

# Norfolk County Council

Date: **Tuesday 30 January 2024**

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](mailto: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**

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To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 12 December 2023

### **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.

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**8. Recommendations from Cabinet**

**8.1 Meeting held on 4 December 2023**

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**9. Cabinet Reports and questions to Cabinet Members**

Procedure Note attached.

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**9.1 Report from the meetings held on 4 December 2023 and 10 January 2024**

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

- 10.1 Recommendation from the Scrutiny Committee meeting held on the 13 December 2023: **Page 43**
- 11. Recommendations from Committees:**
- No recommendations from Committees
- 12. Report from the Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 13 and 20 December 2023** **Page 44**
- 13. Report from the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 18 January 2023** **To follow**
- 14. Reports from other Committees**
- 14.1 Pensions Committee**
- Report from the meeting held on 5 December 2023 **Page 47**
- 14.2 No meetings of the Audit and Governance Committee, Planning (Regulatory) Committee, Employment Committee and the Health and Wellbeing Board have been held since the last Council meeting.
- 15. Reports from Select Committees**
- 15.1 Corporate Select Committee** **To follow**
- Report from the meeting held on 15 January 2023
- 15.2 Infrastructure and Development Select Committee** **To follow**
- Report from the meeting held on 17 January 2023
- 15.3 People and Communities Select Committee** **To follow**
- Report from the meeting held on 19 January 2023
- 16. Reports about the business of joint arrangements and external organisations**
- 16.1 No meetings of the Norfolk Joint Museums Committee or Norfolk Records Committee have been held since the last Council meeting.
- 17. Specific Business Items**
- 17.1 Youth Justice Plan 23/24** **To follow**
- 17.2 Independent Remuneration Panel – Norfolk County Council Members’ Allowances Scheme** **Page 50**

**18. Notice of Motions**

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**19. Questions on notice under Rule 9.3**

**20. Appointments to Committees, Sub-Committees and Joint Committees**

- Cllr Martin Wilby to be appointed to the vacant position on the Infrastructure and Development Select Committee.
- Cllr Alexandra Kemp to be appointed to the vacant position on the Planning (Regulatory) Committee



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

Agenda Published: Monday 22 January 2024

**Norfolk County Council  
Minutes of the Meeting Held at 10am on  
Tuesday 12 December 2023**

**Present:**

<b>ADAMS</b> Tim	<b>MACKIE</b> Ian
<b>ADAMS</b> Tony	<b>MASON BILLIG</b> Kay
<b>ANNISON</b> Carl	<b>MAXFIELD</b> Ed
<b>AQUARONE</b> Steffan	<b>MORIARTY</b> Jim
<b>BAMBRIDGE</b> Lesley	<b>MORPHEW</b> Steve
<b>BENSLY</b> James	<b>NEALE</b> Paul
<b>BILLS</b> David	<b>NUNN</b> William
<b>BLUNDELL</b> Sharon	<b>OSBORN</b> Jamie
<b>BOWES</b> Claire	<b>PECK</b> Greg
<b>BROCIEK-COULTON</b> Julie	<b>PENFOLD</b> Saul
<b>CARPENTER</b> Graham	<b>PLANT</b> Graham
<b>CARPENTER</b> Penny	<b>PRICE</b> Ben
<b>CHENERY OF HORSBRUGH</b> Michael	<b>PRICE</b> Richard
<b>COLWELL</b> Rob	<b>REILLY</b> Matt
<b>CONNOLLY</b> Ed	<b>RICHMOND</b> Will
<b>CROFTS</b> John	<b>RILEY</b> Steve
<b>DALBY</b> Michael	<b>ROPER</b> Dan
<b>DARK</b> Stuart	<b>ROWETT</b> Catherine
<b>DAWSON</b> Chris	<b>SANDS</b> Mike
<b>DEWSBURY</b> Margaret	<b>SAVAGE</b> Robert
<b>DIXON</b> Nigel	<b>SAYERS</b> David
<b>DUIGAN</b> Phillip	<b>SHIRES</b> Lucy
<b>EAGLE</b> Fabian	<b>SMITH</b> Carl
<b>ELMER</b> Daniel	<b>SMITH-CLARE</b> Mike
<b>FISHER</b> John	<b>STONE</b> Barry
<b>FITZPATRICK</b> Tom	<b>STOREY</b> Martin
<b>GURNEY</b> Shelagh	<b>THOMAS</b> Alison
<b>HEMPSALL</b> Lana	<b>THOMSON</b> Vic
<b>JAMES</b> Jane	<b>VARDY</b> Eric
<b>JAMIESON</b> Andrew	<b>VINCENT</b> Karen
<b>JERMY</b> Terry	<b>WALKER</b> Colleen
<b>JONES</b> Brenda	<b>WARD</b> John
<b>KEMP</b> Alexandra	<b>WATKINS</b> Brian
<b>KIDDIE</b> Keith	<b>WHYMARK</b> Fran
<b>KIDDLE-MORRIS</b> Mark	<b>WILBY</b> Martin
<b>LONG</b> Brian	

**Present: 71**

## **1. Apologies**

- 1.1. Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Emma Corlett, Cllr Maxine Webb, Cllr Andrew Proctor, Cllr Judy Oliver, Cllr Julian Kirk, Cllr Stephen Askew, Cllr Tony White, Cllr Rhodri Oliver, Cllr Chrissie Rumsby, Cllr Alison Birmingham, Cllr Stuart Clancy, Cllr Bill Borrett, and Cllr Andy Grant.
- 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 stated 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 26 September 2023 were confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chair.

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

- 3.1 The Chair stated the events he had recently participated in could be found on the Norfolk County Council website.
- 3.2 The Leader stated she was pleased to see a Norse publication celebrating employees, which had been distributed amongst Members. A cabinet was to be installed within the Marble Map area of County Hall for employees to display their awards.
- 3.3 The Leader explained she had recently attended a number of meetings with MPs in Westminster, putting forward the interests of Norfolk County Council.
- 3.4 Following recent changes to the political proportionality of the Council, the Leader welcomed Cllr Brian Watkins as the new Leader of the Opposition.
- 3.5 The Leader remarked that wheelchair tennis player Alfie Hewett, who was originally from Cantley, had been nominated for the BBC's Sports Personality of the Year, and wished him all the best.

## **4. Declarations of Interest**

- 4.1 Cllr Alexandra Kemp declared "an other" interest as she was a governor of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in King's Lynn.
- 4.2 Cllr Lesley Bambridge declared "an other" interest as she was a governor of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in King's Lynn and a trustee of West Norfolk Carers.

## **5. Petitions presented to Council**

5.1 There were no items of petition for Council to consider.

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

6.1 There were no outstanding business items.

## **7. Questions to the Leader**

### **7.1 Question from Cllr Brian Watkins**

7.1.1 Cllr Brian Watkins remarked that the postponement of the Norfolk devolution deal had given this council another opportunity to engage with the public on this important change in governance. Cllr Watkins asked how the Leader would seek to make the most of this opportunity, to reach out to residents, and to make the deal one that best serves the people of Norfolk.

7.1.2 The Leader acknowledged that the County Deal was a complicated piece of governance. It was incumbent on the Council and its Members to publicise the Deal should it be approved at this meeting. It was also important to drive engagement with partners such as district councils, local businesses, and educational and health facilities. The Leader stated she had spoken to Cllr Carl Smith in his capacity as Leader of Great Yarmouth Borough Council, with the result being he was prepared to host further working groups for Members, with a view on how to better publicise the County Deal.

### **7.2 Question from Cllr Colleen Walker**

7.2.1 Cllr Colleen Walker stated that at the September meeting of Full Council, it was agreed that a letter would be sent to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs containing a set of requests on behalf of Norfolk's beleaguered coastal communities. However, Cllr Walker mentioned that on the 4 December 2023 she asked the Cabinet to share the letter and the response. However the reply received seemed oblivious to the decision taken at Full Council, instead referring to a recent Scrutiny Committee meeting. Cllr Walker asked if the Leader could confirm when this letter was sent, what the contents were, what reply was received from the Secretary of State, and for this information to be shared with Members. Cllr Walker added that If the letter had not been written and sent, could the Leader explain why this was the case.

7.2.2 In response, the Leader stated that the original letter would be retrieved.

### **7.3 Question from Cllr Paul Neale**

7.3.1 Cllr Paul Neale commented that It had become clear from the Chancellor's autumn budget that local authorities would be expected to run essential services, yet again, on less, in this coming year. These services were demand-led and demand was increasing exponentially. Cllr Neale welcomed the Leader and some of her Cabinet openly criticising their own government in the regional press, and asked the Leader if she would be pleased to see a change of government before some of her Members crossed the floor to become Independents.

7.3.2 The Leader stated she did not expect any of her Conservative Group Members to become Independents, while expressing her disappointment with the contents of the Autumn Statement. The Leader acknowledged that government finances were under pressure, and that she would be meeting and lobbying ministers to illustrate what pressures local authorities across the country were dealing with. A local government settlement was expected on the 19 December 2023 and further budget savings may need to be identified. The Leader stressed that the Council did not want to be in a Section 114 situation.

#### 7.4 **Question from Cllr Alexandra Kemp**

7.4.1 Cllr Alexandra Kemp expressed surprise that the Directly Elected Leader would receive a salary double that of the current Leader of the Council and asked the Leader what did this offer to Norfolk, as the current Leader already attended Westminster to lobby on behalf of the county.

7.4.2 The Leader commented that allowances were set by an independent review panel, which considered what salaries Leaders in other districts were receiving. If Members were to vote for the devolution deal on offer, the additional government funding unlocked for Norfolk would require considerable management. The Leader stated that any Directly Elected Leader should be remunerated accordingly.

#### 7.5 **Question from Cllr Ed Connolly**

7.5.1 Cllr Ed Connolly mentioned the Leader attended a meeting last month with Lord Callanan, the Minister for Energy Efficiency and Green Finance, regarding the future of the Bacton gas terminal. Cllr Connolly asked the Leader to recall how the meeting went.

7.5.2 The Leader stated she attended the meeting alongside Duncan Baker MP, Cllr Tim Adams in his role as Leader of North Norfolk District Council and Steve Blatch, the Chief Executive of North Norfolk District Council. Bacton had been identified as a potential future site for hydrogen production and carbon storage. The Leader remarked that Bacton was in a unique position as interconnectors between Norfolk and Europe were already installed and operational. However, there was no infrastructure to pump hydrogen currently onsite. Discussions were taking place between stakeholders and companies such as Shell and Perenco about putting a bid together to install such infrastructure. The Leader stated all parties emphasised to Lord Callanan the importance of the gas terminal to North Norfolk. Norfolk County Council would continue to work with North Norfolk District Council and report back any progress to Members.

#### 7.6 **Question from Cllr Saul Penfold**

7.6.1 Cllr Saul Penfold stated that last week, the County Councils Network (CCN) released its findings of its post-Autumn Statement budget implications survey, which warned councils were in a 'significantly worse' financial position than before the Autumn Statement. Half of respondents indicated that they would now need to make even more cuts. Cllr Penfold asked the Leader what implications this potentially meant for the Council's Capital Programme and whether significant cuts to people's services could be expected for the remaining £20m of savings required.



7.6.2 The Leader stated that the Council had to be in control of its own finances, pointing to recent Section 114 notices issued by other districts. The Leader commented that Norfolk was not in this situation faced by other councils. Increasing demand for services was causing additional budget pressures. The Council's budget was increasing every year, however demand and the costs of providing such services was also increasing. The Leader mentioned that Norfolk would continue to lobby the government to secure a fairer, longer-term funding settlement.

#### 7.7 **Question from Cllr Mike Smith-Clare**

7.7.1 Cllr Mike Smith-Clare asked, in light of the continuing negative impact erosion was having on the Norfolk coastline, if the Leader had visited Hemsby and what message would she like to pass onto residents.

7.7.2 In response, the Leader mentioned she had visited the Hemsby coastline many times and had witnessed the impact of coastal erosion in the area. The Leader acknowledged it was a worrying time for residents in this area and commended Great Yarmouth Borough Council for their efforts to help affected homeowners in Hemsby. Coastal communities in Norfolk were under increased pressure and action had to be taken; it was not simply a case of waiting for the next storm. A motion regarding coastal erosion was due to be moved later in the meeting.

#### 7.8 **Question from Cllr Jamie Osborn**

7.8.1 Cllr Jamie Osborn asked if the Leader could confirm unequivocally whether the Norwich Western Link would proceed if the government only provided 85% of the outline business case funding, leaving the Council to fund the £60m shortfall.

7.8.2 The Leader confirmed the Council was committed to the Norwich Western Link. It was originally believed only 85% of the required funding was being provided by the government, however the Leader had now been told that 100% of the funding was forthcoming, which would be announced shortly. The Leader stressed that the Norwich Western Link was important to the city, as Norwich was one of the few cities without an outer ring road. Provision of the missing link between the A47 and the Northern Distributor Road would see a reduction in rat-running through residential streets, along with benefiting the emergency services and those travelling to school or work.

#### 7.9 **Question from Cllr Carl Annison**

7.9.1 Cllr Carl Annison stated the Innovate UK New Anglia Local Action Plan was recently launched and asked the Leader to recall how the event went.

7.9.2 The Leader stated she was pleased to be invited to a recent event at Adastral Park in Martlesham, to the east of Ipswich. Innovate UK was a body set up by the government to provide funding towards projects aimed at improving productivity and economic growth. The Norwich Research Park was one such area involved. The New Anglia Local Action Plan was the only such plan to visit this part of the country, which would provide £7.5m in funding towards agriculture and food tech solutions. The Leader remarked that she was looking forward to seeing the impact of the Local Action Plan on small and medium sized businesses in Norfolk.

## 8. Recommendations from Cabinet

- 8.1 The Leader moved, seconded by Cllr Andrew Jamieson, Recommendation 1 from the Cabinet meeting held on 2 October 2023.
- 8.2 Council on a show of hands **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** 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.
- 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.

## 9. Cabinet Report (Questions to Cabinet Members)

- 9.1 The Leader moved the report of the Cabinet meetings held on the 2 October and 6 November 2023.
- 9.2 Council **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** the report.
- 9.3 **Question from Cllr Steffan Aquarone to the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport**
- 9.3.1 Cllr Steffan Aquarone stated the X29 bus service between Norwich and Fakenham, which now ran late into the evening, was proving extremely popular with his constituents in Stibbard. However, Cllr Aquarone mentioned it was proving difficult to pass safely between the bus stop and the village. There was a good case to improve footpath access in this area, not just to access public transport but also for the residents of Ryburgh to access Stibbard Primary School and users of the Walsingham Pilgrimage Route. Cllr Aquarone asked the Cabinet Member if they could recommend where further funding could be sought for footpath and pavement improvements.
- 9.3.2 The Cabinet Member suggested making an application to Parish Partnerships to see if anything could be implemented and asked the Member to write to him with the list of concerns for the Highways Department to investigate.
- 9.4 **Question from Cllr Terry Jermy to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste**
- 9.4.1 Cllr Terry Jermy recalled that in June 2023 the government declared that the remaining 33% of councils who charge for DIY waste disposal would be prevented from doing so by the end of the year. As Norfolk County Council was one of these councils, Cllr Jermy asked the Cabinet Member to confirm which arrangements were in place to stop these charges with only a few weeks of 2023 remaining.

- 9.4.2 The Cabinet Member stated that DIY waste disposal would be free to visitors of Norfolk's recycling centres. A booking system was not being considered at this point, but the scheme would be monitored.
- 9.5 **Question from Cllr Paul Neale to the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing**
- 9.5.1 Cllr Paul Neale stated the collapse of the OneNorwich Practice was a massive blow for Norwich residents and although very recently most of the varied services had been redeployed to other providers, it was a case of fingers crossed that in such haste it would still function effectively. Cllr Neale remarked that one vital service, the Asylum Seeker Healthcare Service, was yet to be redeployed before the end of the year deadline and asked the Cabinet Member to clarify what was causing the delay to the redeployment of this service and explain what Plan B was to plug the void should the redeployment not happen.
- 9.5.2 As the Cabinet Member had sent apologies for the meeting, the Leader confirmed a written response would be supplied (Appendix F).
- 9.6 **Question from Cllr Alexandra Kemp to the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport**
- 9.6.1 Cllr Alexandra Kemp commented that her division was about to see the largest development in the history of West Norfolk and it was essential that the housing access road was provided first. However, it appeared National Highways were putting up obstacles in the way of widening the cycle route around the Hardwick Roundabout in King's Lynn, which was essential to improve active travel in this area. Cllr Kemp asked what the Cabinet Member would do to inform National Highways that West Winch required better connections to King's Lynn.
- 9.6.2 In response, the Cabinet Member mentioned that the project was currently going through planning, with a business case being developed. The Cabinet Member remarked he was unaware of the issues the Member had raised and requested that she write to him so a more substantial response could be provided.
- 9.7 **Question from Cllr Martin Wilby to the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport**
- 9.7.1 Cllr Martin Wilby remarked it was very pleasing to see Norfolk being ranked first in the National Highways and Transport Network survey out of 29 other districts. Cllr Wilby asked if the Cabinet Member could provide some of the key highlights from Norfolk's performance.
- 9.7.2 The Cabinet Member welcomed this news, stating this was the second time in three years Norfolk had topped the survey. Norfolk had come first in 2021 and second in 2022. The Cabinet Member explained that the Council had achieved an above average score in 26 of the 27 key benchmark indicators within the survey. Norfolk was on the right track but more work was required to further improve standards across the board. £4.1m in pothole funding had just been secured from the government during the current financial year, with further funding forthcoming over the next 10 years.

9.8 **Question from Cllr Tim Adams to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Partnerships**

9.8.1 Cllr Tim Adams asked the Cabinet Member if she could advise what was being done to make road crossing patrols more sustainable, given there were numerous vacancies at present and concerns expressed that they were unattractive positions with limited hours available.

9.8.2 The Cabinet Member remarked that road crossing patrols came under the remit of the fire service and clarified that vacancies were advertised accordingly. A written response was to be provided to the Member (Appendix F)

9.9 **Question from Cllr Mike Sands to the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport**

9.9.1 Cllr Mike Sands stated that after the way the Council unilaterally ended the Norwich Highways Agency Agreement, reneged on the joint agreement provision of the Transforming Cities funding that gave joint decision making to partner district councils, ignored the views of Norwich City Council on road schemes, and created chaos and threats to city businesses from poorly planned implementation of road schemes such as the Heartsease Roundabout and Dereham Road, could the Cabinet Member really expect district councils in Norfolk to take seriously any assertions that the devolution deal would give them a meaningful voice. Cllr Sands added that it was felt the district councils were only listened to when it suited the Council and asked if the Cabinet Member could show evidence from his handling of road and traffic issues in Norfolk to dispel this notion.

9.9.2 In response, the Cabinet Member remarked that the new Transport for Norwich Steering Group was set up following experience with similar schemes in Great Yarmouth and King's Lynn. The Cabinet Member stated that members were required from Norwich City Council, upon which the Steering Group could then proceed with its work.

9.10 **Question from Cllr Jamie Osborn to the Cabinet Member for Finance**

9.10.1 Cllr Jamie Osborn stated there was a risk if the Norwich Western Link did not proceed that the Council would have to repay funds drawn down from the Department for Transport (DfT). This could total £25m in 2023, £40m in 2024 and £70m in 2025. The repayment would have to come after the Council had used its reserves to cover its own contribution to the project, essentially wiping out the Council's reserves. Cllr Osborn asked the Cabinet Member if he could confirm where the funding to repay the DfT would come from.

9.10.2 The Cabinet Member stated that the outline business case for the Norwich Western Link was approved recently, which included an immediate government repayment of £24.8m back to Norfolk County Council. The first tranche was expected on the 15 December, with a second tranche at the end of January 2024. The Cabinet Member had received reassurances from the government that the £24.8m would not have to be repaid if the Norwich Western Link was shelved. Regarding the Council's reserves, the Cabinet Member referred the Member to previous answers he had given in June 2022 and July 2023.

9.11 **Question from Cllr Fran Whymark to the Deputy Leader of the Council**

9.11.1 Cllr Fran Whymark asked the Deputy Leader if he believed Norfolk would get a good deal when the local government settlement was announced this month, and what wanted to see in the settlement.

9.11.2 The Deputy Leader stated he would not make a prediction on the contents of the local government settlement, however a Policy Statement published by the government on the 5 December 2023 confirmed the majority of the Council's assumptions. The Deputy Leader expressed disappointment that there did not appear to be any additional funding for Adult Social Care. Norfolk would continue to lobby the government for improvements to the funding framework through its local MPs. The County Deal would offer the Council stable funding ringfenced for 30 years and represented an important opportunity for the Council to be "at the table" for future funding discussions.

9.12 **Question from Cllr Brian Watkins to the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport**

9.12.1 Cllr Brian Watkins commented that the University of East Anglia (UEA) night bus was a vital service to ensure that students could return from nights out in the city centre safely without having to make the long walk back in the early hours. Cllr Watkins asked if the Cabinet Member could commit to reinstating funding for this vital service.

9.12.2 The Cabinet Member stated he could not commit to this scheme due to budget pressures but would take a review of such provision. Any such night bus service would need to be sustainable.

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

9.13.1 Cllr Mike Smith-Clare asked the Cabinet Member if he could dispel recent publicised rumours that the Third Crossing in Great Yarmouth was causing additional flooding.

9.13.2 The Cabinet Member stated he was aware of the rumours and had asked officers to investigate accordingly. The area up to Breydon Water was modelled during the outline business case, which illustrated the Third Crossing would not cause any additional flooding. The Cabinet Member remarked there was no basis to the rumours. The ground in the area was saturated due to recent adverse weather and the temporary failure of a pump.

9.14 **Question from Cllr Catherine Rowett to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste**

9.14.1 Cllr Catherine Rowett stated that that the council had appointed WSP as the competent experts to prepare the Environmental Statement for the Norwich Western Link. The council had also appointed specialist legal advisers to advise the council on its proposed application for planning permission. A legal review of all the planning applications documents was being carried out prior to finalisation

and submission of the planning application. Cllr Rowett asked when the Cabinet Member expected to hear the outcome and what risks had been identified associated with the potential for failing to meet the legal requirements in this respect.

9.14.2 The Cabinet Member stated he would provide a written response to the Member (Appendix F).

9.15 **Question from Cllr Lana Hempsall to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care**

9.15.1 Cllr Lana Hempsall mentioned that The National Children and Adult Services Conference took place last week and asked the Cabinet Member to highlight any pertinent talking points from the conference.

9.15.2 The Cabinet Member remarked that she and officers had attended three days of the conference, which took place in Bournemouth. The conference was well attended with numerous events and presentations taking place. Sessions and workshops took place regarding the imminent Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspections of Adult Social Care departments. The Cabinet Member commented that the highlight of the event was the Thursday, where officers from Norfolk County Council gave three presentations to the conference, two of which were on Children's Services. The Cabinet Member gave a presentation on artificial intelligence opportunities in the Adult Social Care sector at the conference, relating to the falls pilot between Norfolk County Council, South Norfolk District Council and Broadland District Council. Artificial intelligence had identified approximately 750 people at risk of a fall in the area and details of this pilot scheme were given to Members. The Cabinet Member remarked that herself and officers had received numerous emails from other districts asking for feedback.

9.16 **Question from Cllr Lucy Shires to the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport**

9.16.1 Cllr Lucy Shires stated the extra funding to tackle potholes across the county was welcome but asked the Cabinet Member if the prolonged neglect of Norfolk's roads by the administration had condemned the Council to a never-ending game of catch up, where the pothole backlog would never be cleared.

9.16.2 The Cabinet Member stressed that the pothole backlog would be cleared; however potholes were considered a "Forth Bridge job", as when one was filled in another would be discovered elsewhere. Protection work on Norfolk roads would continue to progress. The Cabinet Member emphasised the importance of using the Council website to report potholes accordingly.

9.17 **Question from Cllr Brenda Jones to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care**

9.17.1 Cllr Brenda Jones asked the Cabinet Member if she could advise how many social work vacancies were available in Norfolk, and what was being done to actively

recruit senior social workers to take up management positions within Norfolk County Council.

9.17.2 The Cabinet Member acknowledged that social work recruitment was a challenge for all councils. It was important to recognise the hard work social workers do. A written response was to be provided to the Member (Appendix F).

9.18 **Question from Cllr Jamie Osborn to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste and the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport.**

9.18.1 Cllr Jamie Osborn remarked that the Norwich Western Link would increase carbon emissions by 5,000 tons per year over the 60 year lifetime of the project. It was previously denied that the project would increase carbon emissions, however it had now been admitted this was the case. Cllr Osborn stated it could be assumed that carbon emissions would be higher in the first few years of the project, before the phase-out of fossil fuels and internal combustion engines, up to the year 2050. In light of 2050 being the crucial point for when the UK must reach Net Zero, Cllr Osborn asked the Cabinet Members if they had the figures for the annual carbon emission increase from the Norwich Western Link over the next 30 years.

9.18.2 Both Cabinet Members provided information to answer different portions of the question. It was acknowledged that the carbon footprint would be higher during the construction of the Norwich Western Link, however a reduction in transport emissions was expected afterwards. 70 new electric buses were being introduced in Norwich, each one saving 200 tons of carbon from entering the atmosphere per year. A second phase of electric buses was in the planning stage. Reduced public transport emissions would counter any emissions from the Norwich Western Link. Any emissions calculations would also have to factor in the sale of electric vehicles, the sales of which had increased by 20% in 2023.

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

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

**11. Recommendations from Committees**

11.1 There were no recommendations from Committees.

**12. Reports from Committees, Select Committees and Joint Committees**

12.1 The Chairman proposed that Items **12, 13, 14, 15** and **16** on the agenda be considered in one block. This was unanimously **approved** by Council Members on a show of hands.

12.2 Council **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** the reports.

**17. Specific Business Items**

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

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

17.1.2 Council **RESOLVED** to:

1. **APPROVE** the revised allocation of committee places.
2. **NOTE** that the Labour Group would give up one place on the Infrastructure and Development Select Committee to the Conservative Group, and one place on the Planning (Regulatory) Committee, which would be offered to a non-aligned Member.
3. **APPROVE** the appointment of Cllr Brian Long as the Vice Chair for the People and Communities Select Committee.

17.2 **Consideration of a County Deal for Norfolk**

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

17.2.2 Cllr Ben Price, seconded by Cllr Catherine Rowett, moved the following amendment to the recommendations contained in the report.

This 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 **but notes that the consultation did not consider the option of returning to a committee system.**

b) **notes that a directly elected leader system of Devolution carries the risk of centralising executive power to the detriment of citizens' engagement in the decisions that affect their lives and reduces the accountability of the county's Governance.**

c) **council supports the principle of devolution of powers from central government and higher-tier authorities to lower-tier authorities if this results in greater accountability and greater local participation in decision making.**

d) **council asks officers to investigate reverting to a committee system of Governance and to present it as one of three options to be considered alongside Option 2 and outright rejection of the deal to the July 2024 meeting of the council.**

**be) commends recognises** the work undertaken by the Leader and Officers to secure additional benefits for the Norfolk County Deal **and notes that these additional benefits are minor and do not materially improve the offer. resolves that the Deal should be accepted.**



ef) agrees that if councils choose Option 2 in July 2024, 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.

dg) agrees that the resolution adopting the new governance arrangements with options for both Option 2 and reverting to a committee system should be brought to the Full Council Meeting on 23 July 2024 for decision then, to facilitate that election date of May 2025 if Option 2 receives the support of council.

17.2.3 Following discussion, the amended motion was put to a vote and **LOST** (Appendix A). There were 5 votes in favour, 56 votes against, and 9 abstentions.

17.2.4 Following discussion, the original recommendations set out in the report were put to a vote and **AGREED** (Appendix B). There were 56 votes in favour, 14 votes against, and 1 abstention.

17.2.5 Council **RESOLVED** the following:

1. **RECOGNISED** 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.
2. **COMMENDED** the work undertaken by the Leader and Officers to secure additional benefits for the Norfolk County Deal and **RESOLVED** that the Deal should be accepted.
3. **AGREED** 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.
4. **AGREED** 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.

## 18. Notice of Motions

### 18.1 Motion 1 – Call for a Dedicated Minister for the Coast

18.1.1 The following motion was proposed by Cllr James Bensly and seconded by Cllr Eric Vardy:

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.

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.

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.

18.1.2 Cllr Steve Morphew raised a point of order to suggest that due to time constraints, the debate on this motion be adjourned to the next meeting of Full Council, scheduled for January 2024. This was seconded by Cllr Mike Smith-Clare. The Chair advised that this proposal would be put to a vote.

18.1.3 On being put to a vote, the motion to adjourn the debate was **LOST** (Appendix C), with there was 8 votes in favour, 51 votes against and 1 abstention.

#### 18.1.4 **Three Hour Meeting Time Elapses**

The Chair announced the three hours allocated for the meeting had now elapsed. Cllr Kay Mason Billig proposed a motion to extend the meeting to the end of Motion 1. This was seconded by Cllr Andrew Jamieson.

Following a show of hands, Council **AGREED** to extend the meeting to the end of Motion 1.

18.1.5 Cllr Steve Morphew commented that the Labour Group had submitted an amendment to Motion 1. Due to the three hour limit being reached, Cllr Morphew **WITHDREW** the amendment.

18.1.6 Cllr Lana Hemsall raised a point of order as to how long the Council meeting would be extended for. The Chair clarified the meeting would continue until the debate and vote on Motion 1 was concluded. Cllr Kay Mason Billig stated the motion could be put to a vote at any point during the debate.

18.1.7 On being put to the vote, the motion was **CARRIED** (Appendix D), with 65 votes in favour of the motion, 0 votes against and 0 abstentions.

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

18.2.1 The Chair confirmed 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, the 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 amendments had been submitted, then the Council would vote on those first and then, when those were completed, a vote would be taken on the substantive motion.

18.2.2 The Chair proposed that all the remaining votes in this section of the meeting be taken as recorded votes. The Chair then asked for a singular decision to do this, to extend to all votes taken in this section of the meeting. This was then proposed by Cllr Brian Long, seconded by Cllr Alexandra Kemp, and **AGREED** unanimously.

18.3 **Motion 2 – Fuel Poverty**

18.3.1 This motion was **WITHDRAWN**.

18.4 **Motion 3 – Carer Parking Permits**

18.4.1 This motion was **WITHDRAWN**.

18.5 **Motion 4 – Proactive Safe Speeds Policy for Norfolk**

18.5.1 This motion was **WITHDRAWN**.

18.6 **Motion 5 – Cash Option for Norfolk**

18.6.1 This motion was **WITHDRAWN**.

18.7 **Motion 6 – OneNorwich Collapse**

18.7.1 The following motion was proposed by Cllr Jamie Osborn and seconded by Cllr Paul Neale:

This Council notes:

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; lymphoedema services; vulnerable adult services; and refugee, migrant and asylum seeker services.

Altogether these provide an estimated minimum of 120,000 essential patient visits a year.

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.

This announcement came as a shock to hardworking staff, as well as the many patients who rely on the services.

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.

- 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.

18.7.2 On being put to a vote the motion was **LOST** (Appendix E), there were 4 votes in favour of the motion, 32 votes against and 20 abstentions.

## **19. Questions on notice under rule 9.3**

19.1 There were no questions received under rule 9.3

## **20. Appointments to Committees, sub-Committees and Joint Committees**

20.1 There were no appointments to Committees, Sub-Committees or Joint Committees announced at the meeting.

**The meeting concluded at 14:13**

**Cllr Barry Stone  
Chair, Norfolk County Council**



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## Norfolk County Council - Date: 12 December 2023

## RECORDED VOTE – ITEM NUMBER: 17.2.3 - Consideration of a County Deal for Norfolk – Green Group Amendment

FOR		AGST	ABST		FOR		AGST	ABST
	ADAMS Tim		X			LONG	X	
	ADAMS Tony	X				MACKIE	X	
	ANNISON	X				MASON BILLIG	X	
	AQUARONE		X			MAXFIELD		X
	<b>ASKEW</b>					MORIARTY		X
	BAMBRIDGE	X				MORPHEW	X	
	BENSLY	X		X		NEALE		
	BILLS	X				NUNN	X	
	<b>BIRMINGHAM</b>					<b>OLIVER J</b>		
	BLUNDELL	X				<b>OLIVER R</b>		
	<b>BORRETT</b>			X		OSBORN		
	BOWES	X				PECK	X	
	BROCIK-COULTON	X				PENFOLD		X
	CARPENTER G	X				PLANT	X	
	CARPENTER P	X		X		PRICE B		
	CHENERY	X				PRICE R		
	<b>CLANCY</b>					<b>PROCTOR</b>		
	COLWELL		X			REILLY	X	
	CONNOLLY	X				RICHMOND	X	
	<b>CORLETT</b>					RILEY		X
	CROFTS		X			ROPER	X	
	DALBY	X		X		ROWETT		
	DARK	X				<b>RUMSBY</b>		
	DAWSON	X				SANDS	X	
	DEWSBURY	X				SAVAGE	X	
	DIXON	X				SAYERS	X	
	DUIGAN	X				SHIRES		X
	EAGLE	X				SMITH	X	
	ELMER	X				SMITH-CLARE	X	
	FISHER	X				STONE	X	
	FITZPATRICK	X				STOREY	X	
	<b>GRANT</b>					THOMAS	X	
	GURNEY	X				THOMSON	X	
	HEMPSALL	X				VARDY	X	
	JAMES	X				VINCENT	X	
	JAMIESON	X				WALKER	X	
	JERMY	X				WARD	X	
	JONES	X				WATKINS	X	
X	KEMP					<b>WEBB</b>		
	KIDDIE	X				<b>WHITE</b>		
	KIDDLE-MORRIS	X				WHYMARK	X	
	<b>KIRK</b>					WILBY	X	

Sub-Total

Sub-Total

For
Against
Abstentions

5
56
9

## Norfolk County Council - Date: 12 December 2023

## RECORDED VOTE – ITEM NUMBER: 17.2.4 – Consideration of a County Deal for Norfolk

FOR		AGST	ABST	FOR		AGST	ABST
X	ADAMS Tim			X	LONG		
X	ADAMS Tony			X	MACKIE		
X	ANNISON			X	MASON BILLIG		
X	AQUARONE			X	MAXFIELD		
	<b>ASKEW</b>			X	MORIARTY		
X	BAMBRIDGE				MORPHEW	X	
X	BENSLY				NEALE	X	
X	BILLS			X	NUNN		
	<b>BIRMINGHAM</b>				<b>OLIVER J</b>		
X	BLUNDELL				<b>OLIVER R</b>		
	<b>BORRETT</b>				OSBORN	X	
X	BOWES			X	PECK		
	BROCIK- COULTON	X			PENFOLD		X
X	CARPENTER G			X	PLANT		
X	CARPENTER P				PRICE B	X	
X	CHENERY			X	PRICE R		
	<b>CLANCY</b>				<b>PROCTOR</b>		
X	COLWELL				REILLY	X	
X	CONNOLLY			X	RICHMOND		
	<b>CORLETT</b>				RILEY	X	
X	CROFTS				ROPER	X	
X	DALBY			X	ROWETT		
X	DARK				<b>RUMSBY</b>		
X	DAWSON				SANDS	X	
X	DEWSBURY			X	SAVAGE		
X	DIXON			X	SAYERS		
X	DUIGAN			X	SHIRES		
X	EAGLE			X	SMITH		
X	ELMER				SMITH-CLARE	X	
X	FISHER			X	STONE		
X	FITZPATRICK			X	STOREY		
	<b>GRANT</b>			X	THOMAS		
X	GURNEY			X	THOMSON		
X	HEMPSALL			X	VARDY		
X	JAMES			X	VINCENT		
X	JAMIESON				WALKER	X	
	JERMY	X		X	WARD		
	JONES	X		X	WATKINS		
	KEMP	X			<b>WEBB</b>		
X	KIDDIE				<b>WHITE</b>		
X	KIDDLE-MORRIS			X	WHYMARK		
	<b>KIRK</b>			X	WILBY		

Sub-Total

Sub-Total

For
Against
Abstentions

56
14
1

## Norfolk County Council - Date: 12 December 2023

## RECORDED VOTE – ITEM NUMBER: 18.1.3 – Labour motion to adjourn debate

FOR		AGST	ABST	FOR		AGST	ABST
	ADAMS Tim	X			LONG	X	
	ADAMS Tony	X			MACKIE	X	
	ANNISON	X			MASON BILLIG	X	
	AQUARONE	X			MAXFIELD		X
	<b>ASKEW</b>				MORIARTY		
	BAMBRIDGE	X		X	MORPHEW		
	BENSLY	X			NEALE	X	
	BILLS	X			NUNN		
	<b>BIRMINGHAM</b>				<b>OLIVER-J</b>		
	BLUNDELL	X			<b>OLIVER-R</b>		
	<b>BORRETT</b>				OSBORN	X	
	BOWES				PECK	X	
X	BROCIEK-COULTON				PENFOLD	X	
	CARPENTER G	X			PLANT	X	
	CARPENTER P	X			PRICE B		
	CHENERY				PRICE R		
	<b>CLANCY</b>				<b>PROCTOR</b>		
	COLWELL	X		X	REILLY		
	CONNOLLY	X			RICHMOND	X	
	<b>CORLETT</b>				RILEY	X	
	CROFTS	X			ROPER	X	
	DALBY				ROWETT	X	
	DARK	X			<b>RUMSBY</b>		
	DAWSON	X		X	SANDS		
	DEWSBURY	X			SAVAGE	X	
	DIXON				SAYERS	X	
	DUIGAN	X			SHIRES	X	
	EAGLE	X			SMITH	X	
	ELMER	X		X	SMITH-CLARE		
	FISHER	X			STONE	X	
	FITZPATRICK				STOREY	X	
	<b>GRANT</b>				THOMAS	X	
	GURNEY	X			THOMSON	X	
	HEMPSALL				VARDY	X	
	JAMES	X			VINCENT	X	
	JAMIESON	X		X	WALKER		
X	JERMY				WARD	X	
X	JONES				WATKINS	X	
	KEMP	X			<b>WEBB</b>		
	KIDDIE				<b>WHITE</b>		
	KIDDLE-MORRIS	X			WHYMARK	X	
	<b>KIRK</b>				WILBY	X	

Sub-Total

Sub-Total

For
Against
Abstentions

8
51
1



## Norfolk County Council - Date: 12 December 2023

## RECORDED VOTE – ITEM NUMBER: 18.1.7 – Conservative Group Motion – Call for a Dedicated Minister for the Coast

FOR		AGST	ABST	FOR		AGST	ABST
X	ADAMS Tim			X	LONG		
	ADAMS Tony			X	MACKIE		
X	ANNISON			X	MASON BILLIG		
X	AQUARONE			X	MAXFIELD		
	ASKEW				MORIARTY		
X	BAMBRIDGE			X	MORPHEW		
X	BENSLY			X	NEALE		
X	BILLS			X	NUNN		
	BIRMINGHAM				OLIVER J		
X	BLUNDELL				OLIVER R		
	BORRETT			X	OSBORN		
	BOWES			X	PECK		
X	BROCIK-COULTON			X	PENFOLD		
X	CARPENTER G			X	PLANT		
X	CARPENTER P			X	PRICE B		
X	CHENERY			X	PRICE R		
	CLANCY				PROCTOR		
X	COLWELL			X	REILLY		
X	CONNOLLY			X	RICHMOND		
	CORLETT			X	RILEY		
X	CROFTS			X	ROPER		
	DALBY			X	ROWETT		
X	DARK				RUMSBY		
X	DAWSON			X	SANDS		
X	DEWSBURY			X	SAVAGE		
	DIXON			X	SAYERS		
X	DUIGAN			X	SHIRES		
X	EAGLE			X	SMITH		
X	ELMER			X	SMITH-CLARE		
X	FISHER			X	STONE		
X	FITZPATRICK			X	STOREY		
	GRANT			X	THOMAS		
X	GURNEY			X	THOMSON		
X	HEMPSALL			X	VARDY		
X	JAMES			X	VINCENT		
X	JAMIESON			X	WALKER		
X	JERMY			X	WARD		
X	JONES			X	WATKINS		
	KEMP				WEBB		
X	KIDDIE				WHITE		
X	KIDDLE-MORRIS			X	WHYMARK		
	KIRK			X	WILBY		

Sub-Total

Sub-Total

For
Against
Abstentions

65

0

0

## Norfolk County Council - Date: 12 December 2023

## RECORDED VOTE – ITEM NUMBER: 18.7.2 – Green Group Motion – OneNorwich Collapse

FOR		AGST	ABST	FOR		AGST	ABST
	ADAMS Tim		X		LONG	X	
	ADAMS Tony				MACKIE	X	
	ANNISON	X			MASON BILLIG	X	
	AQUARONE		X		MAXFIELD		
	<b>ASKEW</b>				MORIARTY		
	BAMBRIDGE				MORPHEW		X
	BENSLY			X	NEALE		
	BILLS				NUNN	X	
	<b>BIRMINGHAM</b>				<b>OLIVER J</b>		
	BLUNDELL		X		<b>OLIVER R</b>		
	<b>BORRETT</b>			X	OSBORN		
	BOWES				PECK	X	
	BROCIEK-COULTON		X		PENFOLD		X
	CARPENTER G				PLANT	X	
	CARPENTER P	X		X	PRICE B		
	CHENERY				PRICE R	X	
	<b>CLANCY</b>				<b>PROCTOR</b>		
	COLWELL		X		REILLY		X
	CONNOLLY	X			RICHMOND	X	
	<b>CORLETT</b>				RILEY		X
	CROFTS		X		ROPER		X
	DALBY			X	ROWETT		
	DARK	X			<b>RUMSBY</b>		
	DAWSON	X			SANDS		X
	DEWSBURY	X			SAVAGE	X	
	DIXON				SAYERS		X
	DUIGAN	X			SHIRES		X
	EAGLE	X			SMITH	X	
	ELMER	X			SMITH-CLARE		X
	FISHER	X			STONE	X	
	FITZPATRICK	X			STOREY		
	<b>GRANT</b>				THOMAS	X	
	GURNEY				THOMSON	X	
	HEMPSALL	X			VARDY	X	
	JAMES	X			VINCENT		X
	JAMIESON	X			WALKER		X
	JERMY		X		WARD	X	
	JONES		X		WATKINS		X
	KEMP				<b>WEBB</b>		
	KIDDIE	X			<b>WHITE</b>		
	KIDDLE-MORRIS				WHYMARK	X	
	<b>KIRK</b>				WILBY		

Sub-Total			
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For
Against
Abstentions

4
31
20

## Questions requiring written responses from the Council Meeting – Tuesday 12 December 2023

<p>Question from Cllr Colleen Walker to Cllr Kay Mason Billig, Leader of the Council.</p>	<p><b>Question and response:</b></p> <p>Cllr Colleen Walker stated that at the September meeting of Full Council, it was agreed that a letter would be sent to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs containing a set of requests on behalf of Norfolk’s beleaguered coastal communities. However, Cllr Walker mentioned that on the 4 December 2023 she asked the Cabinet to share the letter and the response. However the reply received seemed oblivious to the decision taken at Full Council, instead referring to a recent Scrutiny Committee meeting. Cllr Walker asked if the Leader could confirm when this letter was sent, what the contents were, what reply was received from the Secretary of State, and for this information to be shared with Members. Cllr Walker added that if the letter had not been written and sent, could the Leader explain why this was the case.</p> <p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>The details were raised in a motion to Council in September. Further to that a report on this matter was discussed at the Scrutiny Committee meeting in November 2023, which also agreed a resolution to write to the government. Following this, a letter, which includes the key points raised in the motion to Council in September, is due to be hand delivered to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs at a meeting planned at the end of January 2024. This letter, and the response we receive, will be made available to Members.</p>
<p>Question from Cllr Paul Neale to Cllr Bill Borrett, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing</p>	<p>Cllr Paul Neale stated the collapse of the OneNorwich Practice was a massive blow for Norwich residents and although very recently most of the varied services had been redeployed to other providers, it was a case of fingers crossed that in such haste it would still function effectively. Cllr Neale remarked that one vital service, the Asylum Seeker Healthcare Service, was yet to be redeployed before the end of the year deadline and asked the Cabinet Member to clarify what was causing the delay to the redeployment of this service and explain what Plan B was to plug the void should the redeployment not happen.</p> <p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>Thank you for your question. The Councillor will be aware that this is a service commissioned by the NHS and not by the County Council. The Asylum Seeker Healthcare Service is part of a wider Vulnerable Adults Service. The Norfolk and Waveney ICB announced on December 11th 2023 that North Norfolk Primary Care, an alliance of GP practices that support delivery of local primary medical care services in North Norfolk, had been awarded caretaker contracts following the winding down of OneNorwich Practices and this included the contract for the Vulnerable Adults Service. The awarding of the caretaker contracts will mean that disruption is minimised, and ongoing patient care will not be impacted by the changeover of provider.</p>

	<p><b>Question and response:</b></p> <p>North Norfolk Primary Care is a well-established GP Provider Organisation with over 6 years' experience in providing primary and secondary care across Norfolk and Waveney. It currently provides urgent care via 'GP Front Door' services at the three acute hospitals, cancer services for serious non-specific cancers, and a variety of elective care pathways which contribute to the elective recovery programme across the health system.</p>
<p>Question from Cllr Tim Adams to Cllr Margaret Dewsbury, Cabinet Member for Communities and Partnerships</p>	<p>Cllr Tim Adams asked the Cabinet Member if she could advise what was being done to make road crossing patrols more sustainable, given there were numerous vacancies at present and concerns expressed that they were unattractive positions with limited hours available.</p> <p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>Sites eligible for school crossing patrols (SCP) are determined via an assessment process. When a member of the school cross patrol team retires or leaves their position, a review is carried out as to whether that role is still required before the role is advertised. If the assessment determines the SCP is no longer required a consultation and appeal process are in place to ensure a fair and robust approach.</p> <p>There is no set policy on the recruitment approach, and the team manager will try various methods to ensure fulfilment of the role – this can include working directly with the school in question, advertising the vacancy in prominent places locally (such as the local libraries) and getting local stakeholders involved to support the activity. There is a relatively small demographic of people who are able to take on part time work of this nature, but those who do are very committed to their local communities and many provide multiple years of service, for which we are very grateful.</p> <p>Sites do not get closed as a result of difficulty to recruit and the team manager continues to explore ways to encourage interest.</p>
<p>Question from Cllr Catherine Rowett to Cllr Eric Vardy, Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste</p>	<p>Cllr Catherine Rowett stated that that the council had appointed WSP as the competent experts to prepare the Environmental Statement for the Norwich Western Link. The council had also appointed specialist legal advisers to advise the council on its proposed application for planning permission. A legal review of all the planning applications documents was being carried out prior to finalisation and submission of the planning application. Cllr Rowett asked when the Cabinet Member expected to hear the outcome and what risks had been identified associated with the potential for failing to meet the legal requirements in this respect.</p> <p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>The outcome of the legal review will be reflected in the finalised application documents which will ensure that all legal requirements for the submission of a valid application for planning permission, including those identified in the "National and Local Validation Requirements for County Council (Regulation 3) Planning Applications" (known as the local list), will be met.</p>

<p>Question from Cllr Brenda Jones to Cllr Alison Thomas, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care</p>	<p><b>Question and response:</b></p> <p>Cllr Brenda Jones asked the Cabinet Member if she could advise how many social work vacancies were available in Norfolk, and what was being done to actively recruit senior social workers to take up management positions within Norfolk County Council.</p> <p><b>Response:</b></p> <p>Recruiting to frontline Social Care roles, qualified and unqualified, remains a challenge. Competition is fierce and candidates in both groups can easily source roles nationally, therefore we need to ensure we are well placed as an employer of choice with a positive brand and image in the market – clearly articulating why candidates should consider us.</p> <p>Our current vacancy position as a department is 8%. That equates to 56.1 wte (whole time equivalent) vacant posts out of 698.71 established posts.</p> <p>This figure is for frontline social worker teams only and only considers assistant practitioner, social worker, practice consultant and team manager roles, as well as equivalent occupational therapy roles.</p> <p>Our level 1 and 2 social worker vacancy rate is 14% (reduced from 21% in May 2023.) This equates to 28.05wte social worker vacancies out of a frontline establishment of 195.44wte.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our practice consultant vacancy rate is 15% (12.01 wte out of an establishment of 81.27wte)</li> <li>• Our team manager vacancy rate is 2% (1 post out of an establishment of 51.82 wte)</li> <li>• Our assistant practitioner rate is 3% (10.77 wte out of an establishment of 320.26wte)</li> <li>• Our OT vacancy rate is 9% (4.27 WTE out of an establishment of 49.92WTE)</li> </ul> <p>Of the 56.1wte vacancies, we have recruited to 28.4wte posts and are awaiting commencement of the postholder.</p> <p>We have a specific dedicated ASSD HR Resource solely focused on our recruitment challenge which includes a HR Consultant (Recruitment and Talent,)HR Resourcing Advisor (Social Work) and HR Support Officer – International Recruitment, as well as a dedicated business support hub focused on workforce and recruitment. Our recruitment is geared towards attracting all social workers – including more senior and experienced social workers.</p> <p>These are among the specific steps we are taking to recruit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Setup dedicated, regular Recruitment meetings with key departmental representatives to drive forward progress</li> <li>• Setup a central Social Work talent pipeline managed by the HR Resourcing Adviser (Social Worker) to proactively manage.</li> </ul>
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	<b>Question and response:</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertised through multiple platforms including through our joint Community Care contract with Children’s Services under which we: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Posted 114 ASSD jobs</li> <li>2. Received 2555 views</li> <li>3. Saw 363 candidates click through to the content to read more.</li> <li>4. Created a Podcast that generated positive engagement with 2400 views (views usually range from 1500 to 4000)</li> </ol> </li> <li>• Attended Community Care Live in October 2023 followed by hosting an online Social Work Event alongside NCC colleagues to promote our Service, NCC and Norfolk.</li> <li>• Sourced affordable housing via Norwich City Council (5 properties) for ISWs relocating to Norfolk which all remain occupied.</li> <li>• Setup a workstream to promote Health and Social to younger people (current workforce data indicates only 3% are below 24 years of age).</li> <li>• Promoted our Refer a friend scheme to encourage employees to connect with their networks and promote our roles whilst being rewarded.</li> <li>• Implemented a welcome payment for Social Workers.</li> <li>• Increased the number of SW Apprentices (20 due to start in January 2024)</li> </ul> <p>A key plank of our recruitment approach is based on international recruitment of social workers and so we understand the implications of the proposed Visa changes by Government and how those impact on future and current recruitment activity.</p>

### **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:

Labour Group  
Liberal Democrat 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 time is up, the Chair will allow the question to be completed and the answer to be given.



## Recommendations from the Cabinet Meeting held on 4 December 2023

### 1 **Norwich Western Link Update**

1.1 Cabinet received the report providing an update on the Norwich Western Link project.

1.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

To recommend to Council, at its January 2024 meeting, an increased budget of £273.9m (compared with the £251.0m included in the OBC Addendum, that was reported to Cabinet on 4 July 2022), and an increase to the local contribution of £22.9m, as set out in Section 6 of the report.

### 2. **Summary Annual Review of NCC Residential Children's Homes**

2.1 Cabinet received the report giving a summary review of the service's progress and performance for the year September 2022 to August 2023 and seeking annual approval of each Norfolk residential children's home's Statement of Purpose.

2.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to recommend the approval of the Statements of Purpose for all the Local Authority children's homes to Full Council to comply with the Care Standards Act 2000.

### 3 **Youth Justice Plan 2023/24**

3.1 Cabinet received the report setting out the Youth Justice Plan for 2023-24.

3.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:

1. Endorse the Norfolk Youth Justice Plan 2023/24 and recommend to Full Council for inclusion on the policy framework.

### 4. **Mid-Year Treasury Management Monitoring Report 2023-24**

4.1 Cabinet received the report giving details of the 2023-24 treasury activities and highlights compliance with policy and strategy previously approved in relation to treasury management.

4.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to endorse and recommend to County Council the Mid-Year Treasury Management Monitoring Report 2023-24.

### 5. **Finance Monitoring Report 2023-24 P7: October 2023**

- 5.1 Cabinet received the report setting out 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.
- 5.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED:**
1. To recommend to the Council the increase of **£126.541m** to the capital programme to address capital funding requirements funded mostly from various external sources as set out in detail in capital Appendix 3 to the report, paragraph 1.4 as follows:
    - £73.300m increase to the West Winch Bypass project, mainly funded through a £74.202m increase in Department of Transport and Homes England funding reflecting the Outline Business Case submission and a £1.05m reduction in NCC Borrowing required to fund this project. The latest forecast is disclosed in a paper elsewhere on the agenda.
    - £22.882m increase in the Norwich Western Link project following the approval of the Outline Business Case and to reflect the latest forecast reported elsewhere on the agenda.
    - £11.646m increase in the Long Stratton Bypass project mainly funded through an increase in the Department of Transport grant of £17.717m and a £4.979m reduction in the GNGB supported borrowing required for the project as reported to Cabinet on 6<sup>th</sup> November.
    - £18.483m increase in Department for Transport funding for Countywide BSIP schemes
    - £0.155m increase in external contributions to various Children's Services schemes
    - £0.07m increase in NCC Borrowing to support the Planning and Advisory Scheme
    - £0.006m net increase in various other schemes
  - 1a. For planning and monitoring purposes, to incorporate the changes under recommendation 1 into the 2023-24 monitoring position and proposed 2024-25 Capital Programme, subject to any changes as a result of any call-in and Council's ultimate decision making on 30 January 2024.

[Please click here to view the reports considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 4 December 2023](#)

**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 4 December 2023 and 10 January 2024.**

**A: Meeting held on 4 December 2023**

**1. Consideration of a County Deal for Norfolk**

1.1 *This item was included as an item in the Council agenda of 12 December 2023.*

**2. Norwich Western Link Update**

2.1 Cabinet received the report providing an update on the Norwich Western Link project.

2.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED:**

1. To **approve** the continued delivery of the Norwich Western Link project.
2. To delegate to the Interim Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services (CES), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport, the authority to agree the finalised planning application and submit it to the Local Planning Authority.
3. *for recommendation 3, please refer to “recommendations from Cabinet” report*
4. Following the resolution of recommendation 3 above to delegate to the Interim Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services (CES), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport, the authority to approve the Statement of Reasons, which describes the purpose and effect of the Side Roads Order and Compulsory Purchase Order together with the justifications for making them.
5. Following the resolution of recommendations 2, 3 and 4 above, authorise the making, publication and submission, for confirmation by the Secretary of State, of the necessary Side Roads Order required for the project.
6. Following the resolution of recommendations 2, 3 and 4 above, authorise the making, publication and submission, for confirmation by the Secretary of State, of the necessary Compulsory Purchase Order required to acquire the land for the project.
7. To delegate to the Interim Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services (CES), the authority to take all appropriate actions necessary to complete a Public Inquiry should this result from the planning application or the making of draft Orders.

**3. West Winch Housing Access Road – Project update and funding**

3.1 Cabinet received the report providing a project update, seeking approvals as set out in the report, giving an update on project funding and requesting temporary forward funding approval by Cabinet to progress the project through the planning process and procurement until the Outline Business Case approval in Spring 2024.

3.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED:**

1. To note the details presented in this report and approve the continued delivery of the West Winch Housing Access Road (WWHAR) project and confirm the financial update within the Capital Programme.
2. To delegate to the Interim Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services (CES), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport, the authority to agree the finalised planning application and submit it to the Local Planning Authority.
3. To delegate to the Interim Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services (CES), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport, the authority to agree and enter advanced agreements with National Grid Gas to divert two major high pressure gas mains.
4. To delegate to the Director of Procurement & Sustainability authority to undertake the necessary procurement processes including the determination of the minimum standards and selection criteria; to shortlist bidders; to negotiate where the procurement procedure so permits; and to terminate award procedures if necessary. The Director of Procurement & Sustainability shall act in accordance with the Council's Contract Standing Orders and Public Contract Regulations 2015 and in consultation, as appropriate, with the Interim Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services and the responsible Cabinet Member. Note that a further report will be presented to Cabinet to seek delegated approval to award contracts.
5. To approve the £84.47m scheme cost within the capital programme and note the funding sources (see section 6.3 of the report for more details).
6. To agree to a further temporary increase of the Council's contribution by £2.75m until this is reimbursed when DfT (and Homes England) funding is approved. It will be utilised to incur costs associated to the gas main diversion and design work (as set out in section 6.4 of the report).
7. To agree to enter the Homes England funding agreement (providing £14.65m towards the WWHAR local contribution) and for finalisation of the details to be delegated to the Director of Strategic Finance and the Director of Property.
8. Agreement to underwrite Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk (BCKLWN) land purchase, as detailed in the confidential section and defer the County Council's capital receipt as part of the collaboration agreement (see section 2.10.6 of the report for more details).
9. To authorise the making of a Side Roads Order ("SRO") under sections 14 and 125 of and in accordance with Schedule 1 of the Highways Act 1980 to enable the improvement and stopping up of existing highways, to construct new highways and to stop up and provide replacement private means of access where necessary which are essential for the construction of the WWHAR.
10. To delegate authority to the Interim Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services to consider and make decisions on activities listed in section 2.4.5 of the report.
11. To authorise the Interim Executive Director of Communities and Environmental Services to use the Council's powers under Section 203 of the Housing and Planning Act 2016 to override any existing rights and covenants on land that would be infringed by or impede the construction, operation or maintenance of the WWHAR.

12. To authorise the Interim Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services to continue to take all appropriate actions necessary for the purpose of negotiating the terms and conditions for the acquisition by agreement of the land and new rights over land which are needed to allow the construction, operation and ongoing maintenance of the WWHAR.

#### **NCC Apprenticeship Strategy 2023-2025**

Cabinet received the report setting out the Apprenticeship Strategy 2023-25 and the associated operational delivery plan which outlined how the council intended to meet our responsibilities to support the delivery of apprenticeships locally, both as an employer and as a strategic leader.

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to endorse the proposed Norfolk County Council (NCC) Apprenticeship Strategy (and Operational Delivery Plan) – updated for 2023-2025.

#### **4. Better Care Fund 2023/24**

4.1 Cabinet received the report setting out the Better Care Fund plan for 2023-24 and asking Cabinet to delegate completion and execution of the Better Care Fund (BCF) section 75 agreement (“the s75”) to the Interim Executive Director Adult Social Services.

4.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:

1. Endorse the BCF plan
2. Delegate the authority to complete and execute the Better Care Fund (BCF) section 75 (s75) agreement to the Interim Executive Director Adult Social Services

#### **5. Summary Annual Review of NCC Residential Children’s Homes**

5.1 Cabinet received the report giving a summary review of the service’s progress and performance for the year September 2022 to August 2023 and seeking annual approval of each Norfolk residential children’s home’s Statement of Purpose.

5.2 *For recommendation, please refer to “recommendations from Cabinet” report*

#### **6. Youth Justice Plan 2023/24**

6.1 Cabinet received the report setting out the Youth Justice Plan for 2023-24.

6.2 *For recommendation, please refer to “recommendations from Cabinet” report*

#### **7. CES (Community and Environmental Services) Compliance and Enforcement Policy – Annual Review**

7.1 Cabinet received the report setting out the annual review of the Community and Environmental Services Compliance and Enforcement Policy, setting out a framework for a number of services within the Community and Environmental Services directorate to ensure that we work in an equitable, practical, and consistent manner when undertaking regulatory activities and law enforcement.

- 7.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED**:
1. To approve the revised CES Compliance and Enforcement Policy at Appendix A of the report, including its annex documents.
  2. To agree to delegate the functions of the Executive for the purposes of the Environmental Protection (Plastic Plates etc. and Polystyrene Containers etc.) (England) Regulations 2023 to the Head of Trading Standards to be read in accordance with B (8) – specific delegations to the Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services, Norfolk County Council Constitution (page 205).

## 8. Disposal, acquisition and exploitation of property

8.1 Cabinet received the report setting out proposals aimed at supporting Norfolk County Council priorities by exploiting properties surplus to operational requirements, pro-actively releasing property assets with latent value where the operational needs can be met from elsewhere and strategically acquiring property to drive economic growth and wellbeing in the County.

8.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

1. To formally declare Parish Council Allotments, Ashill (3001/100) surplus to Council requirements and:
  - (i) Instruct the Director of Property to dispose of the property to the Parish Council, or
  - (ii) In the event of no satisfactory agreement instruct the Director of Property to dispose of the property on the open market.In the event of a disposal receipt exceeding delegated limits the Director of Property in consultation with the Director of Strategic Finance and Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Innovation is authorised to accept the most advantageous offer.
2. To formally declare land and buildings at Ipswich Road Centre, Norwich (4105/017) surplus to Council requirements and instruct the Director of Property to dispose of the property on the best terms possible through a freehold disposal. In the event of a disposal receipt exceeding delegated limits the Director of Property in consultation with the Director of Strategic Finance and Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Innovation is authorised to accept the most advantageous offer.
3. To formally declare Additional Land at St Peter's Farm, Marshland St James (2049/108) surplus to Council requirements and instruct the Director of Property to dispose of the property. In the event of a disposal receipt exceeding delegated limits the Director of Property in consultation with the Director of Strategic Finance and Cabinet Member for Corporate Services and Innovation is authorised to accept the most advantageous offer.
4. To approve the disposal of The Marl Pit Land at Wells Road Fakenham NR21 9HP (Former Fakenham High & Sixth Form Site) (1029/028A) (edged purple on plan) to Fakenham Sports Charity Ltd (company number 03151414 / charity number 1056908) and instruct the Director of Property to oversee the completion of the sale on the agreed terms.

## 9. Business Rates Pool – Annual Report 2022-23 and Pooling Decision 2024-25

- 9.1 Cabinet received the report setting out an overview of the 2022-23 Pool including the amount of funding retained by each pool authority, as well as providing an update on the potential for a 2024-25 Pool.
- 9.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:
1. Note the performance of the Norfolk Business Rates Pool and endorse the decisions taken by the Pool in respect of the allocation of 2022-23 Pool resources (section 2 of the report);
  2. Endorse the use of Norfolk County Council's share of the 2022-23 retained levy (as shown in Table 2 and section 3 of the report);
  3. Approve the use of Norfolk County Council's share of one-off Business Rates Pool funds in excess of the level originally budgeted (currently forecast as £1.210m) to address current year overspend pressures and make a contribution to the Go Digital funding programme (section 3.3); and
  4. Agree that the County Council participate in pooling for 2024-25 in line with the expression of interest submitted for the 2024-25 Norfolk Business Rates Pool (set out in section 4 of the report).

## 10. Mid-Year Treasury Management Monitoring Report 2023-24

- 10.1 Cabinet received the report giving details of the 2023-24 treasury activities and highlights compliance with policy and strategy previously approved in relation to treasury management.
- 10.2 *For recommendation, please see "recommendations from Cabinet" report.*

## 11. Finance Monitoring Report 2023-24 P7: October 2023

- 11.1 Cabinet received the report setting out 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.
- For recommendation 1, please refer to "recommendations from Cabinet" report.*
2. To note the revised current and future 2023-28 capital programme as set out in Appendix 3 of the report 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 - [Document.ashx \(cmis.uk.com\)](#).
  4. To recognise the period 7 general fund revenue forecast of a **£3.052m overspend (0.62% 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 7 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**.



7. To approve the appointment of directors to Norfolk County Council owned companies and joint ventures as set out in section 2.2 of the report, as required by the Council's Financial Regulations.

## **12. Exclusion of the Public**

- 12.1 Cabinet agreed to exclude the public for discussion of item 22 on the agenda.

## **13 West Winch Housing Access Road – Project update and funding: Exempt appendices A and B**

- 13.1 Cabinet discussed and noted the exempt appendices.

## **B: Meeting held on 10 January 2024**

### **1. Improvements to Norfolk Fire Stations**

- 1.1 Cabinet received the report setting out plans to make improvements to Fire Station facilities in Norfolk following a survey conducted in summer 2023, which concluded that investment was required to proactively bring our fire stations up to the standard needed for a modern workplace.

#### **Cabinet RESOLVED:**

1. To approve reallocation of existing capital funding for the first phase of the programme totalling £2m for the financial year 2024/25.
2. To approve in principle the funding requirement of an additional £2m capital for phase 2 for the financial year 2025/26, which will require separate Cabinet approval.
3. To agree in principle the third phase, which will commence post-2026, as this will be rolled out as part of the decarbonisation programme and offer learning from the first two phases. This is estimated to require a further £4.5m. Similar to 2025/26 funding, this will require separate Cabinet approval.

### **2. School Sufficiency Plan 2024**

- 2.1 Cabinet received the report setting out the School Sufficiency Plan 2024. Norfolk County Council had a statutory duty to provide sufficient school places and to do this provided an annual snapshot of how these would be secured in the annual sufficiency plan.

- 2.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to adopt the School Sufficiency Plan 2024.

### **3. Short Breaks Strategy 2023-2026**

- 3.1 Cabinet received the report setting out a co-produced Short Breaks Strategy (2023-26) with a proposed change in approach in providing Short Breaks from an existing financial-focused Resource Allocation System (RAS) to a new, outcome-focused Circle of Support system.

- 3.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to proceed with the:
  - Implementation of the Short Breaks Strategy.
  - Change from the RAS to Circle of Support.

- Clear communications with families feeding back the findings of the consultation and the launch of the new Strategy and approach.

#### **4. Admission Arrangements for the School Year 2025/26**

- 4.1 Cabinet received the report setting out the annual admissions coordination scheme for all schools and determining the admissions criteria for all Community and Voluntary Controlled schools, for which the Council was the admissions authority.
- 4.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to increase the number of preferences a parent can make from 3 to 4 and determine the Admissions arrangements for the school year 2025/26.

#### **5. Risk Management Report**

- 5.1 Cabinet received the report setting out the reviewed and updated corporate risks, as at January 2024.
- 5.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to agree:
1. The key proposed changes to corporate risks since the last report to October 2023 Cabinet (shown in paragraph and 2.2 and Appendix A of the report)
  2. The corporate risks as at January 2024 (Appendices B and C of the report)

#### **6. Corporately Significant Vital Signs**

- 6.1 Cabinet received the Quarter 2 report providing an update on the Council's performance against its Corporately Significant Vital Signs.
- 6.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:
1. Note the end of Quarter 2 performance data and associated narrative.
  2. Agree the 27 highlighted actions as set out.

#### **7. Health, Safety and Well-being Mid-Year Report 2023-24**

- 7.1 Cabinet received the report setting out data and analysis on the Health, Safety and Well-being mid-year performance of as an employer so that members have the information necessary to satisfy themselves of the effectiveness of the Norfolk County Council health and safety management system, or where necessary to identify actions for Executive Directors and others to improve the performance against the 3 key outcome goals set out in the report.
- 7.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:
1. Note the performance report.
  2. Champion employee and Member health, safety and wellbeing through demonstrable leadership and advocacy of the guidance and services available
  3. Endorse and support the ongoing focus to improve health, safety and wellbeing management through Executive Director and management leadership and delivery of health, safety, and wellbeing services.

**Cllr Kay Mason Billig**  
**Chair, Cabinet**

## Recommendation from the Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 13 December 2023

### A Meeting held on 13 December 2023

#### 1. Update from the Chair of the Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny Sub-Panel

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Committee received a report providing an update on the activities of the Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny Sub-Panel (NCCSPSSP). Cllr Mark Kiddle Morris, in his position as Chair of the NCCSPSSP, reported that since the previous update to the Committee, the meeting scheduled for the 28 September 2023 was cancelled due to low attendance concerns and the meeting on the 7 December 2023 was declared inquorate.
- 1.2 There had been meetings conducted recently between Chairs and officers regarding the possibility of holding meetings of the NCCSPSSP and Norfolk Police and Crime Panel side-by-side with relatively similar Council memberships. The Police and Crime Panel's proportionality formula was different to that used by the sub-panel. The Chair of NCCSPSSP stated officers may need to consider a change to the Council's constitution.
- 1.3 Having considered the progress being made by the Scrutiny Sub Panel, the Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** the following:
1. To **AGREE** the proposed changes to the future arrangements for scrutiny of the Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership and **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** the suggested amendments to the Terms of Reference set out in the report, for implementation in May 2024.

[The reports considered by the Scrutiny Committee on the 13 December 2023, along with the minutes of the meeting, can be accessed here.](#)

Cllr Steve Morphew  
Chair, Scrutiny Committee

## Report of the Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 13 December 2023 and 20 December 2023

### A Meeting held on 13 December 2023

#### 1 Digital Connectivity

1.1 The Scrutiny Committee received a report which gave an overview of the Council's ambitions and objectives to make Norfolk the best-connected rural county in the UK.

1.2 The Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** that Norfolk County Council should:

1. Continue work to increase the high speed broadband coverage through the Better Broadband for Norfolk Programme and Project Gigabit.
2. Support commercial investment in improving coverage by working with all network providers active across the County & lobbying.
3. Continue to innovate, conduct trials, and seek additional funding to connect extremely hard to reach properties.
4. Continue to stimulate business growth and innovation through the free to use LoRaWAN based Norfolk Innovation Network.
5. Lobby Mobile Network Operators to increase investment in the County and address "not-spots" using all appropriate means at the Council's disposal. In addition, the Council would lobby relevant industry providers to ensure maximum support was given to Norfolk residents impacted by PSTN and 3G withdrawal.
6. Continue raising awareness of residents about the impact of the withdrawal of PSTN and 3G infrastructure, including targeted provision of advice and guidance for those that need it.
7. Continue Digital Inclusion activities to help residents benefit from digital connectivity and seek additional funding / capacity to do more.

#### 2 Norfolk Youth Justice Plan

2.1 The Scrutiny Committee received a report which provided members with a copy of the revised Norfolk Youth Justice Plan and associated Cabinet papers. The plan formed part of the Norfolk County Council Policy Framework, which required a scrutiny process to take place in accordance with part 11B of the Council's constitution. This was an annual statutory duty for local authorities

2.2 Having considered the proposed annual revision to the Norfolk Youth Justice Plan, the Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to agree the following:

1. To **ASK** officers to produce a report to the Leader and Cabinet Member on behalf of the committee in accordance with section 11B of the Norfolk County Council Constitution (Budget and Policy Framework Procedure Rules), reflecting the feedback that had been provided.

### **3. Quarterly Update on Performance Review Panels**

3.1 The Scrutiny Committee received a report providing an update on the activities of the two Performance Review Panels.

3.2 The Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** the following:

1. To **NOTE** the progress and activity from the two Performance Review Panels,
2. To **RECOMMEND** that a review of Performance Review Panels be undertaken as part of the review of governance linked to the Directly Elected Leader model.
3. To **NOTE** the forward work programmes.

### **4. Update from the Chair of the Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny Sub-Panel**

4.1 The Scrutiny Committee received a report providing an update on the activities of the Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership Scrutiny Sub-Panel (NCCSPSSP).

4.2 Having considered the progress being made by the Scrutiny Sub Panel, the Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** the following:

1. To **AGREE** that a Liberal Democrat Member should be appointed to the third County Council place on the Scrutiny Sub Panel for the rest of the civic year.
2. To **AGREE** the proposed changes to the future arrangements for scrutiny of the Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership and **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** the suggested amendments to the Terms of Reference set out in the report, for implementation in May 2024.

### **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 The Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to **NOTE** the current forward work programme.

## **B Meeting held on 20 December 2023**

### **1. Call in: Norwich Western Link Update**

1.1 The Scrutiny Committee received a report setting out reasons for the call-in of the Norwich Western Link Update and the original delegated decision.

1.2 The Scrutiny Committee heard from Cllr Jamie Osborn in his capacity as Local Member for Mancroft, Cllr Paul Neale 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 took a vote on Cllr Osborn's proposal to refer the decision back to the Cabinet Member. With 1 vote in favour, 8 votes against and 3 abstentions the proposal was **LOST**.
- 1.4 With 8 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 3 abstentions, the Scrutiny Committee **RESOLVED** to note the call-in but take no further action.

**Cllr Steve Morpew**  
**Chair, Scrutiny Committee**

## Report of the Pensions Committee meeting held on 5 December 2023

### 1. Administration Report

1.1 The Committee received the report by the Director of Strategic Finance and the Director of the Norfolk Pension Fund. This report was the quarterly update for the Pensions Committee on operational and administration matters relating to the Fund. This followed the last full quarterly report to Pensions Committee in September 2023.

### 1.2 RESOLVED

That the Committee:

#### 1. Noted the contents of the report, including the two Admission Agreements in respect of:

- Crystal Services (Hobart High and Thurlton Primary)
- Aspens Services (Nelson Academy)

### 2. Update from the Pensions Oversight Board

2.1 The Committee received the report by the Director of Strategic Finance and the Director of the Norfolk Pension Fund. The report updated the Pensions Committee on the work of the Pensions Oversight Board (POB) which last reported to the Committee on 12 September 2023.

### 2.2 RESOLVED

To note the report.

### 3. Risk Register Report and Compliance with Breaches Policy

3.1 The report by the Director of Strategic Finance and the Director of the Norfolk Pension Fund was received. The report updated the Pensions Committee on the Norfolk Pension Fund's Risk Register and Breaches Policy. The summary Risk Heat map was reported to Pensions Committee in September 2023, and the last full report to Pensions Committee was in June 2023.

### 3.2 RESOLVED

That the Committee note the contents of the Risk Register and summary of breaches.

### 4. ACCESS Update Unrestricted Items

4.1 The Committee received a report by the Director of Strategic Finance and the Director of the Norfolk Pension Fund that provided an update to the Pensions Committee on the work of the ACCESS Pool in so far as unrestricted items were concerned.

- 4.2 **RESOLVED**  
That the Committee noted the contents of the report.
5. **ACCESS Update - restricted items**
- 5.1 The Committee received a report (containing exempt information) by the Director of Strategic Finance and the Director of Norfolk Pension Fund that updated Members on a confidential basis on investment and governance matters pertaining to the ACCESS Pool (A Collaboration of Central, Eastern and Southern Shires). The work of the ACCESS pool is governed by a Joint Committee (JC) made up of one Councillor from each Authority's Pensions Committee.
- 5.2 **RESOLVED**  
That the committee noted the contents of the report.
- 6 **ACCESS Pool Investment Cost Benchmarking**
- 6.1 The Committee received a report (containing exempt information) by the Director of Strategic Fund and the Director of the Norfolk Pension Fund. As part of its response to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities asset pooling consultation over the summer the ACCESS pool commissioned a cost benchmarking exercise for its investment fees. The work looked at the cost outcomes for ACCESS as a whole and at the benefit that the Pool is delivering for individual member Funds. The report and the accompanying presentations informed the Committee of the ACCESS results as part of this item.
- 6.2 **RESOLVED**  
That the Committee noted the content of this report and the accompanying presentation.
7. **Changes in the Funding Environment since the Triennial Valuation at 31 March 2022**
- 7.1 The Committee received a report (containing exempt information) by the Director of Strategic Finance and the Director of the Norfolk Pension Fund.
- 7.2 **RESOLVED**  
That the Committee noted the content of this report.
- 8 **Hymans Quarterly Performance Report**
- 8.1 The Committee received a detailed presentation on investment performance (containing exempt information) by Hymans Robertson.
- 8.2 **RESOLVED**  
That the Committee note the contents of the report and the presentation to the Committee by Hymans Robertson.
9. **Investment Update**
- 9.1 The Committee received a report (containing exempt information) by the Director of Strategic Finance and the Director of the Norfolk Pension Fund that dealt with the investment strategy and assets of the Fund. It included details about the



onboarding of assets to the ACCESS Pool, an update on class actions, private market commitments, currency hedging, proposals to review at the Fund's protection assets and the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) compliance statement.

9.2 **RESOLVED**

That the Committee noted the content of the report including the submission of the CMA compliance statement by 6 January 2024 and agree the scope for the Protection Asset Review.

10. **Investment Manager**

10.1 The Committee received a presentation from Richard Bannister and Chris Simard of JP Morgan which had been circulated to the Committee with the agenda. The presentation summarised the fund performance and provided some case studies of their portfolio.

10.2 The Chair thanked the representatives for producing the detailed information and for the comprehensive presentation.

11. **Exempt Minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2023**

11.1 The exempt minutes of the meeting held on 12 September 2023 were confirmed by the Committee and signed by the Chair.

**Cllr Judy Oliver  
Chair**

## **Independent Remuneration Panel**

### **Norfolk County Council Members' Allowances Scheme**

#### **PANEL MEMBERS**

Clare Whelan OBE DL (Chair)  
Gillian Bannister  
Nicki Bramford  
Mark Stanton

**January 2024**

## 1. Background

- 1.1 The County Council is required to appoint to an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) to make recommendations in relation to its Members' Allowances Scheme.<sup>1</sup> The current members on the Panel were appointed by full Council on 11 October 2022 for a period of 5 years as follows:

Clare Whelan OBE DL (Chair)  
Gillian Bannister  
Nicki Bramford  
Mark Stanton

- 1.2 The Panel's agreed objectives and terms of reference are as follows:

To make recommendations to the Council on:

- The level of Basic Allowance to be paid to all Norfolk County Councillors;
- The posts for which Special Responsibility Allowances (SRAs) should be paid and the level of those SRAs;
- The appropriateness of continuing to pay a Carer's Allowance and the rate at which it should be paid;
- Whether allowances should be paid to co-opted Members and if so, at what level;
- The terms of travel and subsistence allowances for Members.

- 1.3 Full Council last considered a full review of Members allowances on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023.<sup>2</sup> One of the recommendations agreed by Council at this meeting was that the Panel should review the indexing arrangements for allowances on an annual basis.

- 1.4 Prior to 2023 the levels of basic, special responsibility and carers' and co-optees allowances were reviewed annually and increased by an equivalent percentage to the pay award agreed by the National Joint Council for Local Authority Services (NJC). For the first time in 2022/23 the NJC agreed that the annual increase would be set as a lump sum of £1,925 for all Council staff on Grade A to Grade S, rather than a percentage increase for employees.

- 1.5 Adding the lump sum to allowances was not considered appropriate at the time as the addition of £1,925 to the basic allowance in 2022/23 would have equated to an increase of 16.85% to Members' allowances.

- 1.6 The Panel noted that other local authorities were in a similar situation in that they had previously increased their allowances in line with employee pay awards. Having considered proposals put forward by other local authorities the Panel recommended that as NJC pay awards were applied to all staff and

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<sup>1</sup> [The Local Authorities \(Members' Allowances\) \(England\) Regulations 2003](#)

<sup>2</sup> [County Council – 18<sup>th</sup> July 2023](#)

officers in Norfolk County Council, it would be appropriate to reference the full range of salary scales when setting the uplift for all Members' allowances. In this case the £1,925 applied to the mid-point salary scale represented an increase of 4.06%. This was agreed as an appropriate way forward in 2022/23.

## **2. 2023/24 Pay Award**

- 2.1 For 2023/24 the NJC have agreed a similar approach to the pay award for all Council employees. The award is a lump sum of £1,925 for Council employees on pay grades A-L and a 3.88% increase for staff on pay grade M and above. Following Council's agreement in July 2023 to review the index arrangements on an annual basis the Panel met in December 2023 to consider recommendations to Council on applying an equivalent uplift to Members' allowances to that of County Council employees.
- 2.2 The Panel have concluded that the formula adopted in 2022/23 was a logical and fair way in which to increase the allowances and agreed to review the result of a similar exercise. There was some additional complexity as a result of some staff receiving a lump sum and others receiving a percentage, which was overcome by calculating the uplift as a percentage for all and using the percentage at the mid-point, which produced a figure of 3.82%. For 2023/24 they therefore recommend that the percentage increase for the Members allowances listed in 1.4 should be 3.82%.
- 2.3 They also recommend that if the awarding of the pay award for employees continued to use the same approach for 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27 then the same formula should be applied for this time.

## **3. Recommendations**

The Independent Remuneration Panel asks that Council considers the following recommendations:

- that Member allowances be increased by 3.82% to be backdated to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2023.
- That Member allowances be increased annually by an equivalent percentage to the pay award agreed by the NJC for 2024/25, 2025/26 and 2026/27. If however the NJC take the same approach to the pay award as for 2023/24 then the formula outlined in the report will be applied annually during this time.

### **Officer Contact**

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

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**Telephone no.: 01603 228913**

**Email: [karen.haywood@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:karen.haywood@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.

### Notice of Motions

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

<p><b>1.</b></p>	<p><b>Conservative Group Motion</b>  <b>Cash Options for Norfolk</b>  <b>Proposer: Cllr Chris Dawson</b>  <b>Secunder: TBA</b></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 &amp; 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 will call on Government to ensure there are cash alternative payment options available to all Norfolk's retailers.</p>
<p><b>2.</b></p>	<p><b>Liberal Democrat Group Motion</b>  <b>End Fuel Poverty</b>  <b>Proposer: Cllr Saul Penfold</b>  <b>Secunder: Cllr Sharon Blundell</b></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</p>

are also more likely to experience depression, anxiety, and slower physical growth and cognitive development.”

This council resolves to:

1. 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 Colleen 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 is concerned at reports carers may be arriving late for scheduled visits because of time spent looking for places to park. It regrets 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, with no recourse to appeal on the basis of carrying out caring duties under the Council’s current Civil Parking Enforcement Guidance Manual. 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 acknowledges that cross-party support for free carer parking was shown in debate secured in Parliament by Damien Moore MP in March 2023. During debate the Minister for Social Care, Helen Whately MP praised free carer parking schemes and encouraged ‘local authorities who are not already undertaking similar projects to look and learn from those areas that have implemented their own parking schemes.’

Council believes there are multiple benefits to introducing a parking permit system for care workers based on the scheme currently operated by Dorset County

Council to allow carers access limited to the time they are visiting people's homes for care delivery, including:

- Allowing limited access in residential parking zones, loading bays and other places would support the delivery of high quality, timely care;
- Alleviating care workers' concerns about finding a parking space, facing parking fines and claiming parking charge reimbursements from employers would reduce stress, administration and contribute to a more attractive employment offer;
- Minimising the time spent trying to park will enhance the experience of those being cared for by making appointments easier to keep.

Council recognises that to consider introducing such a scheme to Norfolk requires full scoping of demand through engagement with carers and care providers, as well as consideration of any financial implications.

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 Infrastructure and Development Select Committee.

**4. Green Group Motion  
Proactive Safe Speeds Policy for Norfolk  
Proposer: Cllr Catherine Rowett  
Secunder: 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 take action to make it easier for communities to seek and obtain a lower speed limit if they wish to have one;
2. To set 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. To issue 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. To 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. To identify and promote other measures, such as driver education and enforcement, to restore confidence among residents that the Council takes their concerns seriously, and to ensure that country lanes are made safe for walking, wheeling and cycling.

5. **Lib Dem Group Motion**  
**Footpaths**  
**Proposer: Cllr Steffan Aquarone**  
**Seconder: Cllr Andrew Jamieson**
- The Covid pandemic, although devastating for us all, highlighted the key importance of active travel for our residents' physical and mental health. This council has already committed to the aim of half of all journeys in towns and cities being cycled or walked by 2030, and the work already completed as part of the Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans is a welcome step to achieve this ambition.
- This council recognises the important role played by Parish councils, other stakeholders and indeed residents in achieving active travel goals and it is the responsibility of this council to equip parties with accessible and easy-to-use tools to facilitate the application and eventual implementation of active travel routes and improved local access.
- The County Council currently provides a Parish Paths information pack which, although a useful resource, can prove to be overwhelming and inaccessible. There are many examples of best practices demonstrated by Parish councils and residents which include the auditing of current paths/blockages, to legal agreements for permissive access. Indeed, there is a common desire between all stakeholders to continue this best practice in hope to explore further local access and increase walking routes.
- This Council requests Cabinet to:
1. Consult with stakeholders and Parish Councils to understand the best practice for steps involved in local access.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Review its current Parish Paths information pack and to simplify the contents in line with lessons learned from consultation with stakeholders.</li> <li>3. Develop and publish a comprehensive 'footpath toolkit' which includes a simplified information pack, tools for auditing, repairing/improving existing access, establishing new access, and publicising and promoting paths.</li> </ol>
<p>6.</p>	<p><b>Labour Group Motion</b>  <b>Malnutrition: Time to Act</b>  <b>Proposer: Cllr Mike Sands</b>  <b>Seconder: Cllr Chrissie Rumsby</b></p> <p>The World Health Organisation recognises malnutrition, in all its forms, including undernutrition (wasting, stunting, underweight), inadequate vitamins or minerals, overweight, obesity, and resulting diet-related noncommunicable diseases. The developmental, economic, social, and medical impacts of malnutrition are serious and lasting, for individuals and their families, for communities and for countries. The seriousness of this issue is reflected in Goal 2 of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, 'End Hunger, Achieve Food Security and Improved Nutrition and Promote Sustainable Agriculture.'</p> <p>Malnutrition is usually associated with low and middle income countries and would not be expected in prosperous countries like the UK and counties like Norfolk. Council is concerned to discover the level of malnutrition in the county as evidenced by a report published in October 2023 by Future Health, 'Tackling malnutrition as part of the prevention agenda,' and the impact reported in the media.</p> <p>The impact on the lives of young people and the quality of life of older people cannot be ignored. Malnutrition will not only have significant social and economic impacts, but the health impacts also have a huge financial cost that is already apparent, as 20% of the Norfolk and Waveney ICB budget is being spent on the consequences of malnutrition according to the Future Health report.</p> <p>Council recognises this is a complex issue exacerbated by austerity and the cost-of-living crisis. Whilst there needs to be a long-term policy to tackle malnutrition involving many agencies it is clear short term interventions are imperative and that the current assistance being made available is not enough to prevent malnutrition with a consequential knock on impact on health and social care.</p> <p>Council therefore</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Requests Cabinet to recognise malnutrition as a serious public health issue and to bring to Council no later than July 2024 a policy for inclusion in the policy framework setting out how Council can, with partners and in support of the new public health policy 'Ready to Change, Ready to Act,' set and meet targets for the elimination of poverty related malnutrition.</li> <li>2. Welcomes the People and Communities Select Committee's commitment to exploring malnutrition as part of their work programme to ensure there is a long term focus on sufficient and suitable nutrition.</li> <li>3. Welcomes HOSC's commitment to explore malnutrition in its forward work programme and acknowledges the comments from the ICB representative that this is a public health issue to which HOSC can positively contribute.</li> <li>4. Agrees to increase support for the work done by community and voluntary organisations in providing short term support for those experiencing food and</li> </ol>

	<p>fuel poverty both as a social good and in order to prevent consequential higher costs.</p> <p>5. Requests officers to identify and quantify potential safeguarding concerns that arise from malnutrition.</p>
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