

Norfolk County Council
Minutes of the Meeting Held at 10am on Tuesday 17 January 2023

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Present: | | |
| | ADAMS Tim | KIDDLE-MORRIS Mark |
| | ANNISON Carl | LONG Brian |
| | AQUARONE Steffan | MACKIE Ian |
| | BENSLY James | MAXFIELD Ed |
| | BIRMINGHAM Alison | MORIARTY Jim |
| | BLUNDELL Sharon | MORPHEW Steve |
| | BROCIEK-COULTON Julie | NEALE Paul |
| | CARPENTER Graham | OSBORN Jamie |
| | CARPENTER Penny | PECK Greg |
| | COLMAN Ed | PENFOLD Saul |
| | COLWELL Robert | PLANT Graham |
| | CONNOLLY Ed | PRICE Ben |
| | CORLETT Emma | PROCTOR Andrew |
| | DALBY Michael | RICHMOND Will |
| | DARK Stuart | REILLY Mathew |
| | DAWSON Christopher | ROPER Dan |
| | DEWSBURY Margaret | SANDS Mike |
| | DUFFIN Barry | SAVAGE Robert |
| | EAGLE Fabian | SHIRES Lucy |
| | ELMER Daniel | SMITH Carl |
| | FISHER John | STONE Barry |
| | FITZPATRICK Tom | STOREY Martin |
| | GRANT Andy | THOMPSON Vic |
| | GURNEY Shelagh | VARDY Eric |
| | HEMPSALL Lana | VINCENT Karen |
| | HORSBRUGH Michael Chenery of | WALKER Colleen |
| | JAMIESON Andrew | WARD John |
| | JERMY Terry | WATKINS Brian |
| | JONES Brenda | WEBB Maxine |
| | KEMP Alexandra | WHYMARK Fran |
| | KIDDIE Keith | |
| | | |
| | | |

Present: 61

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Tony Adams, Cllr Stephen Askew, Cllr Lesley Bambridge, Cllr David Bills, Cllr Bill Borrett, Cllr Claire Bowes, Cllr Stuart Clancy, Cllr Nick Daubney, Cllr Nigel Dixon, Cllr Phillip Duigan, Cllr Jane James, Cllr Julian Kirk, Cllr Kay Mason-Billig, Cllr Judy

Oliver, Cllr Rhodri Oliver, Cllr Richard Price, Cllr Steve Riley, Cllr Chrissie Rumsby, Cllr David Sayers, Cllr Mike Smith-Claire, Cllr Alison Thomas, Cllr Tony White and Cllr Martin Wilby.

2 **Declarations of Interest**

- 2.1 Cllr Fran Whymark declared an “other interest” in item 3 as he was the designated new Chair of the People and Communities Committee.
- 2.2 Cllr Ed Connolly declared an “other interest” in item 3 agenda as he was the designated new vice-Chair of the People and Communities Committee.
- 2.3 In reply to a question, after taking the advice of the Monitoring officer, the Chair said that it would not be necessary for County Councillors who were District Councillors to declare this matter in relation to item 4.

3 **Proportional Allocation of Places on Committees and Appointment of Chair/Vice Chair for Committee**

- 3.1 The Leader moved the recommendations contained in the report, seconded by Cllr Brian Watkins.
- 3.2 Council **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** unanimously on a show of hands.
1. **To approve the revised allocation of committee places and note that the Conservative Group has given up one place on the People and Communities Select Committee to the Liberal Democrat Group.**
 2. **To approve the appointment of a new Chair and Vice Chair for the People and Communities Select Committee.**
Chair: Cllr Fran Whymark
Vice Chair: Cllr Ed Connolly

4 **A Deal for Norfolk**

- 4.1 At the start of Council’s consideration of this item the Chair moved and Council **AGREED unanimously on a show of hands:**

That there should be recorded votes on all the motions for this item.

- 4.1 Cllr Andrew Proctor seconded by Cllr Graham Plant moved the recommendations contained in the report. In doing so Cllr Proctor referred to the many positive comments about the proposed deal that could be found in the executive summary of the report. He said that there was a clear desire on the part of the Government to work with all Councils in Norfolk on the delivery of devolution; the deal was consistent with deals elsewhere in the country and would provide new opportunities for the people who lived and worked in Norfolk. Under the deal Norfolk’s Councils would not lose any of the powers or statutory duties that they currently had. The deal was not intended to resolve the Council’s budgetary difficulties but it would help meet policy priorities in Norfolk that could not otherwise be met. The deal was expected to be the first step in a process of further devolution that paved

the way to further powers, funding and influence. Section 3 of the report explained how the deal would require a change of governance and how this would be a matter for Full Council to decide on at a later date.

- 4.2 The Chair then invited each of the other Group Leaders to speak on the matter.
- 4.3 Cllr Steve Morpew, Leader of the Labour Group, said that he wanted Norfolk to enter a devolution deal but not the current divisive devolution deal that was put together entirely by the Government and which lacked the support of many Councillors in Norfolk from across the political divide. He said the deal on the table lacked structure and a clear route to the governance arrangements. Many of the promises that were part of the Government's deal did not require a change of governance. The flaws in the deal were illustrated by the way in which the Leader wanted to limit the discussion on its most important aspects to just members of his Cabinet. The deal offered no inflation protection and did nothing to address the key issue of social care. The £20m of additional money a year was less than one third of next year's budget gap and a fraction of the money that had been lost from the revenue support grant over the last decade. In real terms, the deal was worth less than a four percent increase in council tax.
- 4.4 Cllr Brian Watkins, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, said that the deal could only work if there was consensus across the business and political spectrum and most importantly amongst Norfolk people themselves. He said the deal was known to have gone down badly amongst some Conservative Councillors around the county and there was no proper mechanism or structure built into the deal to ensure that all Norfolk's Councils were active partners. There was likely to be a legal challenge from four of Norfolk's district councils. The document did not explain how a directly elected leader would be more accountable to the people of Norfolk. The amount of money included in the deal was not transformative and did nothing to tackle issues of social care. There needed to be a contingency plan because there was no guarantee that the deal would exist in its current form in years to come.
- 4.5 Cllr Ben Price, Leader of the Green Group, said that he did not support the deal. He said the deal took no account of the comments and commitments that this Council had made to achieve carbon neutrality. He asked if it was right for Councillors who were "twin hatters" to vote in support of a deal at this meeting only to then support legal action that might be taken by their District Council. The additional money contained in the deal did not take account of inflation and did little to refocus and transition the Norfolk economy towards Norfolk's green policy priorities. The governance arrangements would give the Government a direct controlling voice on what happened in Norfolk while at the same time disenfranchising the Districts and the Parishes. A referendum was required of those who lived in Norfolk to provide the deal with legitimacy.
- 4.6 Cllr Ed Maxfield, Leader of the Independent Group, said that he hoped that the Council would vote in favour of the recommendations, but he could only speak for himself on this issue. He said that if Norfolk did not get "on the

bus” at this time then it would end up missing this devolution opportunity for decades to come. There was a possibility that the devolution deal would open the door to further powers and influence in other areas of Government policy such as the location of doctors’ surgeries and other medical necessities which should be welcomed.

- 4.7 In response to a procedural issue raised by Cllr Alexandra Kemp, the Monitoring Officer said that the Council was not being asked at this meeting to make changes to the County Council’s constitution and therefore there was nothing to prevent the Council considering the deal in the way that it had started.
- 4.8 Cllr Steve Morphew moved as an amendment seconded by Cllr Emma Corlett to read:

This Council:

- 1) Considers the full text of the in principle ‘Deal for Norfolk’
- 2) Notes that proceeding with the Deal is an executive decision and requests the Monitoring Officer to bring a report to council on 28 March with suggestions for amending the constitution to provide that full council is the decision making body in approving the substance as well as the governance provisions of any deal.
- 3) Notes that it will be asked to consider the governance arrangements required by this Deal in or around December 2023
- 4) Agrees that to be acceptable any deal must meet the following minimum thresholds
 1. Include devolution of adult social care
 2. Include an agreed exit mechanism should government policy change during the deal period
 3. Be supported by an affirmative resolution by the full council of no less than two thirds (5) of the district councils in Norfolk
 4. Be demonstrably supported by a majority of all those residents in Norfolk age 16 and over.
 - 5) Approved in total by a full county council meeting once the thresholds in 1-4 have been met.

- 4.9 The Chair said that she had agreed with the mover of the amendment that it would be voted on in two parts. The first vote would be on paragraph 2 of the amendment and the second vote would be on paragraph 4 of the amendment.
- 4.10 Following a full debate on the detail of the amendment the amendment was put to the vote in two parts.
- 4.11 When paragraph 2 of the amendment was put to a recorded vote (Appendix A) there were 22 votes in favour, 37 votes against and 1 abstention, and this part of the amendment was **LOST**.
- 4.12 Paragraph 4 of the amendment on the table was then put to a recorded vote (Appendix B) and with 22 votes in favour, 37 votes against and 1 abstention this part of the amendment was **LOST**.

4.13 Cllr Ben Price then moved as an amendment seconded by Cllr Jamie Osborn to read:

This Council:

1. Considers the full text of the in principle 'Deal for Norfolk' and asks Cabinet, before agreeing the County Deal, to bring a report to Full Council demonstrating how the County Deal supports the recommendations of the Government's advisory body the Climate Change Committee regarding local authorities' delivery of Net Zero ambitions as follows:
 - a. Framework: An agreed framework for delivery for Net Zero incorporating local and national climate action.
 - b. Financing: Appropriate long-term financing to support local authorities in delivering Net Zero
 - c. Flexibility: Local operational flexibility around how local areas address climate change.
 - d. Facilitation: coherent policy and powers for the facilitation of delivery.
2. Notes that proceeding with the Deal is an executive position and asks the cabinet, in the interests of democracy, to commission a county-wide referendum asking residents of Norfolk whether or not they agree to accept the 'Deal for Norfolk', and giving them the final say.
3. Notes that it will be asked to consider the governance arrangements required by this Deal in or around December 2023 after the conclusion of the referendum in point 2.
4. Agrees Recognising that Norfolk, like the rest of the world, is facing a climate emergency, and that Norfolk lacks an areawide climate action plan more than three years after committing to work towards carbon neutrality areawide by 2030, ask Cabinet to immediately forward an areawide carbon reduction plan to its next meeting and demonstrate how the County Deal will support this with evidence-based targets.
5. Recognising that Britain has lost nearly half of its biodiversity since the Industrial Revolution and that continued biodiversity loss will have catastrophic consequences for Norfolk, commit to an evidence-based target for biodiversity restoration to be supported by the County Deal and ask Cabinet to bring forward a report demonstrating how that is to be done.

4.14 The Chair said that in accordance with paragraph 13.7.1 of the constitution in order for the word "referendum" to be included in paragraphs 2 and 3 of the amendment and considered at this meeting (which was similar to a motion considered at an earlier meeting) this would require the support of 21 Councillors.

4.15 On being put to the vote on a show of hands this was **LOST** (there being 7 votes in favour).

4.16 Cllr Ben Price then moved the amendment seconded by Cllr Jamie Osborn to read:
This Council:

1. Considers the full text of the in principle 'Deal for Norfolk' and asks Cabinet, before agreeing the County Deal, to bring a report to Full Council demonstrating how the County Deal supports the recommendations of the Government's advisory body the Climate Change Committee regarding local authorities' delivery of Net Zero ambitions as follows:
 - e. Framework: An agreed framework for delivery for Net Zero incorporating local and national climate action.
 - f. Financing: Appropriate long-term financing to support local authorities in delivering Net Zero
 - g. Flexibility: Local operational flexibility around how local areas address climate change.
 - h. Facilitation: coherent policy and powers for the facilitation of delivery.
2. Notes that proceeding with the Deal is an executive position.
3. Notes that it will be asked to consider the governance arrangements required by this deal in or around December 2023.
4. Agrees recognising that Norfolk, like the rest of the world, is facing a climate emergency, and that Norfolk lacks an areawide climate action plan more than three years after committing to work towards carbon neutrality areawide by 2030, ask Cabinet to immediately forward an areawide carbon reduction plan to its next meeting and demonstrate how the County Deal will support this with evidence-based targets.
5. Recognising that Britain has lost nearly half of its biodiversity since the Industrial Revolution and that continued biodiversity loss will have catastrophic consequences for Norfolk, commit to an evidence-based target for biodiversity restoration to be supported by the County Deal and ask Cabinet to bring forward a report demonstrating how that is to be done.

4.17 Following debate, the amendment on the table was put to a recorded vote (Appendix C) and with 22 votes in favour, 35 votes against and 1 abstention the amendment was **LOST**.

4.18 There then followed a debate on the substantive motion (the recommendation) after which this was put to a recorded vote and it was **RESOLVED** (Appendix D) with 37 votes in favour 22 votes against and 1 abstention:

This Council

- 1. considers the full text of the in principle 'Deal for Norfolk'**
- 2. notes that proceeding with the deal is an executive position**
- 3. notes that it will be asked to consider the governance arrangements required by this deal in or around December 2023.**

The meeting ended at 12.30 pm

Chair



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| For | 22 |
| Against | 37 |
| Abstentions | 1 |

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|--------------------|-----------|
| For | 22 |
| Against | 37 |
| Abstentions | 1 |

Norfolk County Council
Date: 17 January 2023 APPENDIX C

**RECORDED VOTE (A Deal for Norfolk) Green Amendment – ITEM
NUMBER: 4**

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

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|---------------------------|--------|---------|---------|
| | | | |
| KIDDLE-MORRIS Mark | | x | |
| KIRK Julian | Absent | | |
| LONG Brian | | x | |
| MACKIE Ian | | x | |
| MASON BILLIG Kay | Absent | | |
| MAXFIELD Ed | Absent | | |
| MORIARTY Jim | x | | |
| MORPHEW Steve | x | | |
| NEALE Paul | x | | |
| OLIVER Judy | Absent | | |
| OLIVER Rhodri | Absent | | |
| OSBORN Jamie | x | | |
| PECK Greg | | x | |
| | | | |
| PENFOLD Saul | x | | |
| PLANT Graham | | x | |
| PRICE Ben | x | | |
| PRICE Richard | Absent | | |
| PROCTOR Andrew | | x | |
| RICHMOND Will | | x | |
| Reilly Matthew | x | | |
| RILEY Steve | Absent | | |
| ROPER Dan | x | | |
| Rumsby Chrissie | Absent | | |
| SANDS Mike | x | | |
| SAVAGE Robert | | x | |
| SAYERS David | Absent | | |
| SHIRES Lucy | x | | |
| SMITH Carl | | x | |
| SMITH-CLARE Mike | Absent | | |
| STONE Barry | | x | |
| STOREY Martin | | x | |
| THOMAS Alison | Absent | | |
| THOMSON Vic | | x | |
| 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 | Absent | | |
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| For |
| Against |
| Abstentions |

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|-----------|
| 22 |
| 35 |
| 1 |

Norfolk County Council
Date: 17 January 2023 APPENDIX D

**RECORDED VOTE (A Deal for Norfolk) Substantive motion – ITEM
NUMBER: 4**

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

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|---------------------------|--------|---------|---------|
| | | | |
| KIDDLE-MORRIS Mark | x | | |
| KIRK Julian | Absent | | |
| LONG Brian | x | | |
| MACKIE Ian | x | | |
| MASON BILLIG Kay | Absent | | |
| MAXFIELD Ed | x | | |
| MORIARTY Jim | | x | |
| MORPHEW Steve | | x | |
| NEALE Paul | | x | |
| OLIVER Judy | Absent | | |
| OLIVER Rhodri | Absent | | |
| OSBORN Jamie | | x | |
| PECK Greg | x | | |
| | | | |
| PENFOLD Saul | | x | |
| PLANT Graham | x | | |
| PRICE Ben | | x | |
| PRICE Richard | Absent | | |
| PROCTOR Andrew | x | | |
| RICHMOND Will | x | | |
| Reilly Matthew | | x | |
| RILEY Steve | Absent | | |
| ROPER Dan | | x | |
| Rumsby Chrissie | Absent | | |
| SANDS Mike | | x | |
| SAVAGE Robert | x | | |
| SAYERS David | Absent | | |
| SHIRES Lucy | | x | |
| SMITH Carl | x | | |
| SMITH-CLARE Mike | Absent | | |
| STONE Barry | x | | |
| STOREY Martin | x | | |
| THOMAS Alison | Absent | | |
| THOMSON Vic | x | | |
| 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 | Absent | | |
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| For |
| Against |
| Abstentions |

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| 37 |
| 22 |
| 1 |