2023, starting in Great Yarmouth, and finishing at Carrow Jubilee Fire Station. Members were encouraged to get involved and show their support.

4. Declarations of Interest

- 4.1 Cllr Alison Birmingham, Cllr Penny Carpenter, Cllr Paul Neale, Cllr Barry Stone. Cllr Robert Savage and Cllr Karen Vincent declared an 'other interest' related to motion 8 as they were members of the Norfolk Pension Fund.

- 4.2 Cllr Steve Morpew, Cllr Maxine Webb and Cllr Ben Price declared an 'other interest' related to motion 8 as their spouses or family members were members of the Norfolk Pension Fund.
- 4.3 Cllr David Sayers declared 'an other' interest related to motions 2 and 11 as he worked in the construction industry and had a personal interest in the easing of restrictions on nutrient neutrality.
- 4.4 Cllr John Ward declared 'an other' interest related to item 17.1, museums report as he was the Chairman and Director of the Norfolk Museums Development Foundation.
- 4.5 Cllr Michael Chenery of Horsbrugh declared an 'other interest' that he was a Trustee of the Norfolk Record Office and a Governor of the Norfolk and Suffolk Foundation Trust.

5. Petitions presented to Council

- 5.1 There were no items of petition for Council to consider within the timeframe for this meeting.

6. Business (if any) remaining from the last Council meeting

- 6.1 No business was outstanding since the meeting of the 18 July 2023.

7. Questions to the Leader

7.1 Question from Cllr Mike Sands

- 7.1.1 Cllr Sands had advised in March 2023 that 640 pharmacies in England had permanently closed, this number now stands at over 900 that have permanently closed. Many pharmacies are subsidising their shops; one local pharmacist has even mortgaged his own home to keep his pharmacy open to provide a service to the public. It is high time that the government reviews the rates at which pharmacies are paid for prescriptions and other services. Will the Leader join me in a call for immediate action by Westminster to review the rates of these payments?

- 7.1.2 In reply, the Leader highlighted that Motion 10 focused on protecting local pharmacies and that this would be discussed then. She noted schemes are available through the District Councils to help with business rates and other services.

7.2 Question from Cllr Saul Penfold

- 7.2.1 It is stated that even one or two external shocks can be enough to destabilise even well-run authorities. With this in mind and with the Council's significant amount of debt and interest payments, the overspend and uncertainty in transformation in Children's Services, the limbo of the Norwich Western Link, the crisis in Adult Social, and the changes in DIY charges at the recycling centre, is the Leader of the Council concerned that any of these potential shocks or indeed other uncertainties could result in our own bankruptcy?

7.2.2 In response, the Leader assured members of her confidence that Norfolk County Council would not be facing a section 114. The circumstances that resulted in Birmingham County Council facing a section 114 had been investigated, the issues they faced were issues that Norfolk County Council had resolved over a decade ago in relation to gender pay gap deficits. Whilst there was increasing pressures, work towards a balanced budget for 2024/25 was being undertaken.

7.3 **Question from Cllr Ben Price**

7.3.1 The Friends of Wensum Lodge is a newly formed community group, and their mission statement is to work with others to make Wensum Lodge a creative and learning centre for Norfolk and Norwich, and a hub for community activities. This politically neutral community group will be meeting at 7pm on October 12th, 2023, at the King's Centre Cafe on King Street, Norwich. Will the Leader demonstrate this council's willingness to work with Norfolk residents in developing a long-term strategy for Wensum Lodge by agreeing to attend this meeting?

7.3.2 The Leader replied that they wanted to see Wensum Lodge retained for community use and were keen to find a way forward, through communication with Norwich City Council and community involvement, to ensure this. With regard to the meeting on 12 October 2023, the Leader noted that they would check their availability.

7.4 **Question from Cllr Lesley Bambridge**

7.4.1 Cllr Lesley Bambridge asked if the Leader would join her in congratulating the successful English women's football team, including Norfolk's Lauren Hemp, in the recent World Cup?

7.4.2 The Leader in response shared how thrilled she was that women's football was being broadcasted on mainstream television channels, she acknowledged the significance of this but also mentioned the difference that remained between men's football, notably that some women footballers are still required to work. The Leader referred to her pride that Lauren Hemp was a Norfolk resident.

7.5 **Question from Cllr Alexandra Kemp**

7.5.1 September's 2023 Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) report says that 5-year-olds in West Norfolk and Great Yarmouth have the highest prevalence of tooth decay in the whole of the East of England and that 15–19-year-olds in Norfolk are being referred to secondary care for tooth extractions. Public Health at the County Council has a statutory duty for prevention, so can the Leader ask Public Health to commission the School Dental Service, and provide free toothbrushes and toothpaste for children?

7.5.2 The Leader replied that the challenges with dentistry in Norfolk were a concern that was shared by many. The issue was a national problem and there was no easy fix. There were plans for a Dental School in Norfolk which would allow us to grow our own dentists and encourage them to stay in the county. The issues with workforce and recruitment in Norfolk was challenging and there were hopes that the dental schools would play a role in combating this. The Leader noted that the

Council does not have oversight on what dental service schemes are provided within multi academy trust schools.

7.6 Question from Cllr Julie Brociek-Coulton

7.6.1 Members are reportedly referring to themselves as Member Champions, but these roles haven't been confirmed. These were supposed to be made after the first Cabinet meeting of the year, but I cannot find where they've been formally announced. Can the Leader confirm when she did this?

7.6.2 The Leader replied that this work was being undertaken by a member of Cabinet and they were refining roles to ensure that the focus was where it needed to be.

7.7 Question from Cllr Rob Colwell

7.7.1 Earlier this month, a list published by the Department of Education identified a single school in Norfolk containing reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC). However, we are yet to receive a full report back from academy trust run schools. Is the Cabinet Member aware of any buildings containing RAAC or asbestos which used to be owned and maintained by the council but are now in control of an academy trust?

7.7.2 In response, the Leader shared that they were not aware of any schools that were facing issues relating to RAAC. One school was identified as having RAAC in its main hall and, because it was not identified in the classroom, has been able to continue largely unaffected. This was a national issue that required a government response about its resolution.

7.8 Question from Cllr Catherine Rowett

7.8.1 Chris Norbury, Chief Executive of energy supplier E.ON, speaking about Rishi Sunak's decision to scrap targets for insulation in private rental housing said "we risk condemning people to many more years of living in cold and draughty homes that are expensive to heat, in cities clogged with dirty air from fossil fuels". With the Government having now abandoned renters along with realistic climate change targets, how will the County Council work with districts, landlords and other partners to address the crisis of sub-standard private rental housing and get more private rental houses insulated?

7.8.2 In response, the Leader replied that this remit was the responsibility of District Councils, to regulate, and ensure, that private rental sector standards were being adhered to.

7.9 Question from Cllr John Fisher

7.9.1 With regard to the recent catch up discussion with the Leader and CEO were records kept of how many staff tuned in and benefited from hearing the discussion and are there plans in the future for more catch-up chats to take place?

7.9.2 The Leader shared that the ‘Catch up with Kay and Tom’ was an opportunity to engage with staff and for staff to be introduced to the Leader and the CEO. At its peak, 900 people were attended the virtual meeting. The Leader felt that it was a useful exercise and opened up communication. There were plans to run another session, which it was hoped would be in person.

8. Recommendations from Cabinet

8.1 The Leader moved, seconded by Cllr Andrew Jamieson, the recommendation 1 from the Cabinet meeting held on 4 September 2023. As recommendation 2 concerned a change within the Budget and Policy Framework it would be taken as a substantive item at item 19.

8.2 Council **RESOLVED** on a show of hands

- To recommend that the Council approves the addition of a net £8.94m to the P6 capital programme on 26 September 2023 for the following schemes as set out in Capital Appendix 3, paragraph 4.2-4.4 as follows:
- £10m new capital loan for the Norse Group Project One replacement and integration of its HR and Finance systems as set out in Appendix 3, note 4.2
- £3.4m uplift to the Great Yarmouth O & M Campus project to fund the cost pressures identified in the latest forecast including inflationary cost pressures and additional drainage, decontamination and remedial works identified as set out in Appendix 3, note 4.3.
- £1.05m temporary uplift to the NCC Borrowing contribution to fund the West Winch Housing Access Road project up to the end of November 2023, asset out elsewhere in the agenda
- Offset by £5.515m reduction in the Adult Learning capital programme following the decision to pursue alternative more accessible venues for the delivery of the Adult Learning programme and dispose of the Wensum Lodge site.

9. Cabinet Report (Questions to Cabinet Members)

9.1 The Leader moved the report of the Cabinet meetings held on 7 August and 4 September 2023.

Council **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** the report.

9.2 Question from Cllr Terry Jermy to Cllr Penny Carpenter, the Cabinet Member for Children Services

9.2.1 Cllr Terry Jermy advised that there was significant concern amongst Thetford residents about the quality of one of the providers of the Summer Holiday Activity Scheme and after complaints were raised with the Council, the arrangement with that provider was terminated this, Summer. Can the Cabinet Member reassure residents that the County Council’s processes for selecting providers is sufficiently robust so that parents can have confidence that the activities that their children are attending, linked to Norfolk County Council, are delivered by reputable companies and that children attending the activities are at all times safe from harm?

- 9.2.2 The Cabinet Member for Children Services provided reassurance that there were robust plans in place for selecting providers for the Summer Holiday Activity Scheme. The feedback from the sessions run over the summer had been collated and was being produced into a report. Cllr Penny Carpenter thanked Cllr Terry Jermy for raising concerns and for his question.
- 9.3 **Question from Cllr Steffan Aquarone to Cllr Eric Vardy, the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste**
- 9.3.1 Cllr Steffan Aquarone said that earlier this year, this council decided to implement plans to build a new recycling centre in Sheringham. The chosen site is a designated Area of Outstanding Natural beauty (AONB) which is now threatened with large scale industrialisation. However, it is not just the environmental cost, but also the financial cost to the taxpayer that this administration must justify. How much per month in rent will use of this site cost the council?
- 9.3.2 The Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste responded that they did not have this information to hand and that a written response would be provided.
- 9.4 **Question from Cllr Paul Neale to Cllr Fabian Eagle, the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth**
- 9.4.1 Cllr Paul Neale noted that Ford Motor Company advised last week that the Conservative Government's U-turn on electric car targets undermines ambition, commitment, and consistency - three things that are vital to achieving a green economy. Businesses need certainty to have the confidence to invest in the green economy - and that means setting and sticking to targets. With the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) being brought into the county council and thus a stronger business growth mandate for the council, how is he seeking to set targets and policies to ensure confidence in the green economy?
- 9.4.2 The Cabinet Member for Economic Growth replied that the green economy, like any other economy, would be led by the consumer.
- 9.5 **Question from Cllr Stuart Clancy to Cllr Andrew Jamieson, the Cabinet Member for Finance**
- 9.5.1 Cllr Stuart Clancy asked for more information in relation to the Council's finances, especially with the uncertainty in Local Government finances and the section 114 notices being issued by various councils.
- 9.5.2 The Cabinet Member for Finance replied that they were able to report that Norfolk County Council had a sound financial budget and that all that could be done to safeguard the Council's financial position, was being done. He advised that the increase in section 114 notices was specific to the councils in question and their issues i.e., equal pay, poor commercial activities, and failure to set budgets sufficiently. Whilst these were not issues that the Council experienced, there was still a need to remain vigilant with the monitoring of the budget and to consider the pressures that were being faced.

9.6 **Question from Cllr Alexandra Kemp to Cllr Jane James, the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Innovation**

9.6.1 Cllr Alexandra Kemp advised that by the end of 2025, all analogue landlines will be switched over to digital Voice Over the Internet (VOIP) provision. This will be a worse service for residents and could put vulnerable Norfolk residents, at risk during storms and power cuts, who struggle to use mobile phones. VOIP goes when the internet goes down. VOIP does not work in a power cut, unlike analogue phones. Rural broadband can be unreliable. West Norfolk has not yet been included in Project Gigabyte. The power back up for VOIP is expensive and only works for up to an hour. Can the Cabinet Member bring VOIP to a Committee, with the industry present, to help safeguard vulnerable residents in the switchover, and encourage the industry to develop a better back-up technology. No resident should have to switch to a worse service.

9.6.2 The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Innovation shared concerns that the switch over to VOIP could leave vulnerable residents of Norfolk without connection. Information about what to expect from the changes has been published on the Council's website. The industry was being challenged on these questions and Norfolk was part of the Local Government Association working group on this issue. It was felt that collaboration between the districts and the sharing of information and databases would be worthwhile to identify negative implications and try to minimise them. It was the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Innovation's opinion that a collaborative piece of work between Norfolk County Council, district councils, children, and adult services would be valuable, and it would be their desire that this was brought to a select committee to be discussed in a public forum.

9.7 **Question from Cllr Mike Smith-Clare to Cllr Graham Plant, the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport**

9.7.1 Cllr Smith-Clare noted that the 'Volegate' issue had been resolved and September was nearing an end, was the exact date known of when Great Yarmouth's third river crossing will be opened?

9.7.2 The Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure, and Transport replied that there were still issues and work was still required. He did not have an exact date when this work would be completed but said that this would be shared once it was known.

9.8 **Question from Cllr John Crofts to Cllr Kay Mason Biling, the Cabinet Member for Strategy and Governance**

9.8.1 Cllr John Crofts shared that last month, Norfolk and Suffolk Police admitted to a data breach after mishandling sensitive information on victims, suspects, and witnesses, some of which were related to domestic abuse. This comes after the countywide 999 outage earlier in the year. Does the Cabinet Member have confidence in Norfolk's Conservative Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to deliver an effective strategy focused on community safety and to maintain an effective and efficient police service?

- 9.8.2 The Cabinet Member for Strategy and Governance replied that the Council no longer had responsibility for the police service and that this was now the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner. They encouraged this question to be directed towards them for a response.
- 9.9 **Question from Cllr Catherine Rowett to Cllr Graham Plant, the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure, and Transport**
- 9.9.1 Cllr Catherine Rowett congratulated the Cabinet Member on securing funding for improvements to bus travel, including the upgraded facilities at the bus hubs in Diss, among other places, and for the improvements to information at bus stops. The Travel Norfolk journey planner which has been promoted extensively this week also revealed many good connections for car free journeys. However, many regret the loss of the flexibus dial a ride scheme which provided a means of travel for those living far from the nearest bus stop and with limited mobility. Will the Cabinet Member join me in travelling to Tibenham one day this month by public transport, to see if we can make the journey there and back successfully within a day? I am happy to come to Gorleston to begin the journey from there.
- 9.9.2 In response, the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure, and Transport thanked Cllr Catherine Rowett for recognising the work that had been done to improve bus travel. He was keen to create a bus service that made good use of the funding and encouraged bus usage. He would consider the offer to travel to Tibenham.
- 9.10 **Question from Cllr Ed Connolly to Cllr Alison Thomas, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care**
- 9.10.1 Cllr Ed Connolly asked if the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care could give the context around the decision to cease provision of in-patient reablement at Benjamin Court and Grays Fair Court
- 9.10.2 In response, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care clarified that the decision to withdraw from in-patient reablement services at Benjamin Court and Grays Fair Court was a service decision and not a Cabinet Member decision. The needs for in-patient reablement have changed over time due to strengthening community-based services and the introduction of virtual beds. Additionally, patients want to return home and support can be provided by Norfolk First Support within a home environment. The Cabinet Member also explained the difference between reablement and convalescence, the latter referred to the active engagement of the patient to assist them to regain independence and to return home. The former is related to a patient who was recovering from a period of ill health or operation but do not need to remain on the ward and can be nursed within a community setting. She also noted that Priscilla Bacon Lodge has moved location and now has additional capacity.
- 9.11 **Question from Cllr Julie Brociek-Coulton to Cllr Alison Thomas, the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Cllr Graham Plant, the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure, and Transport**
- 9.11.1 Cllr Julie Brociek-Coulton asked if either the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care or the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport could

confirm whether the Council records the number of hours paid carers are losing between visits trying to find safe, legal parking.

9.11.2 In response, the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure, and Transport noted that this was an area that had not been looked at but that the systems put in place in Devon were being considered. It was clarified that parking permits were available through businesses that provided care. He acknowledged that not all carers are employed as carers. There was a need to better understand who was identified as a carer.

9.11.3 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services added that this issue had been raised with the interim Executive Director of Adult Social Care and was being investigated. Care providers have a duty of care to ensure that their carees can park and to ensure that they are providing parking permits to their employees.

9.12 **Question from Cllr Saul Penfold to Cllr Eric Vardy, the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste**

9.12.1 Cllr Saul Penfold advised that last year in Norfolk there were 1,939 spills from sewage discharge points for a combined total of 8,713 hours. The pollution of our waterways by these discharges has remained unchecked for too long. When will this administration take its duty to protect our waterways and the health of our residents seriously?

9.12.2 The Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste replied that the administration does take their duty to protect waterways and the health of our residents seriously. He agreed that water companies were not operating well enough and that he would continue to drive for cleaner water.

9.13 **Question from Cllr Catherine Rowett to Cllr Jane James, the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Innovation**

9.13.1 Cllr Catherine Rowett thanked Councillor Price for inviting the Council to explore the option of a four-day working week, at Corporate Select Committee, and also thanked Councillor Nunn for supporting the idea by seconding Councillor Price's initiative. Does the Cabinet Member agree that the four-day week approach would be a positive move for local authorities, and that local authorities should be allowed to take part in trials and pilot schemes?

9.13.2 The Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Innovation replied that she did not agree that the four-day week approach would be a positive move for local authorities. She noted Norfolk County Council's flexible working policy and that working arrangements had to ensure the best outcomes for Norfolk residents.

9.14 **Question from Cllr Stuart Clancy to Cllr Fabian Eagle the Cabinet Member for Economic Growth**

9.14.1 Cllr Stuart Clancy noted that a Norfolk based company, Solinatra, have been struggling with Defra regulations to manufacture a product in Norfolk which currently is being imported from the Far East. What are Norfolk County Council doing to support this company so that the product that can be manufactured in Norfolk instead of being imported?

9.14.2 The Cabinet Member for Economic Growth responded that Solinatra is a highly innovative and exciting company in Norfolk and was the type of company that should be encouraged more to show the value that Norfolk has to offer. The Cabinet has been pushing this concern and has spoken to MPs and pushing for their support. This concern was also being taken up with Lord Johnson.

9.15 **Question from Cllr Maxine Webb to Cllr Penny Carpenter, the Cabinet Member for Childrens Services**

9.15.1 Cllr Maxine Webb said that the report by Pro Bono Economics published yesterday "Wasting money, wasting potential - The cost of SEND Tribunals" found that nationally at least £60 million was wasted from council budgets during 2021-22. Last year, the cost of SEND tribunals to this council was £750,000 in legal costs alone, without factoring in officer time or other administrative costs. Is the Cabinet Member committed to action halting this financial burden on the council and unnecessary emotional burden on affected residents?

9.15.2 The Cabinet Member for Children Services acknowledged the impact that the SEND tribunals had on families but that they have no control over the judicial system or the waiting times. She shared that the Executive Director for Children Services had contact with the judge to improve the service and to better understand the timings.

10. Recommendations from the Scrutiny Committee and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

10.1 There were no recommendations from the Scrutiny Committee and the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

11. Recommendations from Committees

11.1 There were no recommendations from Committees.

12. Scrutiny Committee meetings held 19 July 2023

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

13. Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 14 September 2023

13.1 Cllr Fran Whymark, Chair of the committee, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

14. Reports from other Committees

14.1 Audit and Governance Committee held on 25 July and 7 September 2023

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

14.2 Planning Regulatory Committee held on 21 July 2023

- 14.2.1 Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.
- 14.3 **Pensions Committee held on 12 September 2023**
- 14.3.1 Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.
- 14.4 **Employment Committee**
- 14.4.1 There had not been a meeting of the Employment Committee since the last Council meeting.
- 14.5 **Health and Wellbeing Board**
- 14.5.1 There had not been a meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Board since the last Council meeting.
- 15. **Reports from Select Committees**
- 15.1 **Corporate Select Committee held on 10 July and 11 September 2023**
- 15.1.1 Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.
- 15.2 **Infrastructure and Development Select Committee held on 12 July and 13 September 2023**
- 15.2.1 Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.
- 15.3 **People and Communities Select Committee held on 14 July and 15 September 2023**
- 15.3.1 Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.
- 16. **Reports about the business of joint arrangements and external organisations**
- 16.1 **Norfolk Joint Museums Committee held on 28 July 2023**
- 16.1.2 Council **RESOLVED** to note the report
- 16.2 **Norfolk Records Committee held on 28 July 2023.**
- 16.2.1 Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.
- 17. **Proportional Allocation of Places on Committees**
- 17.1 Cllr Kay Mason Billig, seconded by Cllr Jamieson, moved the recommendations contained in the report.
- 17.2 Council **RESOLVED** to approve the revised allocation of committee places and note that the Conservative Group will give up one place on the Corporate Select Committee to the Liberal Democrat Group.

18. Pay Policy Statement 2023-24 Revisions

18.1 Cllr Kay Mason Billig, seconded by Cllr Jamieson, moved the recommendations contained in the report.

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the draft revised statement and recommends the Pay Policy Statement 2023-24.

19. Amendment to the Annual Investment and Treasury Management Strategy 2023-24

Cllr Kay Mason Billig, seconded by Cllr Jamieson, moved the recommendations contained in the report.

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the amendment to the Annual Investment and Treasury Management Strategy 2023-24 (as appended) to increase the treasury management investment limit for Norse Group to £25.000m in order to maintain the existing level of cash flow facility available to the company.

20. Notice of Motions

20.1 Motion 1 - Norfolk's Coastal Communities

20.1.1 The following motion was proposed by Cllr James Bensley and seconded by Cllr Carl Smith

In the Parliamentary Select Committee 'The Future of Seaside Towns' report (2019), VisitBritain found that tourism was worth £127 billion to the British economy, of which domestic tourism was £86 billion, and tourism remains a crucial cornerstone of the local economy in many parts of Norfolk.

In places this economic arrangement is potentially jeopardised by coastal erosion. In Norfolk our soft eroding coast is already very vulnerable. Erosion impacts wider community and society as it undermines livelihoods, investment and accessibility and areas of our coast become blighted. We are seeing an unprecedented pace of coastal change and we can no longer afford to react. We must plan now if we want options that are resilient for the near and far future.

However, erosion is also an integral part of a dynamic healthy coastal system. Cliffs erode and feed beaches with sand, which in turn provide a natural defence against further erosion, as well as creating habitats for nature to flourish. The Government's Levelling up agenda aspires to target areas most in need, which will include our coastal communities, and the council welcomes the strong advocacy of local Members of Parliament for their communities. This Council welcomes the Flood and Coastal Resilience Innovation Fund, managed by the Environment Agency, allocating vital funding to support against the negative impacts of coastal erosion through innovative programs such as Coastwise and Resilience Coasts. However, the council does feel that further options should be considered to provide support to these valued communities. This Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, asking them to consider the following options to help provide further support to Coastal Communities:

- Amendments to be made to the Defra Partnership Funding Calculator – acknowledging and providing more weighting to the value and importance of tourism in coastal areas.
- Legislation relating to income derived from offshore dredging and wind energy companies to allow a greater percentage to remain with local authorities for use on the coast.
- The Government to urgently make provision for an emergency fund for coastal areas impacted by erosion before the Flood and Coastal Innovation Programme completes. This would be for Risk Management Authorities to access and could be time limited until 2027.
- Dedicated resource to establish a National Coastal Adaptation Framework as recommended by the Climate Change Risk Assessment in 2021.

20.1.2 On being put to a vote there were 64 votes in favour of the motion, 0 votes against and 1 abstention the motion was **CARRIED**.

20.2 **Motion 2- Nutrient Neutrality**

20.2.1 The following motion was proposed by Cllr Terry Jermy and seconded by Cllr Maxine Webb

Council welcomes the House of Lords' rejection of Government proposals to abandon nutrient neutrality rules that force developers to mitigate pollution from new developments.

Council recognises the collaboration between councils in Norfolk to develop mitigation schemes to enable new developments that are compliant with nutrient neutrality rules and supports the acceleration of those efforts.

Council urges developers to take responsibility for the pollution derived from housebuilding, to build out existing consents rather than hide behind nutrient neutrality as an excuse to avoid building and drive the cost of properties higher to improve their profits.

Council further calls upon government to urgently bring together housebuilders and environmental groups to find a workable solution to enable sustainable development and nature protection to proceed hand in hand.

20.2.2 On being put to the vote (Appendix A) there were 21 votes in favour of the motion, 36 votes against and 0 abstentions the motion was **LOST**.

20.3 **Motion 3- Benjamin Court**

20.3.1 The following motion was proposed by Cllr Steffan Aquarone and seconded by Cllr Lucy Shires

Convalescent care settings are a vital component in any well-functioning and patient-centred health service. They offer an important steppingstone on the path to rehabilitation for residents who require more time to rest and recover before returning home, but who have surpassed the need for hospital supervision.

The benefits of convalescent care include improved health outcomes, enhanced recovery, and a reduced rate of hospital readmission. The level of support, advice and rehabilitation offered in these settings is not something that can be realistically or easily replicated in the home.

Earlier this year, this council made the naïve decision to close the reablement centre at Benjamin Court and is considering a further closure of the reablement centre at Grays Fair Court which provide 18 and 20 beds respectively for convalescent care. Norfolk's residents are being stripped of a vital service provided by these centres under the guise of reinvestment in care services and the emergence of 'virtual wards' making such settings allegedly less necessary. Although such advances in the care system are welcome, they do not offer the bespoke care that convalescent settings can provide.

Benjamin Court and the services it provided, from a resident's perspective, was a valued resource. Its closure was not without protest or controversy. Indeed, the campaign against its closure is still ongoing and the petition protesting its fate has nearly reached 1000 signatures with more being added each day.

The Liberal Democrat Group recognise the commendable and dedicated work undertaken by colleagues in the adult social care directorate, healthcare providers across the county, care givers and all those involved within the healthcare system. Even more so, given the disjointed system in which they must work with multiple, often conflicting sources of funding and complicated bureaucracy. These closures serve to make their jobs even more difficult and remove a valuable tool in their arsenal to provide a bespoke and effective service.

This Council resolves to:

1. Recognise the importance of 'convalescence' and its many benefits as outlined above as a way of supporting people between leaving hospital and returning home.
2. Recognise the current system for health and social care is disjointed due to the separate funding sources that exist within the system, and that from the citizen's perspective this falls short on delivering a seamless, dignified, and supportive service that meets the individual's needs.

3. Protect and serve all existing adult social care convalescence facilities and prevent them from transferring out of the remit of control of adult social care.
4. Work further with partners to improve upon the disjointed chasm that exists between public health, preventative measures, acute treatment, hospital services and adult social care.

20.3.2 Cllr Bill Borrett provided a point of order and clarified that care homes and hospitals are not included within the scope of nutrient neutrality restrictions.

20.3.3 On being put to the vote (Appendix B) there were 20 votes in favour of the motion, 34 votes against and 0 abstentions the motion was **LOST**.

20.4 **Motion 4 - Protecting Important Centres of Learning**

20.4.1 The following motion proposed by Cllr Ben Price and seconded by Cllr Paul Neale

In 2019, before the Covid pandemic, Norfolk County Council unveiled proposals to transform Wensum Lodge into a creative hub, commissioning Hudson Architects. Plans were made for upgraded rooms for adult education courses, along with rental space for start-up creative and arts organisations to bring in money to help pay the centre's running costs. The vision included a café and business support to help start-up companies.

In June 2023, the county council announced its plan to close Wensum Lodge as a centre for adult learning and sell off the building. This decision was announced without consultation with the Adult Learning Steering Group or with tutors or learners at Wensum Lodge. The decision was also announced even though there is no available space for some popular courses, including ceramics and other courses where there is a requirement for specialist equipment. The decision to close Wensum Lodge means the times of day that some courses are offered will need to change.

Nearly 6,000 people (of which nearly 5,000 live in Norfolk) signed a petition against the closure of Wensum Lodge in the space of 5 weeks.

The selling off of Wensum Lodge threatens to undo years of effort by the local community to build up a space that is well-used and well-loved.

There is a similar threat to the Angel Road school site. The local community fears that the site, which is an important community asset and has been a vital location for education, will be sold off without consultation. As with Wensum Lodge, there has been a lack of information provided to the local community whose children went to school there as to what alternative provision there will be. This speaks of a county council that is out of touch and seems reluctant to engage with local communities regarding the future of essential services.

The closure of Wensum Lodge and the lack of action to bring Angel Road back into use is reflective of a trend within the county council of closing physical hubs where local communities can access services.

Council resolves to:

- 1) Immediately review the decision to close the only physical hub dedicated to adult learning in Norwich.

- 2) Initiate a consultation regarding the closure of Wensum Lodge, to run for an appropriate amount of time to gather significant responses, and provide a transparent process for how community responses regarding the site will be considered.

- 3) Establish a consultation process ahead of selling off of any other assets that are used to provide public-facing council services, to ensure that decisions are made with full and proper consideration of their impacts.

- 4) Review the process and criteria by which the county council decides whether to de-prioritise physical hubs for service provision.

20.4.2 This motion was **WITHDRAWN** following the proposal from Cllr Ben Price which was seconded by Cllr Paul Neale.

20.5 **Motion 5 - Voice Over Internet Provision**

20.5.1 The motion was **WITHDRAWN**.

20.6 **Motion 6- Devolution Deal**

20.6.1 The following motion proposed by Cllr Steve Morphey and seconded by Cllr Mike Sands

Council requests the Chair to summon an additional meeting of Council on a convenient date around the end of October to consider a report from the Leader updating Council on progress on the substance of the county deal in advance of the deliberations by council on future governance arrangements in December.

Council recognises that decisions related to the substance of the county deal are reserved to Cabinet but seeks an additional meeting to debate the elements of the deal not covered by constitutional arrangements so comments can be considered by Cabinet prior to the Council meeting in December.

20.6.2 **Three Hour Meeting Time Elapses**

During debate of the motion, the Chair pointed out that the 3 hours for the meeting had elapsed. Cllr Morpew proposed a motion to extend the meeting to the end of Motion 6. This was seconded by Cllr Dan Roper.

Following a show of hands, it was **agreed** that the meeting would be extended to finish discussions on motion 6.

20.6.2 On being put to the vote (Appendix C) there were 21 votes in favour of the motion, 33 votes against and 0 abstentions the motion was **LOST**.

20.7 As a result of the three-hour meeting period having elapsed, Council agreed to move to the part of the meeting where all remaining business be they motions or amendments to motions would be considered moved and seconded in line with procedure rule 4 (iv).

20.7.1 The Chair said that he would deal with each motion in turn. Initially he would ask the proposer of the motion if they wanted the motion to go ahead or be withdrawn. If the motion was withdrawn Council would continue through the motions in the order they appeared on the agenda, which was by reference to the size of the group. If the motion was not withdrawn, the Chair would consider if there were amendments. If there were, then Council would vote on those first and then, when those were completed, Council would vote on the substantive motion.

20.8 **Motion 7 - End Fuel Poverty**

20.8.1 This motion was **WITHDRAWN**.

20.9 **Motion 8- Green Finance**

20.9.1 The following motion proposed by Cllr Catherine Rowett was deemed moved and seconded.

20.9.3 The motion which was on the table was put to a recorded vote (Appendix D) and with 21 votes in favour, 32 votes against and 0 abstentions the motion was **LOST**.

20.10 **Motion 9 - Carer Parking Permits**

20.10.1 The motion was **WITHDRAWN**

20.11 **Motion 10- Protecting Local Pharmacies**

20.11.1 The motion was **WITHDRAWN**

21. Questions on notice under rule 9.3

One question had been received from Cllr Alexandra Kemp. The Chair advised the answer to the question had been published and copies had been circulated to Members in the Chamber prior to the meeting.

22. Appointments to Committees, sub-Committees and Joint Committees

Council **RESOLVED** to note:

- Cllr Mark Kiddle Morris to be replaced on People and Communities Select Committee. The replacement to be confirmed.
- Cllr John Crofts replaces Cllr Tim Adams on People and Communities Select Committee.
- Cllr Rob Colwell replaces Cllr Saul Penfold on Infrastructure and Development Select Committee.
- Cllr Brian Watkins replaces Cllr Rob Colwell on Pensions Committee.
- Following Council's approval at item 17.1; Cllr David Sayers on Corporate Select Committee to replace Cllr Lana Hemsall.
- The political group allocations to the Police and Crime Panel are calculated with reference to the requirement for the Panel to be politically balanced based upon the overall political balance of Council seats in Norfolk. The 7 district councils each appoint 1 representative and the County Council makes its appointments to ensure that the overall political balance is achieved. Following notification of District Council preferred appointments, the County Council group allocation has been changed to support the overall political balance and Cllr Stuart Dark has now been appointed to the third Conservative place on the Panel.

**The meeting concluded at 13:54 pm
Chair**



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Norfolk County Council - Date: 26 September 2023

RECORDED VOTE – ITEM NUMBER: Motion 2 Nutrient Neutrality Appendix A

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|-------------------------------------|--------|---------|---------|
| | | | |
| ADAMS Timothy | Absent | | |
| ADAMS Tony | Absent | | |
| ANNISON Carl | | X | |
| AQUARONE Steffan | X | | |
| ASKEW Stephen | | X | |
| BAMBRIDGE Lesley | | X | |
| BENSLY James | | X | |
| BILLS David | | X | |
| BIRMINGHAM Alison | X | | |
| BLUNDELL Sharon | X | | |
| BORRETT Bill | | X | |
| BOWES Claire | | X | |
| BROCIEK-COULTON Julie | X | | |
| CARPENTER Graham | Absent | | |
| CARPENTER Penny | Absent | | |
| CLANCY Stuart | | X | |
| COLWELL Robert | X | | |
| CONNOLLY Ed | | X | |
| CORLETT Emma | Absent | | |
| CROFTS John | X | | |
| DALBY Michael | Absent | | |
| DARK Stuart | | X | |
| DAWSON Christopher | | X | |
| DEWSBURY Margaret | Absent | | |
| DIXON Nigel | Absent | | |
| | | | |
| DUIGAN Phillip | | X | |
| EAGLE Fabian | | X | |
| ELMER Daniel | | X | |
| FISHER John | | X | |
| FITZPATRICK Tom | | X | |
| GRANT Andy | Absent | | |
| GURNEY Shelagh | Absent | | |
| HEMPSALL Lana | | X | |
| HORSBRUGH Michael Chenery of | | X | |
| JAMES Jane | | X | |
| JAMIESON Andrew | | X | |
| JERMY Terry | X | | |
| JONES Brenda | Absent | | |
| KEMP Alexandra | X | | |
| KIDDIE Keith | | X | |
| KIDDLE-MORRIS Mark | Absent | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|--------------------------|--------|---------|---------|
| | | | |
| KIRK Julian | Absent | | |
| LONG Brian | | X | |
| MACKIE Ian | | X | |
| MASON BILLIG Kay | | X | |
| MAXFIELD Ed | Absent | | |
| MORIARTY Jim | Absent | | |
| MORPHEW Steve | X | | |
| NEALE Paul | X | | |
| NUNN William | Absent | | |
| OLIVER Judy | Absent | | |
| OLIVER Rhodri | Absent | | |
| OSBORN Jamie | Absent | | |
| PECK Greg | | X | |
| | | | |
| PENFOLD Saul | X | | |
| PLANT Graham | | X | |
| PRICE Ben | X | | |
| PRICE Richard | Absent | | |
| PROCTOR Andrew | Absent | | |
| RICHMOND Will | | X | |
| Reilly Matthew | X | | |
| RILEY Steve | Absent | | |
| ROPER Dan | X | | |
| ROWLETT Catherine | X | | |
| Rumsby Chrissie | X | | |
| SANDS Mike | X | | |
| SAYERS David | Absent | | |
| SAVAGE Robert | | X | |
| SHIRES Lucy | X | | |
| SMITH Carl | | X | |
| SMITH-CLARE Mike | Absent | | |
| STONE Barry | | X | |
| STOREY Martin | Absent | | |
| THOMAS Alison | | X | |
| THOMSON Vic | Absent | | |
| VARDY Eric | | X | |
| | | | |
| VINCENT Karen | | X | |
| WALKER Colleen | X | | |
| WARD John | | X | |
| WATKINS Brian | X | | |
| WEBB Maxine | X | | |
| WHITE Tony | Absent | | |
| WHYMARK Fran | | X | |
| WILBY Martin | | X | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Sub-Total

Sub-Total

| | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| For | 21 |
| Against | 36 |
| Abstentions | 0 |

LOST

RECORDED VOTE – ITEM NUMBER: Motion 3 Benjamin Court Appendix B

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|---------------------------------|--------|---------|---------|
| ADAMS Timothy | Absent | | |
| ADAMS Tony | Absent | | |
| ANNISON Carl | | X | |
| AQUARONE Steffan | X | | |
| ASKEW Stephen | | X | |
| BAMBRIDGE Lesley | | X | |
| BENSLY James | | X | |
| BILLS David | | X | |
| BIRMINGHAM Alison | X | | |
| BLUNDELL Sharon | Absent | | |
| BORRETT Bill | | X | |
| BOWES Claire | | X | |
| BROCIEK-COULTON Julie | X | | |
| CARPENTER Graham | Absent | | |
| CARPENTER Penny | Absent | | |
| CLANCY Stuart | | X | |
| COLWELL Robert | X | | |
| CONNOLLY Ed | | X | |
| CORLETT Emma | Absent | | |
| CROFTS John | X | | |
| DALBY Michael | Absent | | |
| DARK Stuart | | X | |
| DAWSON Christopher | | X | |
| DEWSBURY Margaret | Absent | | |
| DIXON Nigel | Absent | | |
| DUIGAN Phillip | | X | |
| EAGLE Fabian | | X | |
| ELMER Daniel | | X | |
| FISHER John | | X | |
| FITZPATRICK Tom | | X | |
| GRANT Andy | Absent | | |
| GURNEY Shelagh | Absent | | |
| HEMPSALL Lana | | X | |
| HORSBRUGH Michael Chenery of | | X | |
| JAMES Jane | | X | |
| JAMIESON Andrew | | X | |
| JERMY Terry | X | | |
| JONES Brenda | Absent | | |
| KEMP Alexandra | X | | |
| KIDDIE Keith | | X | |
| KIDDLE-MORRIS Mark | Absent | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|-------------------|--------|---------|---------|
| KIRK Julian | Absent | | |
| LONG Brian | | X | |
| MACKIE Ian | | X | |
| MASON BILLIG Kay | | X | |
| MAXFIELD Ed | Absent | | |
| MORIARTY Jim | Absent | | |
| MORPHEW Steve | X | | |
| NEALE Paul | X | | |
| NUNN William | Absent | | |
| OLIVER Judy | Absent | | |
| OLIVER Rhodri | Absent | | |
| OSBORN Jamie | Absent | | |
| PECK Greg | Absent | | |
| PENFOLD Saul | X | | |
| PLANT Graham | | X | |
| PRICE Ben | X | | |
| PRICE Richard | Absent | | |
| PROCTOR Andrew | Absent | | |
| RICHMOND Will | | X | |
| Reilly Matthew | X | | |
| RILEY Steve | Absent | | |
| ROPER Dan | X | | |
| ROWLETT Catherine | X | | |
| Rumsby Chrissie | X | | |
| SANDS Mike | | | |
| SAYERS David | X | | |
| SAVAGE Robert | Absent | | |
| SHIRES Lucy | X | | |
| SMITH Carl | | X | |
| SMITH-CLARE Mike | Absent | | |
| STONE Barry | | X | |
| STOREY Martin | Absent | | |
| THOMAS Alison | | X | |
| THOMSON Vic | Absent | | |
| VARDY Eric | | X | |
| VINCENT Karen | | X | |
| WALKER Colleen | X | | |
| WARD John | | X | |
| WATKINS Brian | X | | |
| WEBB Maxine | X | | |
| WHITE Tony | Absent | | |
| WHYMARK Fran | | X | |
| WILBY Martin | | X | |
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|-----------|--|--|--|
| Sub-Total | | | |
|-----------|--|--|--|

| | | | |
|-----------|--|--|--|
| Sub-Total | | | |
|-----------|--|--|--|

| | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| For | 20 |
| Against | 34 |
| Abstentions | 0 |

LOST

Norfolk County Council - Date: 26 September 2023

RECORDED VOTE – ITEM NUMBER: Motion 6 Devolution Deal Appendix C

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|---------------------------------|--------|---------|---------|
| ADAMS Timothy | Absent | | |
| ADAMS Tony | Absent | | |
| ANNISON Carl | | X | |
| AQUARONE Steffan | X | | |
| ASKEW Stephen | | X | |
| BAMBRIDGE Lesley | | X | |
| BENSLY James | | X | |
| BILLS David | | X | |
| BIRMINGHAM Alison | X | | |
| BLUNDELL Sharon | X | | |
| BORRETT Bill | Absent | | |
| BOWES Claire | | X | |
| BROCIK-COULTON Julie | X | | |
| CARPENTER Graham | Absent | | |
| CARPENTER Penny | Absent | | |
| CLANCY Stuart | | X | |
| COLWELL Robert | X | | |
| CONNOLLY Ed | | X | |
| CORLETT Emma | Absent | | |
| CROFTS John | X | | |
| DALBY Michael | Absent | | |
| DARK Stuart | | X | |
| DAWSON Christopher | | X | |
| DEWSBURY Margaret | Absent | | |
| DIXON Nigel | Absent | | |
| DUIGAN Phillip | | X | |
| EAGLE Fabian | | X | |
| ELMER Daniel | Absent | | |
| FISHER John | | X | |
| FITZPATRICK Tom | | X | |
| GRANT Andy | Absent | | |
| GURNEY Shelagh | Absent | | |
| HEMPSALL Lana | | X | |
| HORSBRUGH Michael Chenery of | | X | |
| JAMES Jane | | X | |
| JAMIESON Andrew | | X | |
| JERMY Terry | X | | |
| JONES Brenda | Absent | | |
| KEMP Alexandra | X | | |
| KIDDIE Keith | | X | |
| KIDDLE-MORRIS Mark | Absent | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|-------------------|--------|---------|---------|
| KIRK Julian | Absent | | |
| LONG Brian | | X | |
| MACKIE Ian | Absent | | |
| MASON BILLIG Kay | | X | |
| MAXFIELD Ed | Absent | | |
| MORIARTY Jim | Absent | | |
| MORPHEW Steve | X | | |
| NEALE Paul | X | | |
| NUNN William | Absent | | |
| OLIVER Judy | Absent | | |
| OLIVER Rhodri | Absent | | |
| OSBORN Jamie | Absent | | |
| PECK Greg | | X | |
| PENFOLD Saul | X | | |
| PLANT Graham | | X | |
| PRICE Ben | X | | |
| PRICE Richard | Absent | | |
| PROCTOR Andrew | Absent | | |
| RICHMOND Will | | X | |
| Reilly Matthew | X | | |
| RILEY Steve | Absent | | |
| ROPER Dan | X | | |
| ROWLETT Catherine | X | | |
| Rumsby Chrissie | X | | |
| SANDS Mike | X | | |
| SAYERS David | Absent | | |
| SAVAGE Robert | | X | |
| SHIRES Lucy | X | | |
| SMITH Carl | | X | |
| SMITH-CLARE Mike | Absent | | |
| STONE Barry | | X | |
| STOREY Martin | Absent | | |
| THOMAS Alison | | X | |
| THOMSON Vic | Absent | | |
| VARDY Eric | | X | |
| VINCENT Karen | | X | |
| WALKER Colleen | X | | |
| WARD John | | X | |
| WATKINS Brian | X | | |
| WEBB Maxine | X | | |
| WHITE Tony | Absent | | |
| WHYMARK Fran | | X | |
| WILBY Martin | | X | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Sub-Total

Sub-Total

| | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| For | 21 |
| Against | 33 |
| Abstentions | 0 |

LOST

RECORDED VOTE – ITEM NUMBER: Motion 8 Green Finances Appendix D

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|---------------------------------|--------|---------|---------|
| ADAMS Timothy | Absent | | |
| ADAMS Tony | Absent | | |
| ANNISON Carl | | X | |
| AQUARONE Steffan | X | | |
| ASKEW Stephen | Absent | | |
| BAMBRIDGE Lesley | | X | |
| BENSLY James | | X | |
| BILLS David | | X | |
| BIRMINGHAM Alison | X | | |
| BLUNDELL Sharon | X | | |
| BORRETT Bill | Absent | | |
| BOWES Claire | | X | |
| BROCIK-COULTON Julie | X | | |
| CARPENTER Graham | Absent | | |
| CARPENTER Penny | Absent | | |
| CLANCY Stuart | | X | |
| COLWELL Robert | X | | |
| CONNOLLY Ed | | X | |
| CORLETT Emma | Absent | | |
| CROFTS John | X | | |
| DALBY Michael | Absent | | |
| DARK Stuart | | X | |
| DAWSON Christopher | | X | |
| DEWSBURY Margaret | Absent | | |
| DIXON Nigel | Absent | | |
| DUIGAN Phillip | | X | |
| EAGLE Fabian | | X | |
| ELMER Daniel | Absent | | |
| FISHER John | | X | |
| FITZPATRICK Tom | | X | |
| GRANT Andy | Absent | | |
| GURNEY Shelagh | Absent | | |
| HEMPSALL Lana | | X | |
| HORSBRUGH Michael Chenery of | | X | |
| JAMES Jane | | X | |
| JAMIESON Andrew | | X | |
| JERMY Terry | X | | |
| JONES Brenda | Absent | | |
| KEMP Alexandra | X | | |
| KIDDIE Keith | | X | |
| KIDDLE-MORRIS Mark | Absent | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|-------------------|--------|---------|---------|
| KIRK Julian | Absent | | |
| LONG Brian | | X | |
| MACKIE Ian | Absent | | |
| MASON BILLIG Kay | | X | |
| MAXFIELD Ed | Absent | | |
| MORIARTY Jim | Absent | | |
| MORPHEW Steve | X | | |
| NEALE Paul | X | | |
| NUNN William | Absent | | |
| OLIVER Judy | Absent | | |
| OLIVER Rhodri | Absent | | |
| OSBORN Jamie | Absent | | |
| PECK Greg | | X | |
| PENFOLD Saul | X | | |
| PLANT Graham | | X | |
| PRICE Ben | X | | |
| PRICE Richard | Absent | | |
| PROCTOR Andrew | Absent | | |
| RICHMOND Will | | X | |
| Reilly Matthew | X | | |
| RILEY Steve | Absent | | |
| ROPER Dan | X | | |
| ROWLETT Catherine | X | | |
| Rumsby Chrissie | X | | |
| SANDS Mike | X | | |
| SAYERS David | Absent | | |
| SAVAGE Robert | | X | |
| SHIRES Lucy | X | | |
| SMITH Carl | | X | |
| SMITH-CLARE Mike | Absent | | |
| STONE Barry | | X | |
| STOREY Martin | Absent | | |
| THOMAS Alison | | X | |
| THOMSON Vic | Absent | | |
| VARDY Eric | | X | |
| VINCENT Karen | | X | |
| WALKER Colleen | X | | |
| WARD John | | X | |
| WATKINS Brian | X | | |
| WEBB Maxine | X | | |
| WHITE Tony | Absent | | |
| WHYMARK Fran | | X | |
| WILBY Martin | | X | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Sub-Total

Sub-Total

| | |
|--------------------|-----------|
| For | 21 |
| Against | 32 |
| Abstentions | 0 |

LOST

Procedure for Leader's Question Time

In order to give as many people as possible the opportunity to put a question to the Leader, questions should be asked succinctly and in a business-like manner. They should not be preceded by lengthy preambles. Similarly, answers should be given succinctly, to make sure there is sufficient time for a reasonable number of questions to be dealt with. The Chair will be prepared to intervene if they consider this principle is not being adhered to.

Agenda Item 7 – Questions to the Leader of the Council

Questions to the Leader will be a 15-minute session for questions relating only to the role of Leader.

1. Questions to the Leader must be relevant to matters for which the Council has powers or duties. Members do not need to give prior notice of what they plan to ask and the Chair's ruling as to relevance of questions will be final. If the Leader cannot give an immediate answer or feels that a written answer would be more helpful or appropriate, then the questioner will receive a written reply and this will be published to all members and to the public via the minutes. The Leader may ask Cabinet Members to answer questions where appropriate.
2. The Chair will begin Leader's Question Time by inviting the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group to ask the first question. All Group Leaders may delegate the asking of their question to another member of their Group. There is no right to ask a supplementary question.
3. After the first question has been answered, the Chair will invite the Leader of the Labour Group to ask a question.
4. When the second question has been answered the Chair will invite the Leader of the Green Group to ask a question.
5. When the third question has been answered, the Chair will invite and select a member of the Independent Group to ask a question.
6. When the fourth question has been answered, the Chair will invite a Non-aligned Member to ask a question.
7. When the fifth question has been answered, the Chair will invite a member of the Conservative Group to ask a question.
8. If the 15 minutes has not expired, the Chair will then invite questions from Group Members in the following order:

Liberal Democrat Group
Labour Group
Green Group
Independent Group

A Non-Aligned Member
Conservative Group

Following round:

Liberal Democrat Group
Labour Group
Green Group
A Non-Aligned Member
Conservative Group

9. The session will be timed by Democratic Services officers. If a question is being asked at the point the time is up, the Chair will allow the question to be completed and the answer to be given.

Recommendations from the Cabinet Meetings held on 2 October 2023

A: Meeting held on 2 October 2023

- 1 **Finance Monitoring Report 2023-24 P5: August 2023**
- 1.1 Cabinet received the report and associated annexes summarising the forecast financial outturn position for 2023-24, to assist members to maintain an overview of the overall financial position of the Council.
- 1.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED:**
To recommend to Council the following amendments to the P6 capital programme for the following schemes as set out in Capital Appendix 3, paragraph 4.2-4.3 of the report as follows:
 - the inter-service virements of £1.287m from Digital Services to fund the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service Command and Control System as set out in Appendix 3 of the report, note 4.2
 - £0.075m uplift to the Environment (Planning and Advice) project to fund the additional works associated with Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) responsibilities as set out in Appendix 3 of the report, note 4.3.

[Please click here to view the reports considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 2 October 2023 and the minutes of that meeting](#)

**Cllr Kay Mason Billig
Chair, Cabinet**

Procedure for Questions to Cabinet Members

Questions to the Cabinet Members for:

- Strategy & Governance
- Finance
- Public Health and Wellbeing
- Children's Services
- Communities and Partnerships
- Economic Growth
- Corporate Services and Innovation
- Highways, Infrastructure and Transport
- Adult Social Care
- Environment and Waste

A maximum overall period of 30 minutes shall be allowed for questions to Cabinet Members, with a maximum of 5 minutes for questions to an individual Cabinet Member, both periods to be extendable at the discretion of the Chair. Questions to Cabinet Members can relate to anything within the remit of the Cabinet Member's portfolio and are not limited to items in the Cabinet reports.

1. The Chair will begin Questions by inviting members to indicate if they wish to ask a question.
2. The Chair will select a member to ask their question and all other members wait until the Chair next invites questions. Questions will not be taken in a prescribed portfolio order and can be to any Cabinet Member.
3. For the first round, the Chair will follow the principle of selecting the first questioner from the Liberal Democrat Group, followed by the Labour Group, the Green Group, the Independent Group, a Non-aligned Member and then the Conservative Group. For the second round, the Chair will then revert to the Liberal Democrat Group, the Labour Group, the Green Group, the Independent Group, a Non-Aligned Member then Conservative Group. For the third round, the Chair will revert to the Liberal Democrat Group, the Labour Group, the Green Group, a Non-Aligned Member and then the Conservative Group, etc. For the fourth round, the Chair will revert to the Liberal Democrat, the Labour Group, the Green Group and then the Conservative Group.
4. The session will be timed by Democratic Services officers, who will notify the Chair if questions to an individual Cabinet Member has in total exceeded 5 minutes or that the overall time is up. If a question is being asked at the point at which time is up, the Chair will allow the question to be completed and the answer to be given.
5. Questions should be asked succinctly and in a business-like manner. They should not be preceded by lengthy preambles. Similarly, answers should be given succinctly, so that there is sufficient time for a reasonable number of questions to be dealt with. The Chair of the Council will be prepared to intervene if they consider this principle is not being adhered to.

**Report from the Cabinet
meetings held on 2 October and 6 November 2023.**

A: Meeting held on 2 October 2023

1. **Safeguarding across the life course in Norfolk: The work of the Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership and Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board in 2022-23**
 - 1.1 Cabinet received the report presenting the 2022-23 work of both the Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership and Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board.
 - 1.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:
 - a) endorse and comment the contents of the annual report 2022/23 for NCSP and NSAB
 - b) To promote NSCP and NSAB's work to the public via social media enabling more people to see it, helping to give important safeguarding messages to Norfolk's communities.
2. **Market Sustainability and Improvement Fund – Workforce Funding**
 - 2.1 Cabinet received the report outlining detail of the further £600m of funding for Adult Social Care announced by the Department of Health and Social Care on 28th July 2023, £570m of which would be distributed to Local Authorities over two years, with the residual £30m for Local Authorities in the most challenged health systems. The report also discussed challenges the Council would face in areas in scope of the grant.
 - 2.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to discuss and agree the proposed use of the Market Sustainability and Improvement funding – Workforce fund as set out in section 3.6 of this report. Funding available is £6.3m in 2023/24 and a provisional £3.5m in 2024.
3. **Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Integration Plan**
 - 3.1 Cabinet received the report outlining the approach being taken to integrate the Local Enterprise Partnership into Norfolk County Council and including the Local Enterprise Partnership Integration plan being prepared for Government.
 - 3.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:
 1. Approve the LEP Integration Plan
 2. Recommend that a progress report is brought back to Cabinet in April 2024.
4. **Climate Action Plans - Tranche 1**

- 4.1 Cabinet received the report introducing the approach of publishing climate action plans, proposing to bring these for member consideration in tranches, and presenting the first of these action plans for review and approval.
- 4.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:
1. Approve the proposed approach to climate action planning.
 2. Approve the first tranche of actions as set out in the report.
- 5. Procurement Strategy 2023-2026**
- 5.1 Cabinet received the report setting out the procurement strategy for 2023-26 which set out the 8 overarching goals for procurement at Norfolk County Council.
- 5.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to agree the Norfolk County Council Procurement Strategy 2023-2026
- 6. Risk Management Quarterly Report**
- 6.1 Cabinet received the quarterly risk management report setting out the reviewed and updated corporate risks, as well as departmental risk summaries for departmental risks as at October 2023.
- 6.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to agree:
1. The key proposed changes to corporate risks since the last report to July 2023 Cabinet (paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 and Appendix A of the report)
 2. The corporate risks as at October 2023 (Appendices B and C of the report)
 3. The departmental risk summaries (Appendix D) in the report.
- 7. Corporately Significant Vital Signs**
- 7.1 Cabinet received the report providing an update on the Council's performance against its Corporately Significant Vital Signs.
- 7.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:
1. Review and comment on the end of Quarter 1 performance data.
 2. Review the considerations and next steps.
 3. Agree the 19 highlighted actions as set out in the report
- 8. Mayton Wood Recycling Centre**
- 8.1 Cabinet received the report setting out a proposal to relocate Mayton Wood Recycling Centre operations to the new Norwich North Recycling Centre from December 2023.
- 8.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to Agree to relocate Mayton Wood Recycling Centre operations to the new Norwich North Recycling Centre from December 2023.
- 9. Strategic and financial planning 2024-25**
- 9.1 Cabinet received the report setting out details of the initial proposals for Cabinet consideration prior to public consultation. It also explains the broad approach

planned to enable further options to be brought forward in order to contribute to a balanced Budget being proposed for 2024-25.

9.2

Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

1. To consider and comment on the County Council's financial strategy as set out in this report and note that the Budget process is aligned to the overall policy and financial framework;
2. To note that fiscal and policy decisions made by the Government in autumn 2023, may have implications for the County Council's budget planning position. The outcome of these national funding announcements, alongside the Local Government Finance Settlement, will have potentially significant impacts on the 2024-25 Budget position, which will not be fully known until later in the budget setting process.
3. To consider and agree for planning purposes the latest assessment of significant areas of risk and uncertainty around emerging budget pressures for the 2024-25 Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy, which remain to be resolved and which may have a material impact on budget planning (section 8 of the report).
4. To direct Executive Directors to identify proposals for further recurrent Departmental savings towards the original target of £46.200m agreed in June 2023, for consideration by Cabinet in January 2024 and to support final 2024-25 Budget recommendations to Full Council.
5. To note that, taking into account the significant budget pressures for 2024-25, the S151 Officer anticipates recommending that the Council will need to apply the maximum council tax increase available in order to set a sustainable balanced budget for 2024-25;
6. To note the responsibilities of the Director of Strategic Finance under section 114 of the Local Government Act 1988 and section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003 to comment on the robustness of budget estimates as set out in section 9 and the further actions which may be required to set a balanced budget as set out in paragraph 10.3 of the report;
7. To consider and agree the proposals as set out in section 5 of the report (Table 5) to be taken forward in budget planning for 2024-25, subject to final decisions about the overall Budget in February 2024, noting the level of savings already included from the 2023-24 Budget process (Table 3 of the report);
8. To agree that public consultation (as set out in section 11 of the report) and equality impact assessment (as set out in section 17 of the report) in relation to all other proposals for the 2024-25 Budget be undertaken as set out in section 11 of the report, and asking residents for their views on the level of council tax;
9. To note that the Chief Executive (Head of Paid Service) has the delegation to undertake any staff consultation relating to specific proposals as required to inform and support 2024-25 Budget setting decisions in January 2024;
10. To confirm the remaining next steps in the Budget planning process for 2024-25, and the Budget planning timetable (Appendix 1 of the report); and
11. To note and thank Select Committees for their input into the Budget development process for 2024-25 in July, and to invite Select Committees to comment further on the detailed proposals set out in this report when they meet in November 2023 (section 19 of the report).

10. Finance Monitoring Report 2023-24 P5: August 2023

10.1 Cabinet received the report and associated annexes summarising the forecast financial outturn position for 2023-24, to assist members to maintain an overview of the overall financial position of the Council.

10.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

1. To note the reduction of **£9.991m** to the capital programme to address capital funding requirements funded mostly from various external sources as set out in detail in capital Appendix 3, paragraph 1.4 of the report as follows:

- (£0.459k) reduction in NCC Borrowing requirement due to the release of surplus capital budgets in Corporate Property – Offices.
- (£3.878m) net reduction in Highways improvement and maintenance schemes, mainly due to a reduction in external grant funding forecasted following revisions to project forecasts for 2023-24, after allocations to various projects including the Great Yarmouth Harfreys Roundabout £1.262m, Caister on Sea bypass £0.7m
- (£5.515m) reduction in NCC Borrowing requirement due to the release of capital budget following the decision to dispose of Wensum Lodge and move the Adult Learning courses to more accessible premises across the county.
- (£0.139m) net reduction in various other schemes

For recommendation 2, please refer to the “recommendations from Cabinet” report to Council.

3. Subject to Cabinet approval of recommendation 1, and following Council approval of recommendation 2, to delegate:

- 3.1. To the Director of Procurement authority to undertake the necessary procurement processes including the determination of the minimum standards and selection criteria (if any) and the award criteria; to shortlist bidders; to make provisional award decisions (in consultation with the Chief Officer responsible for each scheme); to award contracts; to negotiate where the procurement procedure so permits; and to terminate award procedures if necessary.
- 3.2. To the Director of Property authority (notwithstanding the limits set out at 5.13.6 and 5.13.7 of Financial Regulations) to negotiate or tender for or otherwise acquire the required land to deliver the schemes (including temporary land required for delivery of the works) and to dispose of land so acquired that is no longer required upon completion of the scheme;
- 3.3. To each responsible chief officer authority to:
 - (in the case of two-stage design and build contracts) agree the price for the works upon completion of the design stage and direct that the works proceed; or alternatively direct that the works be recompleted
 - approve purchase orders, employer’s instructions, compensation events or other contractual instructions necessary to effect changes in contracts that are necessitated by discoveries, unexpected ground conditions, planning conditions, requirements arising from detailed design or minor changes in scope
 - subject always to the forecast cost including works, land, fees and disbursements remaining within the agreed scheme or programme budget.

- That the officers exercising the delegated authorities set out above shall do so in accordance with the council’s Policy Framework, with the approach to Social Value in Procurement endorsed by Cabinet at its meeting of 6 July 2020, and with the approach set out in the paper entitled “Sourcing strategy for council services” approved by Policy & Resources Committee at its meeting of 16 July 2018.
4. To recognise the period 5 general fund forecast revenue of a **balanced position**, noting also that Executive Directors will take measures to reduce or eliminate potential over-spends where these occur within services;
 5. To recognise the period 5 forecast of 95% savings delivery in 2023-24, noting also that Executive Directors will continue to take measures to mitigate potential savings shortfalls through alternative savings or underspends;
 6. To note the forecast General Balances at 31 March 2024 of **£25.410m**.
 7. To note the expenditure and funding of the revised current and future 2023-28 capital programmes including the significant reprofiling undertaken to date and the reduction in the capital programmes of £9.991m in P5.
 8. To approve the appointment of directors to Norfolk County Council owned companies and joint ventures as set out in section 2.3 of the report, as required by the Council’s Financial Regulations.
 9. To approve the deferment of the first repayment of the Hethel Innovation Ltd 2021 £2.000m loan to 18 December 2026 with the associated uplift to the annual repayments to £0.117k per annum for the remaining 33 years as set out in Appendix 3 of the report, note 3.7.

11. Exclusion of the Public

- 11.1 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to exclude the public from the meeting

12. Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Integration Plan: Exempt Appendix

- 12.1 Cabinet did not discuss the exempt appendix, however noted its contents

B: Meeting held on 6 November 2023

1. Preparing for Seasonal Pressures: Integrated Winter Plan for 2023/24

- 1.1 Cabinet received the report providing information on work being undertaken to support a resilient Health and Social Care system able to face the impact of the 2023/24 winter.
- 1.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to approve the winter plan and work being carried out to support the system and residents of Norfolk during the coming winter months, and for Norfolk County Council to commit to working collaboratively with partners to promote and support the plan.

2. A140 Long Stratton Bypass

- 2.1 Cabinet received the report providing an update on the Long Stratton Bypass project.
- 2.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

1. To confirm support for the delivery of the Long Stratton Bypass.
2. To delegate the approval and submission of the Full Business Case to the Interim Executive Director of Community & Environmental Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member Highways, Infrastructure and Transport.
3. To delegate the award of Contract for Long Stratton Bypass to the Interim Executive Director of Community & Environmental Services in consultation with the Director of Procurement and Sustainability and the Cabinet Member Highways, Infrastructure and Transport.
4. To approve the increased costs of the scheme to £46.9m within the capital programme and note the funding sources are being finalised as detailed in section 6.2.2 of the report.
5. To agree to commence advance environmental mitigation and initial mobilisation works from January 2024 ahead of the Full Business Case decision and main construction works in April 2024. The estimated delivery cost of these works is expected to be up to £1.3m and funded on a temporary basis by Norfolk County Council (for more details see section 6.1.5 of the report).

3. Abbey Estate Thetford – Memorandum of Understanding

- 3.1 Cabinet received the report setting out an update to the Abbey Estate Memorandum of Understanding.
- 3.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to approve the updated Memorandum of Understanding.

4. Public Health Strategic Plan

- 4.1 Cabinet received the report setting out the new Public Health Strategic Plan which set out the Council's approach to improving the health and wellbeing of Norfolk's residents with a focus on prevention, partnerships and place, children and young people, adults, and older people.
- 4.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to approve the Public Health Strategic Plan.

5. Summary of Annual Report of Norfolk Adoption Service 2022-2023

- 5.1 Cabinet received the report detailing the performance of and outcomes achieved by Norfolk's Adoption Service, and a summary of the Adoption Annual Report, showing the Statement of Purpose amended by the previous years' data.
- 5.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to accept the Annual Report and endorse the Statement of Purpose for Norfolk Adoption Service 2022/23.

6. Annual Report 2022-2023 Norfolk Fostering Service

- 6.1 Cabinet received the report giving an update on the activity of the Fostering Service fulfilling obligations required by the Fostering Services Regulations (2011) to review and improve the quality of care, and National Minimum Standards (2011) to report to the executive side of the local authority.
- 6.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:
 1. Note the performance data within the report.

2. Endorse next steps in relation to priorities to increase and retain the pool of registered foster carers.

7. Finance Monitoring Report 2023-24 P6: September 2023

- 7.1 Cabinet received the report giving a summary of the forecast financial position for the 2023-24 Revenue and Capital Budgets, General Balances, and the Council's Reserves at 31 March 2024, together with related financial information.
- 7.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED**:
 1. To note the increase of £5.233m to the capital programme to address capital funding requirements funded mostly from various external sources as set out in detail in capital Appendix 3, paragraph 1.4 as follows:
 - £3.4m increase to the Great Yarmouth O&M Campus following full Council approval received in September 2023 comprising £2.9m NCC Borrowing and £0.5m contribution from external funding
 - £0.799m increase in the Disabled Facilities Grant funding from central government
 - £1.488m increase in S106 Developer contributions and other external grants to Children's Services across multiple development sites including £0.914m for Bradwell
 - £0.140m additional Department of Transport funding allocated to various Highways schemes and £1.050m increase in NCC Borrowing funding the NCC contribution to the West Winch Bypass approved by full Council in September 2023
 - (£1.461m) reduction in NCC Borrowing budget for ICT comprising of a £1.2m reduction in the schools ICT refresh programme following a full review of kit life cycles and a release of £0.261m for Woodside One Community Hub ICT network following the decision to dispose of Woodside One. This release in ICT budgets will allow for the funding of the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Services Command and Control system of £1.287m, the proposed virement approval is going to full Council in December 2023.
 - (£0.183m) net reduction in various other schemes
 2. To note the revised current and future 2023-28 capital programme as set out in Appendix 3 including the significant reprofiling undertaken to date.
 3. To delegate to the Director of Procurement and the Director of Property to undertake the necessary procurement and tender processes to deliver this revised capital programme in accordance with the delegated authority awarded on 6 March 2023 in the Authority to enact Capital Programme paper
 4. To recognise the period 6 general fund revenue forecast of a £4.363m overspend (0.88% of net budget), noting also that Executive Directors will take measures to reduce or eliminate potential over-spends where these occur within services;
 5. To recognise the period 6 forecast of 97% savings delivery in 2023-24, noting also that Executive Directors will continue to take measures to mitigate potential savings shortfalls through alternative savings or underspends;
 6. To note the forecast General Balances at 31 March 2024 of £25.410m.

**Cllr Kay Mason Billig
Chair, Cabinet**

Report of the Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 20 September, 25 September, 18 October, 31 October and 22 November 2023

A Meeting held on 20 September 2023

1 Recycling Services

1.1 The Scrutiny Committee received a report providing information on the performance, plans and implications for the recycling service.

1.2 Cllr Brian Watkins **proposed** that the committee recommend to Cabinet that Mayton Wood Recycling Centre stay open, seconded by Cllr Jamie Osborn. Cllr Watkins noted that current usage at the centre was high, it was an active choice of centre for many people, it took a large amount of business waste, the change in location would impact on customer travel times, the high number of negative responses to the consultation and the equality impact assessment noting the impact on older and disadvantaged people. With 4 votes for and 9 votes against, the proposal was **lost**.

1.3 **RESOLVED**

The Scrutiny Committee **considered** and **commented** on the performance and plans for the recycling service.

2 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) Integration Plan

2.1 The Scrutiny Committee received a report setting out the approach being taken to integrate the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) into Norfolk County Council and included the LEP integration plan being prepared for Government.

2.2 **RESOLVED**

The Scrutiny Committee:

1. **Provided** feedback on the proposed approach for the LEP Integration Plan.
2. **Recommended** a progress report is brought back to the committee and Cabinet around April 2024 including the timetable of the Economic Strategy development.

3. **Amendment to the Annual Investment and Treasury Management Strategy 2023-24**

3.1 The Scrutiny Committee received a report setting out details of a proposal to amend the Treasury Management and Investment Strategy for 2023-24 to increase the treasury management investment limit for the Norse Group.

3.2 **RESOLVED**

The Scrutiny Committee noted the amendment to the Annual Investment and Treasury Management Strategy 2023-24 (as appended) to increase the treasury management investment limit for Norse Group to £25.000m in order to maintain the existing level of cash flow facility available to the company and that this would be taken to Full Council for agreement.

4. **Resolution to outstanding receivables and payables balances between NHS Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Norfolk County Council**

4.1 The Scrutiny Committee received a report summarising the key points taken into consideration in the resolution of outstanding receivables and payables between NHS Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board (ICB) and the Council.

4.2 **RESOLVED**

The Scrutiny Committee **noted** the NHS Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board (ICB) and Norfolk County Council receivables and payables outstanding balances resolution arrangement described in Appendix 1 of the report.

5. **Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme**

5.1 The Scrutiny Committee received the report setting out the current forward work plan for the Committee.

5.2 **RESOLVED**

The Scrutiny Committee **noted** the current forward work programme.

B Meeting held on 25 September 2023

1. **Call in: Norwich - Dereham Road - Derestriction and 20mph Speed Limit Order and Bus and Cycle Lane Order**

1.1 The Scrutiny Committee received a report setting out the reasons for a call-in of Norwich - Dereham Road - Derestriction and 20mph Speed Limit Order and Bus and Cycle Lane Order and the original delegated decision by the Cabinet Member.

1.2 The Scrutiny Committee heard from Cllr Mike Sands and Cllr Coleen Walker as the Councillors who had called in the decision. They outlined their reasons for having done so and asked questions of Cllr Graham Plant, the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport and of the officers that were present for the consideration of this item.

1.3 The Scrutiny Committee took a vote on the proposal to refer this item back to the Cabinet Member. With 0 votes for and 9 against, this proposal was **lost**.

1.4 **RESOLVED**

The Scrutiny Committee unanimously **agreed** to **note** the call-in but take no further action.

2. Call in: Norwich – Governance of the Transport for Norwich Programme

2.1 The Scrutiny Committee received a report setting out the reasons for call-in of “Norwich – Governance of the Transport for Norwich Programme” and the original delegated decision by the Cabinet Member.

2.2 The Scrutiny Committee heard from Cllr Emma Corlett as the Councillor who had called in the decision. She outlined her reasons for having done so and asked questions of Cllr Graham Plant, the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport and of the officers that were present for the consideration of this item.

2.3 The Scrutiny Committee took a vote on the proposal to refer the decision back to the Cabinet Member. With one vote for and 8 against, the proposal was **lost**.

2.4 **RESOLVED**

The Scrutiny Committee unanimously **agreed** to **note** the call-in but take no further action.

C Meeting held on 18 October 2023

1. Strategic and Financial Planning 2024-25

1.1 The Scrutiny Committee received a report which supported the Committee’s scrutiny of the Council’s process for developing the 2024-25 Budget and represented an opportunity for the Committee to consider savings proposals identified to date, the approach to public consultation, and the overall timeline and activity required to deliver a balanced budget.

1.2 **RESOLVED**

1. The Scrutiny Committee **considered** and **commented** on the Strategic and Financial Planning 2024-25 report to Cabinet on the 2 October 2023, including:
 - Budget proposals identified to date.
 - The proposed approach to public consultation.
 - Service and budget related pressures identified to date.
 - Key areas of risk and uncertainty related to development of the 2024-25 budget.
2. The Scrutiny Committee **considered** implications for scrutiny of the overall NCC budget setting process.

2. Update on Norfolk County Council owned companies

2.1 The Scrutiny Committee received the report, which was produced in response to the Committee’s request for details about the governance of Norfolk County Council’s owned companies. The report intended to provide a high-level overview of performance and governance arrangements of the companies, background information, and an opportunity for the Committee to consider which additional information may be picked for scrutiny in the future.

2.2 **RESOLVED**

The Scrutiny Committee:

1. **Noted** and **commented** on the information contained in this report.
2. **Identified** any areas which the Committee wished to consider for future scrutiny:
 - A report to a future Scrutiny Committee meeting giving greater detail on Norse Group Ltd, setting out details including impacts, size of the company and its subsidiaries, how the company met targets relating to social value, emissions reduction, and service improvement.
 - A report to a future Scrutiny Committee meeting giving greater detail on Repton Developments Ltd.

3. **Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme**

3.1 The Scrutiny Committee received the report, which set out the current forward work plan for the Committee.

3.2 **RESOLVED**

The Scrutiny Committee **noted** the current forward work programme and **discussed** potential further items for future consideration.

D Meeting held on 31 October 2023

1. **Call In: Norwich City Centre Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs)**

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Committee received a report setting out the reasons for call-in of Norwich City Centre Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders (TROs) and the original delegated decision by the Cabinet Member. Two separate call-ins had been received for the same delegated decision. The Chair stated that both call-ins would be heard one after the other, with the Scrutiny Committee considering them at the end of the meeting.
- 1.2 The Scrutiny Committee heard from Cllr Paul Neale, Cllr Ben Price and Cllr Catherine Rowett as the Councillors who had called in the decision. They outlined their reasons for having done so and asked questions of Cllr Graham Plant, the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport and of the officers that were present for the consideration of this item.
- 1.3 The Scrutiny Committee heard from Cllr Mike Sands, Cllr Chrissie Rumsby and Cllr Maxine Webb as the Councillors who had called in the decision. They outlined their reasons for having done so and asked questions of Cllr Graham Plant, the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport and of the officers that were present for the consideration of this item.
- 1.4 The Scrutiny Committee took a vote on Cllr Neale's proposal to refer the decision back to the Cabinet Member. With three votes for and nine against, the proposal was **lost**.

1.5 The Scrutiny Committee took a vote on Cllr Sands' proposal to refer the decision back to the Cabinet Member. With three votes for and nine against, the proposal was **lost**.

1.6 **RESOLVED**

The Scrutiny Committee **agreed** to **note** both call-ins but take no further action

E Meeting held on 22 November 2023

1. Review of Norfolk Flood Prevention Activity

1.1 The Scrutiny Committee received a report which provided an outline of the Council's statutory role as the Lead Local Flood Authority for Norfolk, and status and responsibility as a Risk Management Authority for flooding in its statutory role as a Highway Authority. The report also outlined the opportunities and implications for the Council that would arise from the implementation of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, relating to sustainable drainage. Schedule 3 had been implemented in Wales but not in England as of 2023.

1.2 **RESOLVED**

The Scrutiny Committee:

1. **Reviewed** the information relating to the extent of the County Council's response to the flooding associated with Storm Babet.
2. **Noted** and **commented** on the expected timeframe for the implementation of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 and the associated risks for staffing requirements.
3. **Noted** the risk around long-term costs for aftercare of approved sustainable drainage systems and the associated increase in the County Council's assets that would relate to the implementation of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.
4. **Supported** the approach that the County Council would submit a robust response to the expected consultation by Government on the implementation of Schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

2. Coastal Matters

2.1 The Scrutiny Committee received a report which clarified the roles and responsibilities of organisations in relation to coastal erosion and flooding. In Norfolk the main lead roles for coastal erosion and flooding were fulfilled by the Environment Agency and district councils. The report also highlighted the Council's involvement with those organisations and processes.

2.2 **RESOLVED**

The Scrutiny Committee:

1. **Reviewed** and **commented** on the information relating to responsibilities for

flooding and coastal erosion.

2. **Considered** and **suggested** that support was given by the County Council to the campaign for a dedicated Minister for the Coast and the associated 'pledge for the coast' initiative. The Committee **agreed** to make a recommendation to Cabinet.
3. **Suggested** that as a priority, the issue of coastal erosion and flooding was considered in further detail by Infrastructure and Development Select Committee so that an approach for further assessment by Scrutiny Committee could be established.

3. Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme

3.1 The Scrutiny Committee received the report which set out the current forward work plan for the Committee.

3.2 RESOLVED

The Scrutiny Committee **noted** the current forward work programme and **discussed** potential further items for future consideration.

Cllr Steve Morphew
Chair, Scrutiny Committee

Report of the Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 9 November 2023.

1. Chairman's Announcements

1.1 The chair shared with the committee that Cath Byford, Deputy Chief Executive, and Chief People Officer, requested that an update be shared with NHOSC to clarify a comment made at the last meeting on 14 September 2023. Due to an administrative error, the letter written to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman, in which there was an offer to meet him to discuss the concerns that he had raised, was not sent. Cath Byford wanted the committee to know that the explanation to NHOSC was made in good faith and she apologised for the error. The BBC, who reported on the September meeting, has been contacted, and so has the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman, Mr. Rob Behren CBE.

1.2 The Chair updated the committee on the progress of some of the work that had been undertaken by the Norfolk & Suffolk Foundation Trust since the meeting on 14 September 2023. There had been weekly meetings to develop the action plan, and the following work had been completed and or discussed:

- Agreement on principles, benefits, and risks,
- Co-production principles which included working with bereaved relatives,
- Outline the improvement plan that will supplement the recommendation noted within the Grant Thornton report,
- Plan a schedule for improvements and activities.

The committee would receive an email noting the letter received from Caroline Donovan, Interim CEO of Norfolk and Suffolk Foundation NHS Trust, Tracey Bleakley CEO of Norfolk and Waveney ICS, and Ed Garratt OBE, CEO of Suffolk and North East Essex ICS. An email received from Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt would also be shared with the committee.

The authors of the Forever Gone report asked to attend today's meeting. The Chair advised that this was not appropriate but that he would meet with them, along with Peter Randall, Democratic Support and Scrutiny Manager, to discuss any difficulties they may be experiencing as part of the co-produced action plan process.

2. Access to NHS Dentistry in Norfolk and Waveney

2.1 Sadie Parker, Director of Primary Care, introduced to the committee the report on NHS Dental Services in Norfolk and Waveney. Following engagement with the Local Dental Committee and Local Dental Professional Network, the ICB committed to three priorities. These included listening to the views of local dental professionals, considering how the local dental workforce can be strengthened, and listening to feedback from patients to improve treatment and access. The long-term plan was still being developed and there was an ambition to have it published by March 2024. A short-term dental plan was produced in September 2023 that included actions to be implemented immediately. The committee heard that these actions had included the

commissioning of an urgent service pilot, agreeing to investment for oral health intervention and prevention for children, and a short-term workforce plan that included incentives. The ICB was pleased with the progress that had been made as part of the short-term dental plan but acknowledged that the challenges within dentistry in Norfolk and Waveney, including the NHS dental contract, were difficult and it would take time for residents to see changes.

- 2.2 Jason Stokes, Norfolk Local Dental Committee Secretary, noted that the working relationship and interactions with the ICB had improved. They highlighted to members the difficulties that the NHS dental contract posed for dental practices and that private work was being sought to fill the gap that NHS work had created. Any improvements to dentistry would need to include changes to the NHS contract. This was coupled with local pressures on workforce and the changes to the processes that enable people to move to the UK from abroad to work in dentistry.
- 2.3 Fiona Theadom, Head of Primary Care Commissioning, noted that improving patient access was closely linked to recruitment and retention. There was a need to create an environment that attracts dentists and dental staff, to find different ways of working, and to upskill staff. The changes would require working closely with system partners, the NHS, and the Primary Care Team.
- 2.4 The committee receive the annexed report (6) on progress regarding integration of NHS dentistry services into Norfolk and Waveney ICB since 1 April 2023.
- 2.5 The chair concluded the discussions and noted the progress that has been made to dental services in Norfolk and Waveney since the ICB gained responsibility. It was appreciated that the process to improve access to density would take time but that positive steps were being taken, including reviewing the NHS contract. Communication of changes made, and those that still need to be made, needed to be shared across the system so that responses could be streamlined, and resources used effectively. The Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee has previously written to the Secretary of State and local MPs to note concerns with no substantial changes occurring. It was recommended that there be further communication with the Secretary of State to reiterate concerns, particularly noting the barriers that the NHS contract presents.
- The Committee would receive a briefing note that provided a six-month update on the progress of the Urgent Treatment Service and an overview of the provisions provided by the Community Dental Service.
 - Public Health would attend an NHOSC meeting to share the work being done on prevention,
 - A letter would be written to the Secretary of State that outlines the concerns of the current NHS dental contract and encourage that this be amended.

3. Patient Pathway: Palliative and End of Life Care (PEOLC)

- 3.1 Chris Bean, Head of Acute Transformation and Clinical Programmes, and Dr Caroline Barry, Palliative Care Consult and Clinical Adviser to the ICB on Palliative and End of end-of-life care, introduced the report on PEOLC. A review has been taking place since May 2023 to look at the PEOLC services that the ICB commissions across Norfolk and Waveney and to ensure that statutory duties are being met. From the review, nine urgent actions and six long-term objectives were identified. The ICB has

recently refreshed its PEOLC programme board with representation from across the system, this included representation from a range of partner organisations. The committee heard that there was significant policy in this area and that actions needed to be thought through and in line with policy.

- 3.2 The committee receive the annexed report (7) on Palliative and End of Life Care (PEOLC) provided by Norfolk and Waveney ICB
- 3.3 The chair thanked the speakers for attending and for presenting the report to the committee. He recognised how difficult it could be working in PEOLC, and conversations around death.

Summary of actions:

- NHOSC Members would receive a briefing note on the Transformation Plan.

4. Forward Work Programme

- 4.1 The Committee received a report from Peter Randall, Democratic Support and Scrutiny Manager, which set out the current forward work programme and briefing details. The Committee **agreed** the details for both briefings and future meetings.
- 4.2 The next meeting was scheduled for 18 January 2024, the digital transformation strategy, and an update from NSFT were expected as items. There would be an opportunity for members to input into the forward work programme at the workshop due to be held in January 2024. Speech and Language Therapy and Maternity services would be brought as substantive items to NHSOC.
- 4.3 Members identified the following topics as potential items to be considered:
- An overview of Public Health services and initiatives with a particular focus on dentistry,
 - The logistics of NHS 111, including an overview of the mental health response cars; Trica D'Orsi noted that this could be a collaborative item with Integrated Care 24, EAST, and the ICB as commissioners,
 - An analysis of the collapse of One Norwich practice to understand what happened and what can be learned,
 - An update on the over 40's health checkups to understand what value they have offered; this service was commissioned with Public Health and the ICB would be happy to collaborate,
 - An update on menopause services and women's help hubs,
 - Overview of the changes to policing and their response to mental health from a health angle.
- 4.4 A member suggested that Blue Badges, and the difficulties obtaining them, be explored. This was not in the remit of the ICB or HOSC to explore. The People and Communities committee at Norfolk County Council may be best placed to explore this.

**Cllr Fran Whymark, Chair,
Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.**

Report of the Audit and Governance Committee Meeting held on 10 October 2023

1. Office of National Statistics Update Presentation

- 1.1 The committee received the report which introduced an update presentation on the outputs from the 2021 Census from the ONS and examples of the ways in which Norfolk County Council is using the data.
- 1.2 Having considered the report, the Committee **AGREED**:
1. The key messages in the report,
 2. That the draft response would be circulated to Members of the Committee.

2. Norfolk Audit Services Report for the Quarter ending 31 December 2022

- 2.1 The Committee received the report which introduced the results of the work that the internal audit team had completed in the period. The report enabled the Committee to fulfil their role, as those charged with governance, in accordance with their terms of reference.
- 2.2 The Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to:
- Agree the key messages, that the work and assurance met the requirements and advise if further information is required.

3. Risk Management Report

- 3.1 The Committee received the report which references Norfolk County Council's corporate risk register as it stands in October 2023, using risk data that was presented within the risk management report to Cabinet on 2nd October 2023. This report sets out the key corporate risk management messages, agreed at the October 2023 Cabinet meeting following the review of corporate risks over the second quarter of 2023/24. Corporate risks continue to be monitored and treated appropriately in line with the Council's risk management framework and the Full Council-agreed strategy 'Better Together, For Norfolk'.
- 3.2 **The Committee RESOLVED to AGREE that:**
- a. key messages as per paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 of this report
 - b. key changes to the corporate risk register (**Appendix A**);
 - c. corporate risk heat map (**Appendix B**);
 - d. corporate risks as at October 2023 (**Appendix C**);
 - e. information in the report is sufficient.

4. Norfolk Pension Fund External Audit Plan 2022-23

- 4.1 The Committee received the report which introduced the External Auditor's Norfolk Pension Fund Plan for the year ended 31 March 2023, which was attached as Appendix A to the agenda. This document was one of certain communications that EY must provide to the Audit Committee of the audited client.
- 4.2 Having considered the report, the Committee **AGREED** the Norfolk Pension Fund External Audit Plan for 2022-23 and whether there are other matters, which may influence their audit.

5. Forward Work Programme

- 5.1 The Committee received the report which outlined the committee's work programme. The committee's work fulfils its Terms of Reference as set out in the Council's Constitution and agreed by the Council. The terms of reference fulfil the relevant regulatory requirements of the Council for Accounts and Audit matters, including risk management, internal control and good governance. Following constitutional changes agreed by Full Council on 19th of July 2022 the Audit and Standards Committee have merged.
- 5.2 The Committee **RESOLVED** to agree the work programme.

Cllr Ian Mackie
Chairman, Audit & Governance Committee

Report of the Planning (Regulatory) Committee Meeting held on 29 September and 24 November 2023

A: Meeting held on 29 September 2023

1. **FUL/2022/0042: Land at Brickfields Way, Thetford, Norfolk, IP24 1HX**
 - 1.1 The Committee received the report detailing a proposal seeking planning permission for a Liquid Waste Transfer Station accepting up to 400m³ of liquid waste-water from food and drink manufacturers per day. The development would require a waste processing building, control room building, 3no. external storage vessels and a yard/parking area for tanker manoeuvring and carparking. The land subject to this application is allocated as a general employment area on Brickfields Way, Thetford.
 - 1.2 The Committee unanimously **agreed** that the Interim Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services be authorised to:
 1. Grant planning permission subject to the conditions outlined in section 11.
 2. Discharge conditions where those detailed above require the submission and implementation of a scheme, or further details, either before development commences, or within a specified date of planning permission being granted.
 3. Delegate powers to officers to deal with any non-material amendments to the application that may be submitted.

B: Meeting held on 24 November 2023

1. **FUL/2023/0007, Land at A47 bypass waste recycling site, C489 Main Road, North Tuddenham, Dereham, NR20 3DE**
 - 1.1 The Committee received the report setting out a part-retrospective application for Change of use from agricultural land to the open-air storage of recycled and virgin aggregates. Part retrospective erection of 4-metre-high bund to screen the development; the application site was currently demarcated by bare mounds of inert material/soil and there was evidence of some storage of material/equipment.
 - 1.2 The Committee **agreed** that the Interim Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services be authorized to:
 1. Grant planning permission subject to the conditions outlined in section 11;
 2. Discharge conditions where those detailed above require the submission and implementation of a scheme, or further details, either before development commences, or within a specified date of planning permission being granted;
 3. Delegate powers to officers to deal with any non-material amendments to the application that may be submitted.

Cllr Brian Long
Chair, Planning (Regulatory) Committee

Report of the Norfolk Health and Wellbeing Board Meetings held on 27 September 2023 and 8 November 2023.

A Items from the meeting on the 27 September 2023

1. Chair's opening remarks

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed Cllr Jo Rust to her first meeting. The Chair noted that the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital has a new interim director who would be the substitute for Tom Spink going forward. Tony Osmanski was retiring, the chair thanked him for his contributions.
- 1.2 Members were encouraged to sign up to the Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care System conference that was being held on the 17 October 2023 at the Kings Centre in Norwich. The conference was being hosted by the Chair, Cllr Bill Borrett, and Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt.

2. Election of Vice Chairs

- 2.1 The Chair, seconded by Cllr Thomas, proposed Rt. Hon Patricia Hewitt and Cllr Emma Flaxman-Taylor as Vice Chairs. Rt Hon Patricia Hewitt and Cllr Emma Flaxman-Taylor were both duly elected as Vice-Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board for the ensuing council year.

3. Amendments to the Health and Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference

- 3.1 Members received a report that noted necessary amendments to the Health and Wellbeing Boards Terms of Reference following changes to Cabinet roles at Norfolk County Council.
- 3.2 The HWB **RESLOVED** to **agree** to the revised version of the Health and Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference.

4. Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report

- 4.1 Sara Tough, Executive Director of Childrens Services, introduced the Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report which summarises the local arrangements for safeguarding children.
- 4.2 Chris Robson, Chair of Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership, presented the annexed presentation (item 10, appendix A) which provided members with an overview of data and performance, scrutiny, the partnership priorities, project and development, and workforce training. They highlighted those positive relationships that existed within the Norfolk partnership, noting that senior leaders and practitioners are transparent and open.
- 4.3 Mark Osborn, Father's Project Lead, described the positive responses that the Norfolk Safeguarding Children partnership had following the 2021 national safeguarding review panel report about the Myths of Invisible Men. It was felt that services had not evolved in line with research that demonstrated the importance of a father who is positively engaging for the outcomes of children. Members heard that work to involve fathers was progressing positively.

Good practice guidance has been produced that was complimented by a tool kit, both of these were developed following input from experts, practitioners, and fathers. Norfolk's response was seen as robust in comparison to other counties.

- 4.4 Having reviewed and commented on the Norfolk Safeguarding Children Partnership Annual Report the HWB **RESOLVED** to **endorse** the report and its contents.

5. Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report for 2022/23

- 5.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board received the annual report which is a statutory requirement to be produced under the Care Act 2021. The Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) considered the contents and how they can improve their contributions to both safeguarding throughout their organisation and the joint work of the board.

- 5.2 Heather Roach, Chair of Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board, introduced and presented the Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report for 2022/23 and annexed presentation. They highlighted the unique way of working between adults and children Safeguarding. Members were provided with an overview of the safeguarding context in Norfolk, the thematic issues, the highlights over the last 12 months, and the aims of the new safeguarding strategy. They also heard that a peer review with Wigan would be happening in the next 12 months and asked for members to sign up for the NSAB newsletter, follow NSAB on twitter, read the Board Managers blog and attend a Local Safeguarding Adults Partnership meeting as well as highlighting resources on their website.

- 5.3 The HWB **RESOLVED** to:

- a) **Endorse** the contents of the NSAB 2022/23 annual report.
- b) **Promote** the work of NSAB to partner organisations and stakeholders.
- c) **Use** media and communications channels to promote the safeguarding messages.

6. Norfolk Better Care Fund: 2023 - 2025

- 6.1 Debbie Bartlett, Interim Executive Director for Adult Social Care, introduced the report and noted that this was the first time that a two-year plan had been submitted. Sign off for the second year of the plan would come to the Health and Wellbeing Board in September 2024.

- 6.2 Suzanne Baldwin, Assistant Director Workforce, Markets and Brokerage, Adult Social Services, Norfolk County Council, and Christine Breeze, Senior Commissioning Manager, Adult Social Services, Norfolk County Council provided an overview of the annexed report (item 12, appendix A). They highlighted that the two-year allocation of funding was welcomed as it allowed for long term planning and increased levels of stability.

- 6.3 The HWB **RESOLVED** to:

- a) Sign off the BCF submission for 23/24 and 24/25, which includes;
 1. A narrative plan, describing our approach to integration, discharge, housing, and health inequalities.

2. An excel template, describing the BCF income and expenditure, our planned performance against the four key metrics and affirmation that we are meeting the national conditions as set out in the current BCF Planning Guidance, and a Capacity and Demand plan for supporting discharge and intermediate care services.

3. ICB Discharge Planning Template.

b) To note the BCF review to ensure improved understanding of the schemes and alignment to BCF priorities, improved alignment of system and place priorities and improved data collection to better understand the impact of the BCF.

The Health and Wellbeing Board meeting closed at 11:10 am

B Items from the meeting on the 8 November 2023

1. Chair's Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed Caroline Donovan, CEO of Norfolk and Suffolk Foundation Trust and Cllr David Beavan from East Suffolk council to their first meeting since becoming members.

2. Combating Drugs and Alcohol Partnerships Annual Report (HWB)

The Combating Drugs and Alcohol Partnerships Annual Report was introduced to the HWB by Diane Steiner, Deputy Director of Public Health, Norfolk County Council who provided the board with an update of the progress on the Drug and Alcohol Strategy. The Norfolk Drugs and Alcohol Partnership (NDAP) was up and running, this strategic group was chaired by the Director of Public Health. The partnership's four priorities were noted in item 8, appendix 1. Additionally, an action plan, with support from the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) was being developed to increase numbers in treatment and improve prison continuity of care.

Emma Wiley, Associate Director of Mental Health, Adult Mental Health Strategic Commissioning team spoke to the report. They highlighted that one of the priorities was Dual Diagnosis (DD) and the development of pathways that support engagement, treatment, and recovery for people experiencing both mental health and substance misuse issues. The HWB heard that discussions with service users had been happening and that there was agreement between stakeholders that action relating to this priority needed to occur to ensure that patients have a joined-up approach to treatment and recovery. Further work on this was expected to take place at a workshop in January 2024.

The HWB **agreed** to:

- a) **Endorse** the workplan of NDAP and acknowledge the work of the Suffolk Combating Drugs Partnership in relation to the Waveney part of our ICS.
- b) **Encourage** partner organisations to ensure relevant staff take part in the NDAP joint training programme once this has been agreed. This will be staff that may be working with individuals or families that are experiencing substance misuse issues in the course of their day-to-day work.
- c) **Ensure** partner organisations participate in the Local Drug Information System (LDIS) by sharing intelligence relating to drugs in circulation with CGL and disseminating patient safety

alerts relating to drugs within their organisations. For those organisations not already signed up, take advantage of distribution and training on the administration of Naloxone by CGL.
*Naloxone is a medicine which can reverse opiate overdose.

- d) **Support** their organisations to identify drug and alcohol users in their care and support them to engage with drug and alcohol treatment to reduce risk.
- e) **Endorse** their organisations and contracted providers finding ways to collect and share appropriate pseudonymised data on non-fatal overdoses and administrations of Naloxone in order to track the impact of opioids, alert the system to emerging trends and target potential supply lines.

The Health and Wellbeing board closed at 09:54

Cllr Bill Borrett
Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board

Report of the Corporate Select Committee meeting held on 13 November 2023

1. Strategic and Financial Planning 2024-25

1.1 The committee received and was introduced to the Strategic and Financial Planning 2024-25 report by Cllr Mason Billig, Leader of the Council. The report set out the latest Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy position as reported to Cabinet in October 2023 (Appendix 1), in particular the emerging risks and uncertainties within the Council's planning position, the savings proposals for 2024-25 as set out in Appendix 1, which fall within the Committee's remit and the budget gap which remains to be closed for 2024-25. The Select Committee was asked to consider and comment on this information, and in this context comment on any areas that it would recommend exploring for savings development in relation to the services within the Select Committee's remit, in order to provide further input to the 2024-25 budget process and inform the final package of saving proposals put forward to Cabinet later in the year.

1.1.1 The report noted the saving proposals, that amounted to £26.485 million, to contribute to closing the £46.216 million budget gap for 2024-25. The proposed savings divided by departments are outlined in Item 7, Appendix 1, Table 4. Cllr Mason Billig highlighted that Norfolk County Council (NCC) was not the only authority that was experiencing wider economic and financial pressure. The Committee heard that the report also included Financial Benchmarking Indicators and how they were used.

1.2 Having reviewed the Strategic and Financial Planning 2024-25, the Select Committee **resolved** to:

1. **Note** the latest Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy position as reported to Cabinet in October 2023 (Appendix 1), in particular the emerging risks and uncertainties within the Council's planning position.
2. **Note** the savings proposals for 2024-25 as set out in Appendix 1, which fall within the Committee's remit.
3. **Note** the budget gap which remains to be closed for 2024-25.

2. The Artificial Intelligence Opportunity

- 2.1 The committee received, and was introduced to, the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Opportunity report by Cllr Jane James, Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and innovation. The AI opportunities available for Norfolk were outlined and it was highlighted to members the importance of ensuring that data was used ethically and appropriately.
- 2.2 Geoff Conell, Director of Digital Services, and Kurt Frary, Head of IT, Digital Services, provided the committee with additional context and how AI would be useful for NCC. They highlighted the pilot in Adult Social Service where AI was used to identify people who were at risk of falling. The implementation of AI would aid colleagues, help free up resources, and improve efficiency. Members were reassured that AI was not seen as a tool that would replace staff, they are essential to quality assure the products and outcomes feedback by AI. An Artificial Intelligence Governance Board (AIGB) has been established by NCC to ensure the ethical and responsible development, deployment, and management of AI technologies with AI. Consultation with expert bodies and peer groups was occurring to better understand how technology was being used, especially considering how quickly it was evolving.
- 2.3 Having reviewed and commented on the Artificial Intelligence Opportunity, the Select Committee **resolved** to:
- **Endorse** the pace of adoption of Artificial Intelligence balanced with the controls to manage the associated risks
 - **Advise** when the Committee would next want to be updated on progress

3. **County Farms Rural Estates Strategy 2023-2027**

- 3.1 The committee received, and was introduced to, the County Farms Rural Estates Strategy 2023-2027 report by Cllr Jane James and was provided with an overview from Jeannine de Sousa, Head of Construction & FM, Corporate Property. This strategy was an evolution of previous ones and worked with the evolving picture of Norwich agriculture. The County Farms Rural Estates Strategy proposed to redraw the boundary lines of County Farms. Currently, farm holdings are split across the county, the redrawing of the boundaries would create larger more regular areas. This would create larger farms that would have increased commercial viability and facilitate the use of larger machinery. Members of the Committee heard that this work would be done in collaboration with farmers and that it was an opportunity to support the community. The other alternative options were shared with the Committee.
- 3.2 The Corporate Select Committee commented on the County Farms Rural Estates Strategy for 2023-2027.

Cllr Rhodri Oliver, Chair, Corporate Select Committee

Report of the Infrastructure and Development Select Committee Meeting held on 15 November 2023

1. County Deal Update

- 2.1 The Select Committee received the report which provided an update on County Deal activity, building on information that was provided to this committee on Wednesday 12 July 2023.
- 2.2 Having offered thoughts and feedback on activity to date and proposed next steps, the Select Committee **RESOLVED** to agree that further progress reports were presented to the Committee as appropriate.

2. Strategic and Financial Planning 2024-25

- 2.1 The Select Committee received the report which appended the latest Cabinet report in order to provide details of the saving proposals identified to date for 2024-25 Budget setting. This was provided to support the Select Committee's discussion of the specific proposals and enabled the Committee to provide its feedback and input to a future meeting of Cabinet and thereby to inform budget decisions. The report formed an important part of the process of developing the 2024-25 Budget, representing a key opportunity for the Select Committee to provide its views on priorities and the budget proposals for the services within its remit.
- 2.2 Having reviewed and commented on the report, the Select Committee **RESOLVED**:
1. To consider the latest Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy position as reported to Cabinet in October 2023 (Appendix 1), noting in particular the emerging risks and uncertainties within the Council's planning position.
 2. To consider and comment on the savings proposals for 2024-25 as set out in Appendix 1, which fall within the Committee's remit (savings marked with reference S2425CES in Appendix 1 Table 5).
 3. To note the budget gap which remains to be closed for 2024-25 and in this context to comment on any areas the Select Committee would recommend exploring for savings development in relation to the services within the Select Committee's remit, in order to provide further input to the 2024-25 budget process and inform the final package of saving proposals put forward to Cabinet later in the year. In particular the Committee considered savings opportunities under the following headings:
 - a. New initiatives which would deliver savings;
 - b. Activities which could be ceased in order to deliver a saving;
 - c. Activities which the Council should seek to maintain at the current level as far as possible (i.e. areas where the Committee considers there is limited scope for savings).

3. CES Compliance and Enforcement Policy – Annual Review

- 3.1 The Select Committee received the report which highlighted that the Policy had been reviewed and updated to reflect recent changes to legislation and guidance. A revised CES Compliance and Enforcement Policy was attached at Appendix A with proposed amendments highlighted with explanatory notes.
- 3.2 Having reviewed the report, the Select Committee **RESOLVED** that they had considered and commented on the revised CES Compliance and Enforcement Policy at Appendix A and its annex documents (A-1 to A-6), prior to consideration by Cabinet and that the 2022/23 enforcement performance data provided at Appendix B, and summary of stakeholder engagement at Appendix C was **NOTED**.

4. Progress with Delivering the Norfolk Access Improvement Plan (NAIP)

- 4.1 The Select Committee received the report which provided an update on progress with delivering the NAIP. The update (in the form of a NAIP monitoring report) is produced for the Norfolk Local Access Forum (NLAF), an independent forum which advises Norfolk County Council (NCC) and other organisations on ways to improve countryside access. The monitoring report enabled the NLAF to review the Council's progress with delivery of the NAIP. The NLAF's activities and those of its charitable arm Pathmakers, also contributed directly to delivery of the NAIP.
- 4.2 Having considered the report, the Select Committee
1. **NOTED** officers' ongoing work to deliver the Norfolk Access Improvement Plan (NAIP) which was presented in Appendix 1 as the monitoring report covering the period September 2022 to September 2023.
 2. **NOTED** ongoing work by the Norfolk Local Access Forum and its charity Pathmakers, to improve access to the countryside in Norfolk, as summarised by the Annual Report of Appendix 2.

5. Forward Work Programme

- 5.1 The Select Committee received the report by the Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services which set out the Forward Work Programme for the Committee to enable the Committee to review and shape.
- 5.2 Having reviewed the report, the Select Committee **AGREED** the Forward Work Programme set out in Appendix A.

**Cllr James Bensly, Chair
Infrastructure and Development Select Committee**

Report of the People and Communities Select Committee meeting held on 17 November 2023

1. **Norfolk Armed Forces Covenant Annual Report**
 - 1.1 The Select Committee received the report providing the year-end progress report on Norfolk's independent Armed Forces Covenant Board's Strategy and Action Plan 2022/24 the Board's forward strategy, an update on national policy developments, and reporting on the recruitment of a new Armed Forces Commissioner for Norfolk.
 - 1.2 The Committee thanked Air Commodore Pellatt for his work in the role of Armed Forces Commissioner.
 - 1.3 The Select Committee **AGREED**:
 1. To note the local and national developments set out in Section 1, particularly the Government's Armed Forces Act 2021 which brought in legislation for a new duty of due regard, requiring local authorities and other statutory bodies to consider the impact of their policies for health, housing, and education on the armed forces community.
 2. To review and comment on the progress made in 2022/2023 to deliver the Norfolk Armed Forces Covenant Action Plan 2022/24, as summarised in Section 2.
 3. To endorse the Armed Forces Covenant Board's forward strategy for 2024/2026, as set out in Section 3.
 4. To note the recruitment of a new Armed Forces Commissioner will conclude by March 2024.
2. **2024 School Sufficiency Plan**
 - 2.1 The Select Committee received the draft report setting out the 2024 School Sufficiency Plan which showed how Norfolk County Council will deliver its statutory duty to provide sufficient school places.
 - 2.2 The Select Committee **AGREED** to recommend that the Cabinet adopt the School Sufficiency Plan 2024.
3. **Short Breaks Strategy 2023-2026**
 - 3.1 The Select Committee received the report setting out details of the co-produced Short Breaks Strategy (2023-26) and the proposed change in approach from an existing financial-focused Resource Allocation System (RAS) to a new, outcome-focused Circle of Support System.
 - 3.2 The Select Committee **AGREED** the proposals and attached reports relating to the implementation of the Circle of Support System as part of the Short Breaks Strategy (2023-26).

4. Drug and Alcohol Member Working Group: Alcohol health promotion campaign

- 4.1 The Select Committee received the report setting out the work of the Member Working Group set up by the People and Communities Committee which looked at ways to change social attitudes towards excessive alcohol consumption and recreational drug use, to review what is known to work and not work to effect behaviour change, and to develop a positive campaign and messaging around healthier drinking and preventing recreational drug use.
- 4.2 The Select Committee **AGREED** to endorse the recommendation of the working group for a targeted campaign aimed at educating the audience on what 14 units equates to, increase awareness of the benefits of drinking less and signpost users to trusted sources of information.

5. Financial and Strategic Planning

- 5.1 The Select Committee received the report setting out the latest Cabinet report in order to provide details of the saving proposals identified to date for 2024-25 budget setting to support the Select Committee's discussion of the specific proposals and enable the Committee to provide its feedback and input to a future meeting of Cabinet and thereby to inform budget decisions.
- 5.2 The Select Committee:
1. Considered the latest Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy position as reported to Cabinet in October 2023 (Appendix 1), noting in particular the emerging risks and uncertainties within the Council's planning position.
 2. Considered and commented on the savings proposals for 2024-25 as set out in Appendix 1, which fall within the Committee's remit.
 3. Noted the budget gap which remains to be closed for 2024-25 and in this context to comment on any areas the Select Committee would recommend exploring for savings development in relation to the services within the Select Committee's remit, in order to provide further input to the 2024-25 budget process and inform the final package of saving proposals put forward to Cabinet later in the year.
 4. Considered savings opportunities under the following headings:
 - a. New initiatives which would deliver savings:
 - suggested that work be carried out to reduce the amount of money spent on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities tribunals.
 - b. Activities which could be ceased in order to deliver a saving;
 - c. Activities which the Council should seek to maintain at the current level as far as possible (i.e. areas where the Committee considers there is limited scope for savings).

6. Forward Work Programme

- 6.1 The Committee considered the forward plan for the People and Communities Select Committee.
- 6.2 The Select Committee:
1. **AGREED** the forward plan

Report of the Norfolk Joint Museums Committee Meeting held on 27 October 2023

- 1. Remarks by Chair – inquorate meeting**
- 1.1 With only eight voting members present and the quorum being nine, the meeting was declared inquorate by the Chair and closed at 14:15.

**Cllr John Ward, Chair,
Norfolk Joint Museums Committee**

Report of the Norfolk Records Committee Meeting held on 27 October 2023

- 1. Remarks by Chair – inquorate meeting**
- 1.1 With only five voting members present and the quorum being six, the meeting was declared inquorate by the Chair and closed at 10:40.

**Cllr Michael Chenery of Horsbrugh,
Chair, Norfolk Records Committee**

**PROPORTIONAL ALLOCATION OF PLACES ON COMMITTEES AND
APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR/VICE CHAIR FOR COMMITTEE**

Report by the Director of Democratic and Regulatory Services

1. Introduction

1.1 Two members of the Labour Group have resigned from that group and are now non-aligned Members. The political balance on the Council has therefore changed making it necessary to review the overall allocations of main committee places to political groups.

1.2 The overall composition of the County Council is now:

| | |
|-----------|-------------------------|
| 54 | Conservative Group |
| 11 | Liberal Democrat Group |
| 10 | Labour Group (-2) |
| 04 | Green Group |
| 02 | Independent Group |
| 03 | Non-aligned Member (+2) |
| 84 | Total |

2. Allocation of main committee places

2.1 The number of places on the main committees is 92, currently distributed as shown in Table 1.

2.2

| Table 1: Committee | Total no. of places | Cons | Lib Dem | Lab | Green | Inde |
|--|----------------------------|-------------|----------------|------------|--------------|-------------|
| Planning (Regulatory) Committee | 13 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| People & Communities Select Committee | 13 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Infrastructure & Development Select Committee | 13 | 8 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Corporate Select Committee | 13 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 |
| Scrutiny Committee | 13 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Health Overview & Scrutiny | 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Audit and Governance Committee | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Pensions Committee | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Employment Committee | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Number of places allocated to maintain proportional balance | 92 | 60 | 12 | 13 | 5 | 2 |

The proportionality formula calculates the total number of places across the committees that each Group is entitled to and indicates the committee(s) those places should be in based on the number of places in each committee. Based on the changed Council composition shown under 1.2 above, when the proportionality calculator is

applied the allocation of the 92 main committee places to the Groups is now as below, with one place remaining unallocated:

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| Conservative Group | 61 |
| Liberal Democrat Group | 12 |
| Labour Group | 10 |
| Green Group | 05 |
| Independent Group | 02 |
| | |
| Total allocated places | 91 |

- 2.3 There are now three non-aligned Members and the proportionality formula provides for the remaining place to be taken up by one of the non-aligned Members.
- 2.4 Table 1 shows that currently the Labour Group has two places more than the revised entitlement shown above (13 instead of 11) and the Conservative Group has one place less than its entitlement (60 instead of 61). Consequently, one Labour Group place should be allocated to the Conservative Group and the other should be allocated to one of the non-aligned Members.
- 2.5 The Group Leaders concerned have been consulted and provisionally agreed the revised main committee place allocation (highlighted in Table 2 below) for Council to approve. The non-aligned Members will need to determine which of them will hold the available committee place.

| Table 2: Committee | Total no. of places | Cons Group | Lib Dem | Lab Group | Green Group | Inde Group | Non-Align |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Planning (Regulatory) Committee | 13 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| People & Communities Select Committee | 13 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Infrastructure & Development Select Committee | 13 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Corporate Select Committee | 13 | 8 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Scrutiny Committee | 13 | 9 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Health Overview & Scrutiny | 8 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Audit and Governance Committee | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Pensions Committee | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Employment Committee | 7 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Number of places allocated to maintain proportional balance | 92 | 61 (+1) | 12 | 11 (-2) | 5 | 2 | 1 (+1) |

3. Appointment of Chairs/Vice Chairs

- 3.1 In addition to any changes affecting political proportionality and subsequent committee place allocation, the appointment of particular committee Chairs / Vice Chairs is a matter for Council. Following the resignation of the incumbent, Council needs to

appoint a new Vice Chair for the People and Communities Select Committee and the recommendation for this appointment is made below.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 Council is asked to approve the revised allocation of committee places shown in Table 2, noting that the Labour Group will give up one place on the Infrastructure and Development Select Committee to the Conservative Group and one place on the Planning (Regulatory) Committee which will be offered to a non-aligned Member.
- 4.2 Council is asked to approve the appointment of Councillor Brian Long as the Vice Chair for the People and Communities Select Committee.

Council

Report Title: Consideration of a County Deal for Norfolk

Date of Meeting: 12 December 2023

Responsible Cabinet Member: Cllr Kay Mason Billig (Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategy & Governance)

Responsible Director:

Tom McCabe, Chief Executive Officer

Paul Cracknell Executive Director Strategy & Transformation

Katrina Hulatt, Director of Legal Services and Monitoring Officer

Caroline Clarke, Returning Officer

Executive Summary

On 8 December 2022, Norfolk County Council ('the Council') signed an 'in-principle' Level 3 devolution County Deal for Norfolk which, if agreed, will provide Norfolk with new powers, devolved funding and additional investment to help us boost our economy through jobs, training and development, improve our transport network and support our environment.

One of the first of its kind, Norfolk's County Deal will bring greater independence to local decision-making and priority setting. The Investment Fund, available through a Level 3 deal, will bring an additional £600m over 30 years.

The 'in-principle' Deal has been subject to public consultation. Overall, 57% of respondents agreed with the principle of devolution as outlined in the deal and the benefits it brings to Norfolk, while 24% disagreed and a further 17% did not know or were unsure.

The Government and the Council recognise that devolution is a journey, not a one-off event and the Council has continued to negotiate enhancements to the Deal. This includes the opportunity to immediately start negotiations on further devolution of powers and funding (subject to the Level 3 deal being agreed).

To secure a Level 3 Deal, the Council must change its governance model from a 'Leader and Cabinet model' to a 'Directly Elected Leader and Cabinet model'. Key elements of the Deal such as the Investment Fund, the Brownfield Housing Fund,

the Integrated Transport Settlement and negotiated enhancements are only available at Level 3.

The Deal text confirmed that this governance change was to take place by resolution of the Council on 12 December 2023, in preparation for the election of a Directly Elected Leader in May 2024. Following discussions with Government, the Council has successfully negotiated the option to defer the election for a Directly Elected Leader, until May 2025, should this be preferred. This option has not previously been available to the Council or other areas negotiating devolution deals.

Norfolk County Council Cabinet met on 4 December 2023 to consider Norfolk's County Deal. The Cabinet considered options that could be put forward and recommended option 2 which is now the recommendation to Council, as set out below:

Recommendations

Council:

- a) recognises the work carried out during 2023 to consult with the public, inform Members and prepare plans in relation to the 'in-principle' County Deal brought to Council in January this year.**
- b) commends the work undertaken by the Leader and Officers to secure additional benefits for the Norfolk County Deal and resolves that the Deal should be accepted.**
- c) agrees that the election for the Directly Elected Leader should be held alongside the county council elections in May 2025 to enable the widest possible engagement with the electorate.**
- d) agrees that the resolution adopting the new governance arrangements should be brought to the Full Council Meeting on 23 July 2024 to facilitate that election date.**

1. Background and Purpose

- 1.1. 'County Deals' are part of the Government's levelling up agenda (as set out in the [2022 Levelling Up White Paper](#)) "to spread opportunity equally across the UK" through greater devolution of powers and funding.
- 1.2. The County Deals offer a significant opportunity to unlock long-term funding and gain greater freedom to decide how best to support businesses to grow, meet local needs and create new opportunities for the people who live and work in Norfolk.
- 1.3. On 8 December 2022, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities announced that the Government was "minded to" enter into a County Deal for Norfolk, under which the County would benefit from £600m of new Government investment over the next 30 years and an additional £12.9m during the current Spending Review period to fund local priorities to produce growth. In addition, the Deal will also devolve a number of powers, as well as

provide the Council with an additional £1.632m capacity funding over 2023/24 and 2024/25 to support implementation.

- 1.4. The Government and Norfolk County Council both recognise that devolution is a journey, not a one-off event. This agreement would be the first step in a process of further devolution and will pave the way for future conversations as part of an ongoing dialogue; with the experience from other devolution areas showing that initial deals can open the door to receiving further powers, funding and influence.
- 1.5. The Deal has required that:
 - the content of the ‘in-principle’ Deal be subject of a formal consultation with other public sector partners – including district, borough and city councils – communities and business.
 - as a Level 3 deal, the Full Council resolves to change its governance model to that of a Directly Elected Leader which will unlock all elements of the ‘in-principle’ deal (with the Investment Fund, Brownfield Housing Fund, Integrated Transport Settlement and the additional negotiated enhancements only available at Level 3).
 - the Secretary of State for the Levelling Up, Housing and Communities be satisfied that the required statutory requirements have been met, and parliamentary approval of the required secondary legislation.
- 1.6. This report summarises the key elements of the Deal (including further enhancements to the Deal negotiated during 2023) and sets out the options for taking forward the Deal for Norfolk.

2. Key elements of the Deal for Norfolk

- 2.1 The Deal contains substantial new and devolved powers and funding for Norfolk and represents an opportunity to gain greater autonomy and agility for local people and leaders to make the right decisions for the County. It will enable us to deliver the ambitions of *Better Together, For Norfolk 2021-2025*; to “pursue the prize of a deal with Government, to leverage more money and powers into the county, for the benefit of the county” and “ensuring that Norfolk claims its fair share of investment to drive growth, prosperity and higher skills so we are not left behind”.
- 2.2 It will allow us to invest in areas such as better transport, skills, job opportunities, housing and regeneration, tailored to the specific needs of local people, and will ensure that the County is not disadvantaged as other areas acquire their own devolution deals. As one of the first “rural” devolution deals, it gives recognition to both the contribution that County geographies make to the UK economy and the challenges they continue to face.
- 2.3 The Deal for Norfolk includes:
 - Control of a **new investment fund of £20m per year for 30 years** (40% capital and 60% revenue), to drive growth and take forward priorities over the long term. The revenue secured gives the investment fund a strong

multiplier effect, allowing the opportunity to leverage additional private funding. (Level 3 only)

- Almost **£7m capital funding for the building of new homes on brownfield land** in 2024/25 helping to ease the viability issues that brownfield projects face, alongside supporting wider interventions aimed at economic development. For future spending reviews, Norfolk would be treated the same as other devolved areas. (Level 3 only)
- **£5.9m of capital funding**, received in this Spending Review period, which has supported the further development of the Operations & Maintenance Campus in Great Yarmouth, the Nar Ouse Business Park in King's Lynn, and the East Norwich Regeneration Project.
- New powers to drive the regeneration of the area and to build more affordable homes, including **Homes England compulsory purchase powers** and the ability to establish **Mayoral Development Corporations**, with the consent of the relevant planning authority/ies. (Level 3 only).
- New powers to shape local skills provision to address challenges, maximise the impact of funding and better meet the needs of the local economy and local people, including the **devolution of the core Adult Education Budget** (approximately £12m *pa*) from 2025/26 and development of a Strategic Skills Plan with partners.
- **An integrated transport settlement** c.£40m starting in 2024/25, which will provide greater control in how these budgets are directed locally to better meet our needs and priorities, and **£500,000 in revenue funding** over two years to accelerate the review of Transport plans and implement quantifiable carbon reductions. Government will work with Norfolk to agree an integrated multi-year transport settlement at the next Spending Review, at which point opportunities for expanding the integrated transport settlement offer will also be explored. (Level 3 only)
- A commitment to explore **a local partnership with Great British Railways** so that the County Council can help to shape and improve local rail services. The Council will **plan and deliver the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) from 2025/26 engaging district, borough and city authorities on delivery**, and building on projects and initiatives funded in the first two years of the programme.

2.4 Since the Chancellor's Spring Budget on 15 March 2023, the integration of all Local Enterprise Partnerships forms part of Government policy, and therefore, the integration of the New Anglia LEP functions into the County Council is no longer tied to or dependent on the County Deal.

3. Additional elements of a Deal for Norfolk

3.1. Since signing the 'in-principle' Level 3 Deal, Norfolk County Council has continued to strengthen its relationships with Norfolk's MPs and its influence with key government departments, which has included discussions with senior officials and Ministers, and a face-to-face meeting between the Leader of the County Council and the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, the Secretary of State for

Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. Building on that, over the past 6 months, the County Council has also continued to explore additional areas of opportunity to enhance the existing deal. This activity has led to a number of successes:

- Flexibility, unavailable previously, to **allow for the election of the Directly Elected Leader in 2025** (as opposed to 2024) to coincide with the County Council elections.
- Successfully influencing the agreement of the County Council's **outline business case for the Norwich Western Link**, a critical scheme to enhance transport connectivity in our County by connecting existing road infrastructure with the A47.
- Working closely with our MPs and using strengthened connections with Government, contributing to West Norfolk's **Queen Elizabeth Hospital** being added to the Government's New Hospital Programme, with the funding to build a new hospital on the site by 2030.
- Convening meetings of key stakeholders, such as National Grid, UK Power Networks (UKPN), District Councils, the Sub-National Transport Body and offshore wind promoters, since September to understand the challenges, opportunities and priorities relating to energy, with a view to creating a **Norfolk Energy Plan**, in partnership with the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership.
- Working with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), National Grid and UKPN to contribute data, such as housing and jobs growth, to **inform their investment strategies**. Furthermore, the Council is exploring opportunities to increase electricity capacity in constrained areas, supporting the Energy Systems Operator **to develop reforms**, and becoming part of the National Grid Electricity Transmission East Anglia cluster.
- Following discussions with the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities we have put forward a number of **business cases** in support of key projects to deliver jobs and growth (such as community hubs, enterprise parks and other infrastructure improvements), totalling **£9.4m of capital funding**, and which were developed in partnership with our district councils. These are currently under consideration.

4. Level 4 devolution

4.1 In line with past commitments from Government to strengthen and deepen devolution in England, the Chancellor, the Rt Hon. Jeremy Hunt MP, announced a new ['Level 4' of the devolution framework](#) in the [Autumn Statement](#) held on 22 November 2023. This framework reflects the progress in devolving decisions and functions. Devolved institutions with a directly elected leader will be able to draw down from this framework, which delivers deeper powers including:

- From the next spending review, a “single pot” consolidated budget from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities covering

devolved funding. The benefit of this are that devolved institutions will be able to plan more effectively longer term and increase its spending power.

- Opportunity for devolution of retrofit funding, subject to the outcome of the existing pilots in Greater Manchester and the West Midlands. The benefit of this is that the local area is guaranteed funding rather than having to submit costly competitive bids.
 - Single local transport funding settlement, avoiding the need to bid competitively and providing greater confidence around the delivery of local schemes , enabling savings to be made on delivery.
 - Further devolution of adult education, including full devolution of Free Courses for Jobs funding, full flexibility over Skills Bootcamps funding and central convening of careers provision. This builds on existing devolution of adult education, and gives institutions even more control over the local skills landscape.
 - Support from the Office of Investment to maximise inward investment and the development of an investment plan. The benefit of this is increased opportunity to focus on local priority sites and key sectors.
 - Development of a strategic partnership with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, and arms-length bodies covering culture, sport, communities and the visitor economy. This will maximise the impact of funding and decisions of these institutions in the local area. Removal of gateway reviews for those institutions which have passed the first gateway and meet the criteria relating to local evaluation frameworks, local transparency and accountability.
- 4.2 The framework published is not exhaustive and can extend to powers already devolved to other areas. All Level 4 powers are optional, and an institution can choose the powers in the framework that are most relevant and meet local needs.
- 4.3 Level 4 of the devolution framework will be available to combined authorities, combined county authorities and local authorities with an implemented Level 3 deal including a directly elected leader in post. Subject to agreement to a Level 3 Deal and a directly elected leader in post, Norfolk will also have the opportunity to submit an expression of interest to the Secretary of State, to start negotiations for “deeper devolution” of further powers and funding through a new ‘Level 4’ Deal.

5. Governance

- 5.1. The Government’s 2022 Levelling Up White Paper placed a strong emphasis on the importance of high profile, directly elected local leadership, strong local governance to deliver joined up public services and better local outcomes, as well as a focal point for innovation and collaboration.
- 5.2. The governance model for the Deal will form the foundation of an Assurance Framework, as required by Government, that will set out the arrangements for Norfolk County Council, as accountable body for the Deal.

5.3. **Directly Elected Leader and Cabinet Model and constitutional changes**

5.3.1. The Level 3 Deal for Norfolk is contingent upon a County Council resolution to change the current leader and cabinet executive governance model to an 'Directly Elected Leader and Cabinet' governance model.

5.3.2. The Directly Elected Leader will provide overall leadership of the Council and will be vested with all its executive powers, as per current arrangements with the Leader. Committees continue to exist as they are currently, and Full Council retains full discretion over the Committees they have.

5.3.3. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023 provides for the County Council to determine the title by which the Directly Elected Leader of the authority will be known. Technical amendments to the constitution are required to change the title of 'Leader' to 'Directly Elected Leader', however, these changes are minimal. Other areas of potential change that have been discussed with members are:

- Additions to the policy framework to ensure a clear, full Council mandated direction to the Executive.
- Consideration of the current scrutiny function, with input from the Centre for Governance and Scrutiny to draw on experience from across the country in respect of scrutiny for a directly elected leader model and consideration of Norfolk County Council governance arrangements when compared to the Local Accountability Framework for devolved areas.

5.3.4. Members have been engaged in discussion around these considerations and a full and final version of the constitution will be presented for agreement by Full Council, after going through the Corporate Select Committee, prior to any governance change taking place.

5.4. **Election**

5.4.1. The 'in-principle' Deal currently states that the Council will hold the first election of the Directly Elected Leader on 2 May 2024, coinciding with the county-wide Police & Crime Commissioner election. The Deal agreement specifies 12 December 2023 as the date on which a resolution to change the Council's executive arrangements is to be brought to Full Council. This date was selected as the first date that a change of governance can be resolved, following the previous change of governance in December 2018.

5.4.2. The Council has since negotiated for Government to allow the date of the election to be deferred to 2025, as an alternative option (the rationale for this is set out in section 7.3. 1). Should the Council choose to exercise the new flexibility and hold an election in 2025:

- The election of the Directly Elected Leader would coincide with the County Council elections minimising disruption and costs.
- The key elements of the Deal will remain unchanged in quantum, but with slight adjustments to the timescales (see section 8 for detail).

- 5.4.3. The first election of the Directly Elected Leader must take place on the first relevant¹ day of election after three months have passed following the decision to change Governance. If Council resolves to change governance on 12 December 2023, in line with recommendation option 1, the election will be held on 2 May 2024, which is the same date as the Police and Crime Commissioner election. If the election takes place that day, the Directly Elected Leader will take up office on the fourth day after the election, 6 May 2023.
- 5.4.4. Should Council resolve to change governance on 23 July 2024 instead, in line with recommendation option 2, the next relevant day of election (e.g. after three months following the decision) will be May 2025, and the Directly Elected Leader election would then take place alongside the County Council 'all out' elections on 1 May 2025.
- 5.4.5. Since the change to the Elections Act 2022, these elections will be held under the "first past the post" system.
- 5.4.6. The Levelling Up & Regeneration Act 2023 offers the ability to change the title of the Leader. The term 'Elected Leader' has been considered as appropriate as it connects back to the role of the Leader of the County Council and distinguishes this deal from other areas.
- 5.4.7. The Council must determine that title by resolution at a "relevant meeting of the authority" and include the particulars of that resolution in the notice of the meeting. The "relevant meeting" will be the same meeting at which any change of governance resolution is passed.

5.5. Stakeholder Governance

- 5.5.1. Whilst the County Deal is an agreement between Government and Norfolk County Council, the involvement of district councils, local businesses and other key partners, is pivotal to the success of the Deal. To continue to foster collaboration, and building on existing partnerships, a set of joint working principles has been developed, which includes:
- We work together for what's in the best interest of Norfolk.
 - We are ambitious for Norfolk.
 - We build on our strong track record of respect, collaboration and delivery.
 - We work on the basis of consensus, wherever possible.
 - We focus on improving outcomes for our residents and on reducing inequalities.
 - We are evidence-based, intelligence-led, and build on good practice.
 - We commit to mutual oversight to ensure the best outcomes are delivered.
- 5.5.2. A governance structure will be established to engage partners as expert advisors to inform and steer decision-making. The above principles have shaped the structure, as described below, which has been developed and

¹ the 'relevant' days of election are the first Thursday in May and the third Thursday in October.

honed through several sessions with District Councils and other partners, and will include:

- **A Norfolk Leadership Board** – bringing together leaders from across the public, private and voluntary sector to consider issues of strategic importance to Norfolk where collectively we can have the greatest impact. The Board will promote the ongoing benefit to Norfolk from devolution, shaping recommendations on the development of future County Deal strategies and reviewing annual progress of the Deal.
- **A Norfolk Investment Board** – to include the Directly Elected Leader, an additional member from Norfolk County Council and all District Leaders. The Board will focus on shaping and endorsing the structure and criteria of the Norfolk Investment Fund and its funding streams, as well as assessing proposed projects and proposals to be funded through the Norfolk Investment Fund and recommending them to the Norfolk County Council Executive.
- **A Norfolk Business Board** – a partnership between business, education and local government to enable sustainable growth in Norfolk, focussed on the provision of business support, inward investment, innovation, sector and supply chain development. The Board is a requirement from Government as part of the LEP integration plan, which is separate from the implementation of the County Deal and will build on the successes of the existing LEP Business Board.
- **A Norfolk Employment and Skills Board** – a partnership of local government, the Department of Work and Pensions, voluntary sector, business, and educational provider representatives focussed on developing a portfolio of activity to strengthen skills levels, *shape the Adult Education landscape* and ensure businesses have the right skills to enable their growth.

5.5.3. Norfolk County Council remains the accountable body for public expenditure that supports the Devolution Deal and ultimately decision-making around the delivery of the County Deal rests with Norfolk County Council.

6. Consultation and Engagement

6.1. Public consultation

6.1.1. Following the decision on 17 January 2023 at Cabinet to progress the Deal to the next stage, a six-week public consultation was launched in February 2023.

6.1.2. The County Council worked with representatives of DLUHC, to design and agree the approach and ensure it reflected the Government's principles for consultation. The County Council also commissioned the Consultation Institute to conduct an independent analysis of all consultation responses, submissions and feedback received.

6.1.3. The content of the consultation covered:

- Each of the functions, powers and funding to be devolved.
- Why the devolution of each of the funding, powers and responsibilities to Norfolk is likely to improve their delivery and benefit Norfolk.

- Proposed changes in governance arrangements required for the Deal.
- 6.1.4. A total of 1,211 responses were received to the online survey, including hard copy input manually. Analysis of all responses showed that:
- Overall, 57% of respondents agreed with the principles of devolution and the benefits it brings to Norfolk, while 24% disagreed. Only 2% did not answer the question.
 - When considering the proposal for a ‘directly elected leader and cabinet’ system of governance half (50%) “agreed” with the proposal (24% strongly agree and 26% agree), with 31% of respondents “disagreeing”.
 - All questions in the survey had a majority of “agree” over those who “disagreed”, as well as over those who “didn’t know” or “neither agreed or disagreed”.
- 6.1.5. The findings of the consultation compare favourably with other areas. For example, in the public consultation for an East Midlands’ County Combined Authority devolution deal, 42% “agreed” with having an elected leader.
- 6.1.6. The findings of the consultation were agreed at [Cabinet on 5 June 2023](#), and have been shared with the Secretary of State for the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

6.2. **Member engagement**

- 6.2.1. In January 2023, Cabinet agreed to set up a cross party Member Engagement Working Group (MEWG) to oversee the work around the implementation planning and assurance processes. It was also agreed that regular Member briefings and workshops would be held to ensure that all Members understood the devolution Deal and were fully briefed prior to consideration of a Council resolution in December 2023.
- 6.2.2. The Member Engagement Working Group has met on eleven occasions and considered a full programme of briefings and presentations, alongside numerous briefings sessions for all members and briefings for political groups (as requested). Details of this engagement is included as Appendix C. These have provided an overview of the County Deal, including proposed governance arrangements, and detailed consideration of each of the key workstreams.
- 6.2.3. Reports and presentations discussed at the working group have been made available to all Members via the Councillor Portal, along with answers to a range of frequently asked Member questions concerning the Deal.

6.3. **District council engagement**

- 6.3.1. The Council has engaged with the leadership of the seven Norfolk district councils through the Norfolk Leaders’ Group and Norfolk Chief Executives’ Group. Representatives of District Councils have been included in meetings with Government, proposals have been shared about key aspects of the Deal and with the opportunity to shape these. Over the past year the County Council has worked with both groups to shape and develop the stakeholder governance of the Deal. On Brownfield Funding, the County Council has worked directly with District Councils’ Chief Executives and officers to identify the pipeline of potential sites across Norfolk.

- 6.3.2. The County Council engaged with every District Council and the Broads Authority ahead of and during the public consultation on the County Deal, with senior officers attending their full council meetings. Additional briefings were organised following the local elections in May 2023, with the aim of bringing newly elected members up to speed. Briefings on the outcome and findings of the public consultation were also provided to all local councils that requested one.
- 6.3.3. Furthermore, additional briefings were offered to all District Councils' Leaders and their Cabinets, with several meetings taking place in the period June to October 2023.

7. Impact of the Proposal

7.1. Legal and Governance

- 7.1.1. On 26 October 2023, the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill received Royal Assent and became an Act, establishing formally the legal framework for Norfolk's devolution Deal.
- 7.1.2. A change of governance to a Directly Elected Leader model will mean changes in the way the council operates. Although largely the same as the current Leader and executive model, the constitution will need to be agreed prior to the election. Generally, this decision is taken at the last Council meeting before the election. For example, this would be on the 26th of March 2024 for a 2024 election.
- 7.1.3. The Directly Elected Leader will appoint a Cabinet of between 2 and 9 additional members from councillors of NCC, one of whom is required by law to be a deputy leader.
- 7.1.4. They will also be able to delegate all and any executive powers to their Cabinet members, a meeting of the Cabinet or a Committee of the Cabinet, apart from the power to create a Mayoral Development Corporation, which can be exercised by the Directly Elected Leader, but only with the consent of the local planning authority.

8. Alternative Options

- 8.1. Option 1 below was considered at Cabinet, but was not recommended.

Option 1

- a) recognises the work carried out during 2023 to consult with the public, inform Members and prepare plans in relation to the 'in-principle' County Deal brought to Council in January this year.
- b) commends the work undertaken by the Leader and Officers to secure additional benefits for the Norfolk County Deal and resolves that the Deal should be accepted.
- c) resolves to change the Norfolk County Council's governance to an Elected Mayor (Directly Elected Leader) and Cabinet model at this meeting 12th December 2023.

- d) Requests officers to undertake the preparation needed, including publication of the statutory public notice (Appendix A), constitutional change and preparations to allow for a May 2024 election of a Directly Elected Leader.
- e) resolves to change the title by which the elected mayor of the authority is to be known to the alternative title of Elected Leader, as the Council agrees that this clearly connects the role of the elected leader to that of the County Council, and to distinguish this deal from other areas.
- f) Requests officers to send notice of the alternative title to the Secretary of State and to include that notice within the Statutory Notice, to be published on the website and made available at the Councils principal office.

8.2. Options around election timings

8.2.1. The Council has successfully negotiated with Government the option to hold the election in 2025, instead of 2024. The Council wishes this additional flexibility to be available to its elected Members on the basis that:

- This will be the first election of the Directly Elected Leader, and the option to hold the election in 2025 does provide more time for potential candidates to find out about the role, and for the electorate to become more aware about the new powers coming to the county.
- Elections to the office of the Police & Crime Commissioner have, to date, attracted lower levels of participation than Local Government elections. Data shows that 23.30% of electors voted in the 2016 Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) elections. Covid-19 delayed the 2020 PCC elections which were instead held alongside the 2021 County Council elections where 32.9% of electors voted - nearly 10% more. It is therefore likely that turnout for the Directly Elected Leader election would be higher if the election were combined with the County Council elections in 2025, giving the new Leader an even stronger democratic mandate.
- The County Council elections in 2025 are already in the Council's budget so the addition of the election for the Directly Elected Leader would be a smaller pressure in 2025 than running a single county-wide election in 2024.
- Holding the Directly elected Leader election and whole council elections at the same time also responds to criticisms when the deal was originally agreed, namely the practical disruption of having a Directly Elected Leader in place for 1 year before potential changes to the wider council or available cabinet members.

8.2.2. In the event of a change of timing for an election, the Council would not be required to carry out another consultation.

8.2.3. Financial implications of the election timings are set out in section 9.

9. Financial Implications

9.1. Key financial elements of the Deal

- 9.1.1. The key financial elements of the ‘in-principle’ Deal are outlined in section 2 of this report. Funding to Norfolk County Council as part of an agreed Deal includes capacity funding available to fund the set-up costs, governance costs and costs associated with delivering the commitments within the Deal.
- 9.1.2. On 22 February 2023, Council agreed to allocate £250,000 to support the mobilisation of the County Deal, including the costs of the public consultation and any additional resources required, prior to capacity funding becoming available once the Level 3 County Deal is approved.
- 9.1.3. Should the Council choose to exercise the new flexibility and hold an election in 2025, the key elements of the Deal remain unchanged in quantum, but with slight adjustments to the timescales as below:

| New Funding to Norfolk County Council | 2024 Election | 2025 Election |
|---|--|--|
| Mayoral Capacity Fund - A total of £750,000 over three-years. | Starting in 2023/24 | Starting in 2024/25 |
| Brownfield Capacity Fund – A total of £382,000 over two years. | Starting in 2023/24 | Starting in 2024/25 |
| Local Transport Plan Capacity Fund – A total of £500,000 in revenue funding over two-years. | Starting in 2023/24 | Starting in 2024/25 |
| Adult Education Budget Implementation Funding £351,728 | Starts in 2023/24 | TBC - possibly 2024/25 |
| Investment Fund - £20m per annum over 30 years | £20m after DEL election | £10m after change of governance |
| Brownfield Funding - £6.9m | Starting in 2023/24 after change of governance (on site by March 2025) | Starting in 2024/25 after change of governance (on site by March 2026) |
| Adult Education Budget c£12m | August 2025 | |
| Consolidated Transport Budget c£40m | Not new funding | |

- 9.1.4. Without a County Deal or with a Level 2 Deal only, there are concerns over the future of investment funding for Norfolk as there is no known ringfenced funding available beyond competitive bidding. The cost of future funding bids is a serious consideration for NCC, as it represents further pressures for the council. Recent LGA research estimated that the average cost to councils in pursuing each competitive grant was in the region of £30,000, costing each local authority roughly £2.25 million a year chasing down various pots of money across Whitehall². Historically, Norfolk, as a whole, has not been successful as a rural county in competing for funding against national metrics.

² <https://www.local.gov.uk/parliament/briefings-and-responses/final-local-government-finance-settlement-202324-house-commons-8#:~:text=LGA%20research%20estimated%20that%20the,pots%20of%20money%20across%20Whitehall.>

This is further evidenced in the third round of Levelling Up Funding allocations, where only one of Norfolk's councils was successful in its bids.

9.2. Election costs

- 9.2.1. Based on data from 2016, a Directly Elected Leader election in 2024, held alongside the election of the Police and Crime Commissioner, would cost Norfolk County Council c.£850,000 at today's prices purely for the administration of the polls. This figure includes 50% of the staffing costs for the 643 polling stations across the county, 50% of the posting and return of 100,000 plus postal votes. This figure also covers the total cost of the additional polling cards, postal voting papers and ballot papers needed of c.£190,000.
- 9.2.2. A 2025 Election would cost the Council an additional c.£190,000 (as above) for the additional polling cards, postal voting papers and ballot papers. All other costs are accounted for as part of the four-year County Council Election cycle.
- 9.2.3. There will be no costs for a Level 2 or for no devolution deal.

9.3. Remuneration

- 9.3.1. The Independent Remuneration Panel, which makes recommendations to Council in relation to allowances paid to Members, was asked to provide a steer on the possible level of the allowance for the Directly Elected Leader.
- 9.3.2. The Panel reviewed the allowances paid to Mayors and Leaders in other authorities with similar populations or budgets and duties, and taking into account that the Directly Elected Leader role in Norfolk will be the first of its kind, decided that using a multiple of the Basic Allowance would ensure the Directly Elected Leader's Allowance would remain in line with other Councillor Allowances over time. The Panel indicated that they would recommend the Directly Elected Leader's Allowance should be in the region of five to six times the Basic Allowance.
- 9.3.3. A directly elected leader would be supported by the County Council's existing officers and systems. This contrasts with mayoral combined authorities, which have their own staff and running costs, separate from the local council and creating another layer of local government. Data obtained by the Local Government Chronicle in 2019, reported further in the House of Commons Library report on "Devolution to Local Government in England"³, found that the then seven MCAs employed 2,877 people in December 2018 with a total staffing budget of £144.2m⁴

10. Resource Implications

- 10.1. **Staff:** There is currently a small project team, within existing staff resources, that have and continue to work on the development of the County Deal

³ [House of Commons Library report "Devolution to Local Government in England" January 2023](#)

⁴ Data sourced by Sarah Calkin, "[Growth in combined authority workforces revealed](#)", Local Government Chronicle, 16 April 2019

10.2. **Property:** None at present

10.3. **IT:** None at present

11. Other Implications

11.1. **Legal Implications:** It should be noted that a decision to change governance can only be taken once every 5 years. The effect of this is that once the decision is taken, it may not be rescinded, and an election must take place.

11.2. **Human Rights Implications:** None.

11.3. **Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) (this must be included):**

11.3.1. A comprehensive range of evidence has been gathered and analysed, to enable the Council to develop a sound equality impact assessment about the likely impacts of the Deal on people with protected characteristics.

11.3.2. This has involved reviewing data about people and services that might be affected, contextual information and commissioned research about local areas and populations, and crucially, the findings of public consultation.

11.3.3. The equality impact assessment, included in the [5 June Cabinet papers](#), identified that the Deal has the potential to significantly enhance access for disabled and older people in Norfolk - and equality of opportunity for people with other protected characteristics.

11.4. **Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA):** No direct DPIA implications arising from this report.

11.5. **Health and Safety implications (where appropriate):** None.

11.6. **Sustainability implications (where appropriate):** There are no direct sustainability implications arising from this report. The investment and powers within the proposed Deal have the potential to drive significant environmental benefits.

11.7. **Any Other Implications:**

12. Risk Implications / Assessment

12.1. One of the key concerns is that with Norfolk's neighbours negotiating or already in receipt of a Level 3 devolution deal, our county faces the very real possibility of Norfolk being left behind if a Level 3 Deal is rejected.

12.2. The General Election, which needs to take place by the end of January 2025, could potentially see changes in Devolution policy and how it applies to Norfolk. This would be a risk if there is a delay to an election or if a decision was taken to pursue a Level 2 as this is not yet negotiated.

12.3. There is a risk related to the set up and implementation costs expended should the Deal not be formally agreed by the County Council. If agreed, it provides capacity funding to cover these costs, in line with the amounts in section 8. There is a risk with 2025 however, as if a decision is made in December 2023 to proceed with a directly elected leader election in 2025, yet

an alternative decision to not proceed in July 2024 is taken, Norfolk County Council would have proceeded at financial risk. This has a possible cost to the Council of approximately £500,000.

13. Cabinet Comments

13.1. The Cabinet, recognising that the change in governance would be a matter for the Full Council, resolved to recommend that Council:

- a) recognise the work carried out during 2023 to consult with the public, inform Members and prepare plans in relation to the 'in-principle' County Deal brought to Council in January this year.
- b) commend the work undertaken by the Leader and Officers to secure additional benefits for the Norfolk County Deal and resolves that the Deal should be accepted.
- c) resolve that the election for the Directly Elected Leader should be held alongside the county council elections in May 2025 to enable the widest possible engagement with the electorate.
- d) agree that the resolution adopting the new governance arrangements must be passed by the Full Council Meeting on 23 July 2024 to facilitate that election date.
- e) agree on that same date to resolve to change the title by which the elected mayor of the authority is to be known to the alternative title of Elected Leader as the Council agrees that this better represents the role and expectations of an individual regarding the proper leadership of the County.

14. Select Committee Comments

14.1. Having offered thoughts and feedback on activity to date and proposed next steps, the Select Committee resolved to agree that further progress reports were presented to the Committee as appropriate.

14.2. The minutes of this meeting are available here:

[15 November 2023 Infrastructure and Development Select Committee](#)

15. Background papers

15.1. [Norfolk County Council Cabinet 4 December 2023](#)

15.2. [Norfolk County Council Cabinet 17 January 2023](#)

15.3. [Norfolk County Council Extraordinary Meeting Full Council 17 January 2023](#)

16. Appendices

Appendix A (Draft) Public Notice Norfolk County Council Change in Governance Arrangements

Appendix B Deal Options Comparison Table

Appendix C Member Engagement Activity

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained within this paper, please get in touch with:

Officer name: Katrina Hulatt / Markella Papageorgiou

Email: Katrina.hulatt@norfolk.gov.uk / markella.papageorgiou@norfolk.gov.uk



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

Appendix A (Draft) PUBLIC NOTICE

NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL CHANGE IN GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

At the full Council meeting on 12 December 2023, Norfolk County Council resolved to make a change in its governance arrangements pursuant to Sections 9K, 9KC and 9L of the Local Government Act 2000 as inserted by the Localism Act 2011.

The Council resolved:

1. to adopt the 'Mayor (Directly Elected Leader) and Cabinet' form of governance, to be effective from the Annual Meeting of Council in May 2024; and
2. to approve the proposed structures and the approach to preparatory work as set out in the report to Council.

The report which sets out the proposed arrangements is available for viewing via the Council's website by accessing the agenda pack from the Council meeting held on the 12th December 2023. A copy is also available for inspection at the Council's principal office.

Council will move to a Mayor (Elected Leader) and Cabinet system to be finalised and in place to take effect from the Annual Council meeting in May 2024. The main character of the change is to remove the Leader and Executive form of governance that the Council has operated since 2019 and replace it with a 'Mayor (Elected Leader)' form of governance.

This new form of governance will result in most decisions on Council functions being dealt with by a Directly Elected Leader and Cabinet of elected members subject to the general oversight of the Scrutiny Committee with some decisions legally being reserved to full Council. The Cabinet will have decision making powers collectively and as individual portfolio holders.

The following Committees will also fulfil a role in the system:

- Scrutiny
- Select Committees
- Audit and Governance Committee
- Employment Committee
- Planning (Regulatory) Committee and Planning (Regulatory) Urgent Business Sub-Committee
- Pensions Committee

Over the next 4 months a new Constitution and further details of the structure for the new Directly Elected Leader form of governance will be published on the Council's website and will be made available at the Council's principal office, following input and approval from elected members. These documents will set out in further detail the provisions of the arrangements that will be put in place once the change takes effect in May 2024.

The address of the authority's principal office is: Norfolk County Council, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, Norfolk NR1 2DH

It should further be noted that at the same meeting the County Council resolved to change the title by which the elected mayor of the authority is to be known to the alternative title of elected leader as the Council agrees that this better represents the role and expectations of an individual regarding the proper leadership of the County.

APPENDIX B - DEAL COMPARISON TABLE

| | Option 1 Level 3 – 2024 DEL | Option 2 Level 3 – 2025 DEL | Option 3 Negotiate Level 2 | Option 4 No Deal |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|----------------------------|
| Investment Fund (£600m) | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Brownfield Funding (£6.9m) | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Consolidated Transport Budget | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Adult Education Budget (£12m) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| UKSPF (TBC- 2025) | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Directly Elected Leader | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Possible Additionality | ✓ | ✓ | | |
| Opportunity for Level 4 Powers | ✓ | ✓ | | |

APPENDIX C - County Deal Member Engagement Activities

| Date | Activity | Topic |
|-------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 22.02.23 | Members Engagement Working Group | Terms of Reference Work Plan Initial County Deal Briefing |
| 20.03.23 | Members Engagement Working Group | County Deal Update Comms Engagement Plan CD Legislation Framework Policy Framework Work Programme and Timeline |
| 31.03.23 | Members Engagement Working Group | County Deal Legislative Framework Policy Framework in Constitution Work Programme and Timeline |
| 19.04.23 | Members Engagement Working Group | County Deal Update LEP Governance Update Work Programme |
| 15.05.23 | Members Engagement Working Group | Consultation Response Highlights Powers of a DEL Constitution Member Training Update |
| 22.05.23 | Member Briefing Session | County Deal Overview |
| 25.05.23 | Member Briefing Session | DEL and Governance |
| 01.06.23 | Member Briefing Session | County Deal Overview |
| 06.06.23 | Members Engagement Working Group | Norfolk Investment Fund County Deal Work Programme |
| 11.07.23 | Members Engagement Working Group | English Devolution Developments Briefing |
| 18.08.23 | Members Engagement Working Group | Local Transport Plan Adult Education Budget |
| 08.09.23 | Members Engagement Working Group | County Deal Update English Devolution Accountability Framework and Scrutiny Protocol |
| 12.09.23 | Member Briefing Session | Governance |
| 18.09.23 | Member Briefing Session | Governance |
| 21.09.23 | Member Briefing Session | County Deal Funding Opportunities |
| 06.10.23 | Member Briefing Session | Governance |
| 06.10.23 | Member Briefing Session | Brownfield |
| 11.10.23 | Member Briefing Session | Local Transport Plan |
| 19.10.23 | Member Briefing Session | Adult Education Budget |
| 27.10.23 | Member Briefing Session | Investment Fund |
| 01.11.23 | Members Engagement Working Group | Update on County Deal Members Engagement Programme |
| 21.11.23 | Members Engagement Working Group | Full County Deal Workstream Update Economic Strategy |
| 01.12.23 | Member Briefing Session | Governance |

Notice of Motions

Notice of the following motions has been given in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| <p>1.</p> | <p>Conservative Group Motion Call for a Dedicated Minister for the Coast Proposer: Cllr James Bensly Seconder: Cllr Eric Vardy</p> <p>This Council acknowledges the campaign led by the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Coastal Communities for the creation of a dedicated Minister for the Coast and notes the support that the campaign has been given by the Local Government Association’s Coastal Special Interest Group and other cross-party stakeholders and interested parties.</p> <p>There is an evident need for a dedicated Minister for the Coast, one that could work across Government and raise the profile of the needs of our unique coastal communities and who has oversight and understanding of all the challenges and opportunities that our coastal communities and businesses face.</p> <p>This Council resolves to request that the Leader writes to all Party Leaders at a national level to support the call for a dedicated Minister for the Coast so that the proposal can be included in their manifestos.</p> |
| <p>2.</p> | <p>Liberal Democrat Group Motion Fuel Poverty Proposer: Cllr Saul Penfold Seconder: Cllr Brian Watkins</p> <p>This Council acknowledges that all Norfolk residents deserve to live in a warm, dry home which they can afford to heat and power. More than 30pc of households in various neighbourhoods across Norfolk were living in fuel poverty in 2022, a number which is estimated to rise due to rising energy costs, inflation and the worsening cost of living situation.</p> <p>This Council recognises the work carried out to end fuel poverty in Norfolk, but acknowledges that thousands of households are estimated to fall into fuel poverty within the next decade. Additionally, it is recognised that more can be done to end fuel poverty by 2030.</p> <p>This Council acknowledges the findings of a British Medical Journal report on the detrimental impact on children growing up in cold, damp, and mouldy homes due to fuel poverty. It is recognised in the report that these children have “higher than average rates of respiratory infections, asthma, chronic ill health, and disability. They are also more likely to experience depression, anxiety, and slower physical growth and cognitive development.”</p> |

This Council resolves to:

1. [Request Cabinet to] create a strategy with the aim of helping to end fuel poverty in Norfolk by 2030.
2. To ask the Executive/Cabinet/Leader to report on progress with the strategy every six months
3. Work with partners such as the Health and Wellbeing Board, Integrated Care Board and advice services to develop effective referral systems to reduce fuel poverty and cold-related health
4. Develop a strategic approach to improve energy efficiency to create jobs and prosperity in our local communities
5. Explore ways of reducing fuel poverty that involve the whole community, including district and parish councils and community organisations
6. To become a member of the End Fuel Poverty Coalition.

3.

**Labour Group Motion
Carer Parking Permits
Proposer: Cllr Julie Brociek-Coulton
Secunder: Cllr Coleen Walker**

Council recognises the vital role played by those visiting people's homes to provide care. Keeping people independent in their homes is a shared vision for care and requires those receiving care to be able to receive timely, trusted and high-quality care. Council also recognises care staff are not highly paid for their skills and our stretched budget means we need to ensure every minute of their time is productively used.

Council therefore is concerned at reports carers may be arriving late for scheduled visits because of time spent looking for places to park. We also regret the potential for carers to become liable for parking fines where they choose to risk parking in restricted spaces such as those with permit parking or loading bays. Council further notes that other professions such as window cleaners and chimney sweeps are allowed to park in such areas whilst delivering a service in people's homes.

Council therefore believes it would be cost effective to introduce a parking permit system for care workers based on the scheme currently operated by Dorset to allow carers access limited to the time they are visiting people's homes for care delivery.

Allowing limited access in residential parking zones, loading bays and other places which would usually be permitted to tradespersons delivery domestic services would also support delivery of high quality, timely care and alleviate care workers concerns about facing parking fines.

Council therefore requests the Cabinet Member for Highways, Transport and Infrastructure to develop proposals for a Norfolk parking scheme for care workers for consideration by Cabinet via the People and Communities Select Committee.

4.

Green Group Motion
Proactive Safe Speeds Policy for Norfolk
Proposer: Cllr Catherine Rowett
Seconder: Cllr Paul Neale

Norfolk has hundreds of small villages and rural parishes whose residents are keen to have safer speed limits in their residential areas and on stretches of narrow winding roads where they walk their dogs, ride their horses and take their children to school by bicycle. Many tiny narrow winding single track roads currently have a nominal speed limit of 60mph, yet travelling at such a speed would be beyond foolhardy and the average vehicle speed adopted by careful drivers is significantly lower. Ten times as many people die on rural roads as on motorways. Yet still footfall is significantly reduced because walkers and cyclists fear the inconsiderate driving of a small number of motorists who take the speed limit as a recommended speed. Cyclists are almost three times more likely to be killed on a rural road as on an urban one.

The Norfolk Speed Management Strategy currently takes a reactive approach to proving that a reduced speed limit, or other safety measures, are required. For any other health and safety legislation it is normal to take a proactive approach, and not to wait until serious accidents happen before deciding that they need to be prevented.

There is also now abundant evidence that in built up areas a 20mph limit is safer than 30mph limits, and on rural roads reductions in speed limits have direct benefits in reducing accidents and reducing the severity of accidents. In particular speeds below 30 mph are hugely beneficial, as a proactive way to reduce injuries, fatalities and the cost of motoring accidents in terms of health, damage and loss of working hours, all of which are costly to the local economy and to people's lives and livelihoods.

Council notes:

that, in many rural areas of Norfolk, reductions in the speed limits would be safer for all road users and better for the local environment and economy.

Council resolves:

1. To request that the Executive takes action to make it easier for communities to seek and obtain a lower speed limit if they wish to have one;
2. To request that the Executive sets up a cross-party working group to review the Norfolk Speed Management Strategy with a view to adopting a new proactive approach to speed management. The Working group to report back with a revised Speed Management Strategy for cabinet approval as soon as is feasible, with a review of progress to be scheduled within 6 months from this resolution;
3. Requests that the Executive issues a county-wide call for requests for lower speed limits from rural parishes once the new strategy is in place, with a view to implementing such requests together en bloc, thereby reducing the costs associated with processing TRO applications one by one;
4. Requests that the Executive adopt a default assumption that speed limits are treated as recommendations to drivers on how fast to drive, and should therefore match the maximum safe speed for that stretch of road;
5. Requests that the Executive identifies and promotes other measures, such as driver education and enforcement, to restore confidence among residents that

| | |
|------------------|--|
| | <p>the Council takes their concerns seriously, and to ensure that country lanes are made safe for walking, wheeling and cycling.</p> |
| <p>5.</p> | <p>Conservative Group Motion Cash Options for Norfolk Proposer: Cllr Christopher Dawson Seconder: Cllr Fabian Eagle</p> <p>The loss of cash from our daily lives would have a significant impact on the people of Norfolk, and on our way of life. Whilst in no way wishing to arrest the march of progress, it is important to recognise that. Cash is essential, not only for many people who budget, but for those on lower incomes, the elderly and those with disabilities, who so often need the facility the most. Alongside this cash can help support those experiencing domestic financial abuse and can provide an escape method from this exploitation.</p> <p>As the Member Champion for the Rural Economy I should add further that many small business operations rely on cash, be they outlets at sales & fairs, farm gate sales etc.</p> <p>Where would charitable collections be without cash.</p> <p>In light of this, this Council recognises the acceptance of cash remaining an option for the foreseeable future and welcomes the work of Duncan Baker MP, and support of all of our Norfolk's MPs, to promote the necessity of cash throughout our rural communities. Furthermore, this Council, through the Leader, will call on Government to ensure there are cash alternative payment options available to all Norfolk's retailers.</p> |
| <p>6.</p> | <p>Green Group Motion OneNorwich Collapse Proposer: Cllr Jamie Osborn Seconder: Cllr Paul Neale</p> <p>This Council notes:</p> <p>OneNorwich Practices carry out a series of key functions within Norwich, including but not limited to: GP services for over 10,000 registered residents; the city's seven day a week 7am-9pm walk-in service (average 250 appointments a day); programs to help address health inequalities such as asthma in schools; lymphodema services; vulnerable adult services; and refugee, migrant and asylum seeker services.</p> <p>Altogether these provide an estimated minimum of 120,000 essential patient visits a year.</p> <p>A joint statement was issued on the 23rd of October by OneNorwich Practices and the NHS Norfolk and Waveney Integrated Care Board to transition staff and services to other providers in the system over the coming months, and then close down the organisation.</p> <p>This announcement came as a shock to hardworking staff, as well as the many patients who rely on the services.</p> |

The service run by OneNorwich service looks likely to close in January, potentially around one of the peaks of illness during the year, and will be transferred to a different provider.

The Asylum Seeker Service run by OneNorwich Practices is a vital service for refugees and asylum seekers who this council has responsibility for supporting. The Asylum Seeker Service has no clinical lead with an expertise and specialist knowledge in asylum seeker healthcare, meaning there has been a lack of expertise in the way this service is managed.

This Council resolves to:

- a. Ask Cabinet to present an urgent report assessing the impact the transition will have on the health landscape and risk to patients, and setting out steps that the council will take to engage with partners to minimise risk to patients.
- b. Ask Cabinet to present an urgent report on the impact of the potential closure and recommissioning of the Vulnerable Adults Service on Norfolk County Council's responsibilities regarding refugees and asylum seekers via the People from Abroad Team, and to set out steps that the council will take to engage with partners to minimise risk to patients.
- c. Ask the Chair of the Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider adding an item on the OneNorwich Practice to the committee forward work programme, pending approval from the broader committee membership. This item should examine the issues of management and governance that led to the collapse of OneNorwich Practices in order to avoid similar crises in future, as well as confirming that HOSC will scrutinise the transition to new service providers. As part of this discussion, NHOSC should further examine the governance of the Asylum Seekers Service to ensure that the service is commissioned effectively and that necessary expertise and experience is in place to manage the service.
- d. Asks the Leader to write to local MPs, NHS England and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to:
 - Register its concern over the closure, and manner in which the OneNorwich Practices closure has been announced and the impact on staff and patients, including some of the city's most vulnerable service users.
 - Request an urgent inquiry into the circumstances and causes of this sudden collapse, including governance, management and financial issues; an evaluation of the service and the management of any conflicts of interest in the reletting of the contracts to providers so that an understanding of what has gone so wrong within will enable a stable future for these vital services.
 - Ensure that scrutiny regarding transparency and conflict of interest take place to ensure bids for future delivery are fair and in the public interest.