

**Cabinet**  
**Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 2 August 2021**  
**in the Council Chamber, County Hall, at 10am**

**Present:**

Cllr Andrew Proctor	Chairman. Leader & Cabinet Member for Strategy & Governance.
Cllr Graham Plant	Vice-Chairman and Cabinet Member for Growing the Economy.
Cllr Bill Borrett	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health & Prevention.
Cllr Margaret Dewsbury	Cabinet Member for Communities & Partnerships.
Cllr Daniel Elmer	Deputy Cabinet Member for Children's Services.
Cllr Tom FitzPatrick	Cabinet Member for Innovation, Transformation & Performance.
Cllr Andrew Jamieson	Cabinet Member for Finance.
Cllr Greg Peck	Cabinet Member for Commercial Services & Asset Management.
Cllr Martin Wilby	Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport.

**Executive Directors Present:**

James Bullion	Executive Director of Adult Social Services
Paul Cracknell	Executive Director of Strategy and Transformation
Helen Edwards	Director of Governance
Simon George	Executive Director of Finance & Commercial Services
Tom McCabe	Executive Director of Community & Environmental Services and Head of Paid Service.
Sara Tough	Executive Director Children's Services

Cabinet Members and Executive Directors formally introduced themselves.

The Cabinet Member for Innovation, Transformation and Performance shared with Cabinet the announcement by the Digital Minister about Project Gigabyte from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. Norfolk County Council had been awarded the highest amount in the East of England as part of this project, and it would allow people to access broadband speeds of more than 1000 megabytes, or 1 gigabyte, per second. The contract for £115-195m would be awarded in February 2022 to start in January 2023, to reach around 119,000 homes in Norfolk. This project would be targeted at the hardest to reach and those with slowest broadband connections.

**1 Apologies for Absence**

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr John Fisher, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, (Cllr Daniel Elmer substituting) and Cllr Andy Grant, the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste.

## **2 Minutes from the meeting held on Monday 5 July 2021.**

- 2.1 Cabinet agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 5 July 2021 as an accurate record of the meeting, with an **amendment** to note:
- there was a typographical error in the 'notice of exemptions to contract standing orders' report that came to Cabinet on 5th July under item 12. The report stated that legal advice from supplier Pinsent Masons was in respect of the "Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing EX61228" and should have read "Norwich Western Link EX61228".

## **3 Declaration of Interests**

- 3.1 No interests were declared.

## **4 Matters referred to Cabinet by the Scrutiny Committee, Select Committees or by full Council.**

- 4.1 No matters were referred to Cabinet.

## **5 Items of Urgent Business**

- 5.1 There were no items of urgent business.

## **6 Public Question Time**

- 6.1 One public question was received; this question and the response given is attached to these minutes at Appendix A..

## **7 Local Member Questions/Issues**

- 7.1 The list of Local Member questions and the responses is attached to these minutes at Appendix B.

### **7.2 Supplementary question from Cllr Alexandra Kemp**

- 7.2.1 Cllr Kemp commented that it was reported that the Medworth Incinerator would burn 625,000 tonnes of waste on the Norfolk Border upwind of King's Lynn which would be against Norfolk's No Incinerator in Norfolk Policy. She noted that Norfolk recycled 60% of its waste while other places, such as San Francisco recycled 80% of its waste and felt that the Council should reassess its waste policy. Cllr Kemp reported that Medworth had told residents that they had spoken with Norfolk County Council and were confident of getting a contract to burn 250,000 tonnes of Norfolk's waste. Cllr Kemp asked if this was true.

- 7.2.2 The Chairman found this incredible and his response to this question was no.

### **7.3 Supplementary question from Cllr Rhodri Oliver**

- 7.3.1 Cllr Oliver believed that no consultation had been carried out by Norfolk County Council, and serious issues had been raised to do with the site. He asked the Cabinet Member to reconsider meeting with himself, Attleborough Town Council

and the public to find a solution which would benefit the town.

- 7.3.2 The Cabinet Member for Commercial Services and Asset Management replied that he was not content to do this; Cllr Oliver had been given a detailed response on this subject in July 2021. He offered Cllr Oliver the opportunity to discuss this with him at another time if needed.

## **8. Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service Statement of Assurance 2020/21**

- 8.1.1 Cabinet received the report setting out the annual Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service Statement of Assurance for 2020/21, which must provide assurance on financial, governance and operational matters for the previous year and how the service had had due regard to the expectations set out in their Integrated Risk Management Plan and the requirements included in the Fire and Rescue National Framework 2018.
- 8.1.2 The Chairman welcomed the Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk and Assistant Chief Fire Officer to the meeting.
- 8.1.3 The Cabinet Member for Communities and Partnerships introduced the report to Cabinet:
- There was a legal requirement for the Fire Service to publish the Service Statement of Assurance annually. The information included in the statement was required to be robust, accessible and fit for purpose.
  - The statement included information on how the service had responded to the Covid-19 crisis. This included supporting with delivering PPE, providing services to temporary mortuaries and supporting vulnerable people in the community.
  - The majority of work carried out by the service was prevention, through reducing emergencies and protecting people and property through advising on home safety, fire safety and water safety. They were also a partner in the Norfolk Resilience Forum, supporting the response to flooding and winter safety.
  - There were impressive statistics in the report including those relating to Covid-19 and supporting the NHS
  - The Cabinet Member for Communities and Partnerships thanked all staff in the service for their work over the past year and moved the recommendations as set out in the report
- 8.2 The Chairman commended the fire service for their exemplary response during the Covid-19 pandemic in the past year and ongoing.
- 8.3 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention thanked the Fire Service for their strong performance compared to national criteria and other fire services in the country.
- 8.4 The Cabinet Member for Innovation, Transformation and Performance noted the plan on a page on page 42 and commented that he would like to see this emulated in other service areas
- 8.5 The Chairman noted that ongoing operational assurance and succession planning was being addressed by the service.

8.6 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to **approve** the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service Statement of Assurance 2020/21 as set out in Appendix A of the report.

8.7 **Evidence and Reasons for Decision:**

It is a legal requirement to publish an annual Statement of Assurance. The format and content is for the Fire Authority to agree.

8.8 **Alternative Options**

It is a legal requirement to publish this document, therefore, there is no viable alternative.

**9. Local Transport Plan**

9.1.1 Cabinet received the report setting out the Local Transport Plan, a statutory document required by the Transport Act 2000 (as amended by the Local Transport Act 2008), setting out the county council's overall approach to transport, including development and delivery of schemes as part of the council's capital programme.

9.1.2 The Executive Director of Strategy and Transformation introduced the report to Cabinet:

- This was a Council high level document setting out strategies for transport in Norfolk and key challenges, supported by a number of other strategies such as Transport for Norwich which was being consulted on over the summer and an electric vehicle strategy which was due before members soon.
- The plan would address key challenges faced by the county and help meet the Council pledge to achieve net zero carbon by 2030 as set out in the environmental policy.
- The plan prioritised changing modes of travel and would bring forward measures to support active travel and public transport while recognising the rural context of the county and access to essential services.
- The plan would help address the commitment to the enhanced bus partnership.
- The strategy would be supported by a more detailed implementation plan which would bring measures to deliver policy commitments. The Local Transport plan had been developed having considered a range of evidence reports including on carbon reduction. Health and equality impact assessments and an environmental assessment had been carried out.

9.1.3 The Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure introduced the report to Cabinet:

- This key document for council set out the overall approach to transport, showing how wider ambitions could be delivered including growing the economy, stronger communities and reducing the impact on the environment.
- The Council had a commitment to reach carbon neutrality by 2030, as set out in the environmental policy, and to improve air quality in rural and urban areas.
- The plan included a focus on active travel in towns and villages, a shift to clean fuels and towards electric vehicles with a focus on public transport,

recognising the importance of ensuring people could get to work and education.

- The Council would strive to improve rail links and achieve dualling of the A47.
- The local transport plan was presented to the Infrastructure and Development Committee in July 2021, where important comments were made including about active travel and the shift to electric vehicles. The Select Committee made suggestions about things which could support the Local Transport Plan which would be taken into account by officers over the coming year as they prepared the implementation plan.
- The Select Committee were concerned about public transport, particularly in rural areas, and suggested a Member Working Group be set up which could build on work carried out by the Local Transport Plan working group which carried out a deep dive into public transport; this group could help the Council with development of the public transport improvement plan.
- The Cabinet Member would ask officers to take issues and suggestions raised by the Select Committee into account as they moved forward.
- The Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure moved the recommendations as set out in the report.

- 9.2 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention was pleased to note the goal of improving connectivity between rural and urban centres with a focus on active travel. He congratulated the Cabinet Member on the success in obtaining funding from Government to support large infrastructure projects such as the Broadland Northway, 3<sup>rd</sup> River Crossing and Long Stratton Bypass.
- 9.3 The Cabinet Member for Finance was pleased to note the extension of walking and cycling networks in urban areas and urged the Cabinet Member to focus on this infrastructure in rural areas as well. The Cabinet Member for Finance noted the funding received for this type of infrastructure and looked forward to the outcome of the Bus Back Better funding bid.
- 9.4 The Cabinet Member for Innovation, Transformation and Performance noted that there had been a 24% drop in shopping trips in England between 1995 and 2013, showing a change in shopping habits towards an increased use of online modes of shopping, which was reflected in the report.
- 9.5 The Vice-Chairman highlighted paragraph 2 under the title “growth and development” on page 107 of the report; he felt it was important to note this approach taken by the council which indicated that newly developed sites would be well-connected to local services and consideration given to infrastructure required to ensure developments could be delivered sustainably.
- 9.6 The Chairman drew attention to the legal implications and how these were being considered, set out in paragraph 8.1 of the report, and the sustainability implications and how policies had performed against the Sustainability Assessment, set out in paragraph 8.6 of the report. He also noted this was not a strategy in isolation as an Implementation Plan was being prepared.
- 9.7 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to **recommend** to Full Council that the Local Transport Plan set out in Appendix A of the report is adopted.

## 9.8 Evidence and reasons for Decision

Adoption of the proposed plan will ensure that the county council has an up to date plan taking account of, and reflecting, amongst other things, current legislation and policy requirements; and that the council continues to meet the requirements of the relevant Act.

## 9.9 Alternative Options

The proposed plan is considered best to achieve the council's wider ambitions including a growing economy, strong communities and reducing our impact on the environment. It has been the subject of robust assessment, including a Sustainability Appraisal, to promote sustainable development by assessing environmental, social and economic impacts, as well as mitigating any potential adverse effects that the plan might otherwise have.

## 10 Norfolk Youth Justice Plan 2021-24

- 10.1.1 Cabinet received the report setting out the Norfolk Youth Justice Plan, produced to outline the actions, risks and opportunities identified to ensure that the desired outcomes for young people and the victims of their crime are achieved by Norfolk Youth Offending Team and the Norfolk Youth Justice Board partnership in 2021-24, and setting out the key priorities for the 2021-24 period.
- 10.1.2 The Executive Director for Children's Services introduced the report to Cabinet:
- It was a statutory requirement to bring the report to Cabinet in accordance with section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998.
  - A 3-year plan had been brought due to a change in national policy to put children first and offenders second; this was a welcome shift which fits well with local practice.
  - An independent chair was now in place so NCC could be equally held to account alongside other relevant partners that form the Youth Justice Board.
  - The plan showed achievements over the past year and detail of future priorities over the next 3 years.
- 10.1.3 The Deputy Cabinet Member for Children's Services introduced the report to Cabinet:
- The plan built on progress locally and nationally and aimed to reduce first time entrants into the criminal justice system
  - Over the next three years a new pathway for speech and language therapy would be introduced and there was an aim to reduce the caseload for practitioners with higher risk caseloads.
  - The Deputy Cabinet Member for Children's Services recognised the work of the challenge for change initiative where Children's Services had worked collaboratively with Norfolk Constabulary to intervene with young people at the earliest opportunities at the point of arrest.
  - The Deputy Cabinet Member for Children's Services asked the Chairman to move the recommendations as set out in the report.
- 10.2 Having been involved in setting up a charity which helped prevent young people from becoming involved in crime, the Cabinet Member for Commercial Services and Asset Management noted the excellent work of the Youth Offending Team

and felt that the proposals set out in the paper would enhance their work further.

- 10.3 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention welcomed the appointment of the independent chair which he felt was an excellent step forward and showed the maturity of the approach of the Council. He felt there was a clear focus set out in the report which supported the plan. The Cabinet Member for Innovation, Transformation and Performance noted the importance of the aims set out in the report to “reduce the number of children in the justice system” and “reduce the number of the children in the offending system”.
- 10.4 The Chairman noted the importance of the “restorative approach to work with young people” set out in paragraph 2.5 of the report which he felt was a positive way forward. The Chairman noted the outcomes of successful delivery of the plan and what this would mean in terms of success as set out in paragraph 3.1 of the report. The Chairman drew attention to page 195 showing the priorities for the period of the plan and also showing what would indicate success. The Chairman was also pleased to note feedback from young people had been included in the report.
- 10.5 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to **recommend** the Norfolk Youth Justice Plan 2021-24 to Full Council for approval.

10.6 **Evidence and Reasons for Decision**

As the lead public sector partner within the statutory multi-agency partnership Norfolk County Council is required by section 40 of the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998 to formulate and implement an annual Youth Justice Plan in consultation with the Norfolk Youth Justice Board partnership.

In February 2021 the Norfolk Youth Justice Board held a ‘Setting the Strategic Direction’ workshop. The Independent Chair of the Board and the YOT Management Team presented the progress and future challenges to the Board. The Board subsequently agreed the 2021-24 plan priorities at the June 2021 Board meeting and those priorities are contained in the plan.

10.7 **Alternative Options**

The formulation and implementation of an annual Youth Justice Plan is a statutory requirement under the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998.

**11 Independent living programme – Stalham**

- 11.1.1 Cabinet received the report summarising the business case for approving £2,046,000 capital funding from the Independent Living capital programme to Housing 21 to support the development and secure nomination rights for Norfolk County Council to all 62 apartments in a new 62 unit independent living scheme for older people in Stalham, North Norfolk district.
- 11.1.2 The Executive Director for Adult Social Services introduced the report to Cabinet:
- Independent living was a strand of promoting independence; as part of this approach, when working with people on care decisions, it has been identified that most people found residential care to be a last resort and

would prefer to live somewhere where they have a stake in ownership.

- This would be the third scheme of its type achieved over the course of the programme and the department was looking to implement more to meet the need identified in the County.

11.1.3 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention introduced the report to Cabinet:

- As people were living longer there was a greater elderly population. Independent living gave people the opportunity to receive care in their own homes, in an environment where they could be more independent and make decisions about their daily routine in a way that they could not do in a care home.
- The County Council launched its fund of around £30m to support private capital and providers to bring this option into Norfolk; this approach has been effective in other countries, such as Australia, and is an option people had been telling the council they would like to be available to them.
- Paragraph 3.2 of the report gave information from studies of independent living showing that it could result in a reduction in falls and GP visits and increase wellbeing.
- Each development would provide about 35 jobs and inward investment in communities.
- This proposed unit was subject to final planning approval from North Norfolk District Council. Pre-planning engagement had taken place since spring and conversations had been held with stakeholders including Stalham Town Council. Amendments have taken place as a result of these discussions
- There would be an opportunity for local people and people with ties to the community to have priority for these units.
- Similar units had been built in Fakenham and Herondale in Acle, which were accessible to local amenities and facilities and had been well received.
- The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention moved the recommendations as set out in the report.

11.2 The Vice-Chairman noted that the location was in ideal for local people as indicated on page 125 of the report and referred to the evidence as set out in paragraph 4.5 of the report.

11.3 The Cabinet Member for Finance thanked the Executive Director and Cabinet Member for their introductions. He noted that independent living schemes were popular and also cheaper to run for the Council. This scheme would create 35 new jobs, bring a £15m development to the town and contribute towards housing targets. This was part of £29m set aside to meet this type of demand and the Cabinet Member for Finance looked forward to more such schemes being developed.

11.4 The Cabinet Member for Innovation, Transformation and Performance noted that the Fakenham scheme was near to many facilities and amenities and was delivering what local people wanted.

11.5 The Chairman agreed that this development would bring significant benefits to the local community and was proposed to be placed in an ideal location with access to local facilities. The Chairman noted that this type of provision was much needed and would provide jobs in the area; it was an invest to save project which would further the Council's strategies.

11.6 Cabinet **RESOLVED:**

- (a) To approve £2,046,000 of capital contribution funding from the Independent Living (extra care) capital programme to Housing 21 to support the development and secure nominations rights for 62 apartments in a new 62 independent living scheme for older people in Stalham, North Norfolk
- (b) To approve an exemption under paragraph 10(a)(iii) of contract standing orders
- (c) To delegate the responsibility to the Director of Commissioning to complete the relevant contract(s) with Housing 21

11.7 **Evidence and Reasons for Decision**

Norfolk County Council has a programme of work to support independent living (also called extra care) housing developments with capital contributions in exchange for nomination rights. Affordable rental schemes are not financially viable for the market to provide but they allow vulnerable people to live independently for longer and they reduce need for placements in residential care homes.

Based on the original programme demand data, there is an estimated total requirement for 482 extra care housing units in North Norfolk. Of these, 194 units should be for affordable rent and 292 should be for sale (either shared ownership or outright sale).

Housing 21 have provided a range of information about the scheme which has been assessed and validated against the criteria set out by the programme, including design standards (including accessibility), communal space, location, assistive technology provision and commitment to the planned and unplanned care model. The outcome of these assessments is that the programme recommends the scheme as meeting the criteria for an Independent Living capital contribution.

The scheme is still subject to planning approval and is anticipated to be granted in September 2021. North Norfolk District Council (NNDC) have provisionally approved the proposed rents for the affordable rental units and service charges that Housing 21 have submitted for all units. These levels of rent and service charges will be reviewed each year and will be subject to inflationary increases.

There will be a fifty-year Nomination Agreement between NCC, Housing 21 and NNDC which will give NCC the right to nominate older people with eligible care needs as potential tenants for the 62 affordable rent units. Priority will be given to residents of the local district or with a family connection within the local district.

Potential tenants for affordable rent units will be identified by adult operational teams, approximately nine months before completion. This will allow units to have an element of customisation where possible and to minimise the risk of there being empty units on completion.

11.8 **Alternative Options**

The decision on this paper is to proceed or not with the development.

## **12 Economic Recovery and Growth Plans**

- 12.1.1 Cabinet received the report outlining the areas of work that would support Norfolk to respond to the changing economic landscape, putting the county in a strong position to address the challenges, maximise opportunities and compete nationally for funds.
- 12.1.2 The Vice-Chairman introduced the report to Cabinet:
- It was vital that Norfolk placed itself to enable its economy to grow; the report acknowledged key pieces of work underway to support Norfolk's economic recovery post pandemic.
  - Appendix B of the report highlighted key economic recovery activity for 2021 such as the Go Digital programme which currently had 160 businesses taking part, and the Innovation Grant Mentoring Project.
  - Part A2 of appendix B of the report gave details of the schemes which would support key sectors in Norfolk and the Vice-Chairman gave details about these.
  - The Vice-Chairman gave background to the Economic Recovery, Norfolk and Suffolk Renewal Plan as set out in paragraph 2.1 of the report and the Norfolk Investment Framework, detailed in paragraph 2.2 of the report, which would define Norfolk's contribution to economic growth objectives and how this would be delivered.
  - Norfolk's GDP had fallen during the pandemic and it was therefore important to put support in place for communities and businesses to enable this to recover.
  - Paragraphs 2.2-2.4.5 of the report gave an overview of funds that would replace European funding.
  - To place Norfolk in a position to compete for funds on a national scale, paragraph 3.2 showed how a clear framework for investment would be put in place by developing a strong evidence framework.
- 12.2 The Cabinet Member for Finance felt that the report set out an ambitious range of programmes supporting key sectors and commended the Drive programme for driving rural investment and employment, and the Employer Training Incentive Programme which would allow people to upskill in their chosen profession. The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention noted that the Norfolk Investment Framework would be vital to ensure that the council was ready to bid for Central Government funding moving forward.
- 12.3 The Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure supported the report which showed that the council was looking forward to a strong economy in Norfolk coming out of the pandemic with the delivery of main infrastructure projects such as the Great Yarmouth Third River Crossing and Norwich Western Link helping to attract jobs to Norfolk.
- 12.4 The Cabinet Member for Innovation, Transformation and Performance noted the comprehensive report and thanked the Vice-Chairman for his introduction. The Cabinet Member for Innovation, Transformation and Performance referred to page 249 of the report, commenting on the importance of ensuring that holiday accommodation had good access to the internet and mobile signal and noting how many services of the council were interconnected. This would be supported by the announcement of Project Gigabyte.

- 12.5 The Vice-Chairman discussed that during 2014 £300m of funding was allocated by Government for completion of major improvement schemes on the A47. The Vice-Chairman and Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure had followed up about achieving completion of this work so that the economic benefits could be realised.
- 12.6 The Chairman commented that the work outlined in the report was a key piece of work for the County Council to be involved in; recovery of the economy was essential for the county and the country. The place-based approach was beneficial, and the plans would link into county deals and levelling up.
- 12.7 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to **agree**:
1. That the Council's Growth & Development Team works in partnership with the Local Enterprise Partnership to produce a Norfolk and Suffolk Renewal Plan. Sign off on the draft of this Plan will be delegated to the Head of Paid Service and the Cabinet Member for Growing the Economy.
  2. That the Council's Growth & Development Team develops a Norfolk Investment Framework, which sets out the challenges in the next 3-5yrs. The Framework will:
    - provide the evidence base and agreed priorities used to unlock investment, from a wide range of funding sources
    - be brought back to Infrastructure & Development Committee, then Cabinet, for review and sign off

## 12.8 **Evidence and Reasons for Decision**

The report outlines the rationale for the development of a strong evidence base required to compete for future funding.

## 12.9 **Alternative Options**

- a) Do nothing and respond to calls for funding as and when they arise. This should be rejected, as it would cause difficulties in prioritising competing activity and bids across Norfolk, which would put us at a competitive disadvantage Nationally.
- b) Choose to limit support for and input into the LEP's Norfolk and Suffolk Renewal Plan. This should be rejected, as it would result in an imbalance, with Suffolk heavily influencing the areas of potential investment and the LEP prioritising key activity across Suffolk for future funding bids.
- c) Choose to only support the Norfolk and Suffolk Economic Renewal Plan and the shared priorities across the two counties. This should be rejected, as it would limit the opportunities for Norfolk to compete nationally for funds. With uncertainty over the future of LEPs, this would also be risky not to have a separate investment framework for Norfolk.
- d) Delay the development of the Framework until the Shared Prosperity Fund is announced and full details are published. This should be rejected, as it would risk us missing opportunities to develop a strong pipeline of projects that would enable us to draw down funds within the timescales. It could also mean that other investment opportunities are missed for wider schemes.

## 13 Finance Monitoring Report 2021-22 P3: June 2021

- 13.1.1 Cabinet received the report giving a summary of the forecast financial position for the 2021-22 Revenue and Capital Budgets, General Balances, and the Council's Reserves at 31 March 2022, together with related financial information.
- 13.1.2 The Cabinet Member for Finance introduced the report to Cabinet:
- At the close of the first quarter of 2021, a balanced position was forecast for the end of the financial year, 2021-22
  - Some uncertainties remained particularly in relation to the ongoing impact of the pandemic.
  - Children's Services' home to school transport and social care placements were under pressure and Adult Social Services were seeing a purchase of care overspend. As part of additions to the capital programme in recommendation 1, an option of capitalising earlier costs incurred was therefore included within both transformation teams' programmes.
  - The bulk of the capital budget was for highways use funded by DfT and other sources; it was proposed in the report that a reserve be set up, funded from surplus capital receipts to fund the council's commitments to underwrite 15% of the cost of the Norwich Western Link.
  - The initial payment into that reserve of £2.861m represented the sale of land at Hopton to Repton Properties Ltd. The remaining £16.37 would be secured from future land and property sales
  - The Cabinet Member for Finance noted the proposal to move ahead with the Stalham development, subject to planning permission discussed earlier in the meeting. The leverage discussed by The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention would be important at ten times the money the Council would put into the scheme.
  - £69.19m Covid funding for the current year had been received. Covid pressures were summarised in table 4b and detailed in annex 2, and were estimated at £82m. The discrepancy was due to uncertainty around the NHS commitment to fund hospital discharge costs incurred by the Council post September 2021
  - The Council would continue to work with the DfE to find sustainable funding for the high needs block of DSG; underfunding of Norfolk had exacerbated the problem and although it was held off the balance sheet, the in-year deficit was £10.1m
  - The Council would continue to take advantage of rock bottom interest rates to smooth the repayment profile to an annual amount of £20m
  - The Cabinet Member for Finance moved the recommendations as set out in the report.
- 13.2 The Chairman noted the work to find a solution for funding for the high needs block.
- 13.3 Cabinet **RESOLVED**:
1. To recommend to County Council the addition of **£68.324m** to the capital programme to address capital funding requirements as set out in detail in capital appendix 2, paragraph 4 as follows:
    - £68.324m for 2021-22 Highways projects funded through external sources, including the Department for Transport for £61.411m and S106 for £4.681m (further details are available in Capital Appendix 2 paragraph 4.2)

- the amendment of the allocation of £0.600m capital project proposed in July 21 Cabinet to £0.020 to facilitate the 2 year programme of structural monitoring at Kings Lynn Museum and to allocate the unutilised £0.580m to the Shire Hall Victorian Court dry rot mitigation works. (Further details are available in Capital Appendix 2 paragraph 4.3)
2. Subject to County Council approval of recommendation 1 above, to delegate:
    - 2.1) To the Director of Procurement authority to undertake the necessary procurement processes including the determination of the minimum standards and selection criteria (if any) and the award criteria; to shortlist bidders; to make provisional award decisions (in consultation with the Chief Officer responsible for each scheme); to award contracts; to negotiate where the procurement procedure so permits; and to terminate award procedures if necessary;
    - 2.2) To the Director of Property authority (notwithstanding the limits set out at 5.13.6 and 5.13.7 of Financial Regulations) to negotiate or tender for or otherwise acquire the required land to deliver the schemes (including temporary land required for delivery of the works) and to dispose of land so acquired that is no longer required upon completion of the scheme;
    - 2.3) To each responsible chief officer authority to:
      - (in the case of two-stage design and build contracts) agree the price for the works upon completion of the design stage and direct that the works proceed; or alternatively direct that the works be recompleted
      - approve purchase orders, employer's instructions, compensation events or other contractual instructions necessary to effect changes in contracts that are necessitated by discoveries, unexpected ground conditions, planning conditions, requirements arising from detailed design or minor changes in scope
      - subject always to the forecast cost including works, land, fees and disbursements remaining within the agreed scheme or programme budget.
      - That the officers exercising the delegated authorities set out above shall do so in accordance with the council's Policy Framework, with the approach to Social Value in Procurement endorsed by Cabinet at its meeting of 6 July 2020, and with the approach set out in the paper entitled "Sourcing strategy for council services" approved by Policy & Resources Committee at its meeting of 16 July 2018.
  3. To approve the creation of a Norwich Western Link capital reserve funded through capital receipts to fund the non-grant funded element of the Norwich Western Link, with a first contribution of £2.861m from the sale of land at Hopton. (Appendix 2 paragraph 3.6)
  4. To note the Cabinet paper requesting approval for £2.046m capital funding for the Independent Living Capital Programme at Stalham. This £2.046m is part of the £29m Independent Living Programme approved by the Council in October 2018.
  5. To note the period 3 general fund forecast revenue **balanced position**, noting also that Executive Directors will continue to take measures to reduce or eliminate potential over-spends where these occur within services;
  6. To note the COVID-19 funding available of **£69.190m**, including £19.274m brought forward from 2020-21;

7. To note the period 3 forecast 100% savings delivery in 2021-22, noting also that Executive Directors will continue to take measures to mitigate potential savings shortfalls through alternative savings or underspends;
8. To note the forecast General Balances at 31 March 2022 of **£23.763m**.
9. To note the expenditure and funding of the revised current and future 2021-25 capital programmes

#### 13.4 **Evidence and Reasons for Decision**

Two appendices are attached to this report giving details of the forecast revenue and capital financial outturn positions:

**Appendix 1** of the report summarises the revenue outturn position, including:

- Forecast over and under spends
- Covid-19 grant income
- Changes to the approved budget
- Reserves
- Savings
- Treasury management
- Payment performance and debt recovery.

**Appendix 2** of the report summarises the capital outturn position, and includes:

- Current and future capital programmes
- Capital programme funding
- Income from property sales and other capital receipts.

Additional capital funds will enable services to invest in assets and infrastructure as described in Appendix 2 section 4 of the report.

The use of capital receipts for the creation of a capital receipts reserve to partially fund the Norwich Western Link will reduce the borrowing need and will consequently, reduce the revenue costs associated with funding the project.

#### 13.5 **Alternative Options**

In order to deliver a balanced budget, no viable alternative options have been identified to the recommendations in this report. In terms of financing the proposed capital expenditure, no further grant or revenue funding has been identified to fund the expenditure, apart from the funding noted in Appendix 2 of the report.

### 14 **Disposal, Acquisition & Exploitation of Property**

- 14.1.1 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.
- 14.1.2 The Cabinet Member for Commercial Services and Asset Management introduced the report to Cabinet:
  - This report was proposing nine sites for disposal; all sites had been reviewed by the director of property in consultation with the corporate

property strategy group. All sites had been confirmed as not required for service use except for two of the sites in Great Yarmouth.

- The respective division members had been informed of the proposed disposal of each site.
- The Cabinet Member for Commercial Services and Asset Management gave a brief overview of each site proposed for disposal, which was outlined in the report.
- The Cabinet Member for Commercial Services and Asset Management outlined the recommendations as set out in the report.

14.2 The Cabinet Member for Innovation, Transformation and Performance agreed that the Council should dispose of land it no longer needed operationally so proceeds could be put to good use.

14.3 Cabinet **RESOLVED**:

1. To formally declare the Land adjacent to Doctor's Surgery site, Blofield (5009/017) surplus to County Council requirements and instruct the Director of Property to agree terms and dispose of the land to the adjoining owner. In the event of no agreement then the Director of Property is authorised to sell by auction or tender. In the event of the disposal receipt exceeding delegated limits the Director of Property in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services and Cabinet Member for Commercial Services and Asset Management is authorised to accept the most advantageous offer.
2. To formally declare the Additional Land at Former Depot, Arlington Way, Brettenham IP24 2SP (3013/013) (edged red on plan) surplus to County Council requirements and instruct the Director of Property to agree terms and dispose of this land and the land edged blue on plan to the adjoining owner. In the event of no agreement then the Director of Property is authorised to sell by auction or tender. In the event of the disposal receipt exceeding delegated limits the Director of Property in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services and Cabinet Member for Commercial Services and Asset Management is authorised to accept the most advantageous offer.
3. To formally declare the Land adjacent Postwick Lane Buildings, Brundall (5013/100) surplus to County Council requirements and instruct the Director of Property to dispose of the property. In the event of the disposal receipt exceeding delegated limits the Director of Property in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services and Cabinet Member for Commercial Services and Asset Management is authorised to accept the most advantageous offer.
4. To formally declare 3 former highway sites as listed in the report in North Wootton, Norwich and Wymondham surplus to County Council requirements and instruct the Director of Property to dispose of the properties. In the event for each disposal the disposal receipt exceeding delegated limits the Director of Property in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance & Commercial Services and Cabinet Member for Commercial Services and Asset Management is authorised to accept the most advantageous offers.
5. That in the event Adults Services have no use for 38 Hawthorn Road, Great Yarmouth NR31 8ES (6009/080), to formally declare the property surplus to County Council requirements and instruct the Director of Property to dispose

of the property. In the event of the disposal receipt exceeding delegated limits the Director of Property in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services and Cabinet Member for Commercial Services and Asset Management is authorised to accept the most advantageous offer.

6. That in the event Childrens Services and Adults Services have no use for 1b St Catherine's Way, Great Yarmouth NR31 7QB (6009/085), to formally declare the property surplus to County Council requirements and instruct the Director of Property to dispose of the property. In the event of the disposal receipt exceeding delegated limits the Director of Property in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services and Cabinet Member for Commercial Services and Asset Management is authorised to accept the most advantageous offer.
7. To formally declare the Land at Church Road (2038/106 part), Hilgay surplus to County Council requirements and instruct the Director of Property to dispose of the property. In the event of the disposal receipt exceeding delegated limits the Director of Property in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services and Cabinet Member for Commercial Services and Asset Management is authorised to accept the most advantageous offer

#### 14.4 **Evidence and Reasons for Decision**

Declaring the sites and land holdings surplus to County Council use means that the Corporate Property Team can consider options for the disposal and exploitation of these sites.

#### 14.5 **Alternative Options**

Declaring sites and land holdings surplus is a result of the sites no longer being required for service delivery. The alternative would be to retain resulting in incurring holding costs for an asset that is not contributing to service delivery.

### 16 **Reports of the Cabinet Member and Officer Delegated Decisions made since the last Cabinet meeting:**

- 16.1 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to **note** the Delegated Decisions made since the last Cabinet meeting.

The meeting ended at 11:19am

**Chairman**

**Cabinet  
2 August 2021  
Public & Local Member Questions**

<b>Agenda item 6</b>	<b>Public Question Time</b>
6.1	<p><b>Question from Philip Leslie</b> Does the cabinet member agree that Norfolk County Council's assets should be used for the benefit of the local community in which they are situated and that prior to disposal every effort should be made to engage stakeholders such as the local town district councils?</p> <p><b>Response from the Cabinet Member for Commercial Services and Asset Management</b> The responsibility of Norfolk County Council is to support all residents across the County and to deploy our funding where there is need. The disposal of assets helps fund our Capital Programme – providing the maintenance for our highway network, helping us build new schools, or to fund programmes of specialist housing for older people. For this reason we do not ringfence receipts, but fund works where they are needed</p> <p>Within Attleborough, Mr Leslie will be aware that there has been substantial investment into the new Rosecroft School and into the new Attleborough Library. Services I am sure he would agree bring great benefit to the local community.</p> <p>Where land is disposed of in a locality, we will contact the Local Divisional Member, whose role it is to act on behalf of their community. Having reviewed recent disposals with Attleborough I can confirm that Norfolk County Council made contact with the divisional member to inform them of the proposals and to seek feedback.</p>

**Appendix B**

**Cabinet  
2 August 2021  
Local Member Questions**

<b>Agenda item 7</b>	<b>Local Member Issues/Questions</b>
7.1	<p><b>Question from Cllr Alexandra Kemp</b> Medworth, subsidiary to Germany's largest listed municipal energy network MVV, owned by City of Mannheim, wants to build an incinerator upwind of the Wash, Lynn, Welney and Sandringham, to burn 625,000 tonnes of waste a year.</p> <p>From the 95-metre high stack, Lynn and Clenchwarton could be more affected by the air pollution, than Wisbech. Medworth refuse to consult with Lynn communities.</p> <p>Medworth propose to pressure Norfolk roads with 380 lorries a day on the A17 past Clenchwarton, to the Pullover Roundabout.</p> <p>Cambridgeshire County Council voted overwhelmingly against the incinerator.</p> <p>Will Cabinet respond to the consultation (ends 13 August) to reject the incinerator affecting Norfolk residents?</p> <p><b>Response from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste</b> The proposal by MVV is still at the pre application stage and as such the full details of the proposals and their implications is not yet known. The current consultation exercise is seeking views on the Preliminary Environmental Information Report. The purpose of which is to ensure all the likely environmental impacts are addressed in any subsequent application. It is not seeking views on support or opposition to any future proposal. We respect the positions made by our colleagues elsewhere however for the reasons already stated we do not consider it necessary or appropriate to exercise planning judgement at this stage.</p>
7.2	<p><b>Question from Cllr Ben Price</b> This summer, we've witnessed extreme weather events globally. Scientists unequivocally link these to man-made climate change.</p> <p>Again, we've seen flooding across Norfolk, including Beatrice Road in Thorpe Hamlet. Flooding is exasperated by a lack of co-ordination between this council; the lead authority, and district partners, regarding sweeping roads and gulleys. Officers from both councils try to mitigate the impacts of flooding. Representing Beatrice Road at district and county level, I've provided that co-ordination, arranging a meeting with residents and both authorities.</p> <p>What urgent steps will the leader take to establish a co-ordinated approach with district authorities to keep gulleys clear so residents across the county don't find homes unnecessarily flooded?</p> <p><b>Response from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste</b></p>

	<p>The road gullies are cleansed on a risk-based approach. The risk assessment looks at recorded silt levels, flood risk areas, the number of blocked gully reports and classification of the road. This assessment determines the frequency of the cleanse which is undertaken by the County Council's contractor. The District and Borough Councils are responsible for street cleansing.</p> <p>County Council Officers have well established contacts with the District and Borough Councils, and other stakeholders, in order to coordinate a response relating to flooding at a local level. This would include advising the street cleaning authorities of where significant accumulations of road silt could affect the efficiency of our drainage systems.</p> <p>On a strategic level, this collaborative approach is further demonstrated in the work the Norfolk Strategic Flood Appliance are currently delivering to resolve instances of flooding in Norfolk.</p> <p><b>Supplementary question from Cllr Ben Price</b>          “Longer-term, Norfolk is under extreme threat of rising sea levels, costal erosion, inland flooding and heat-waves. What steps is this council taking right now to adapt to climate change, while the opportunity still exists?”</p> <p><b>Response from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste</b>          In response to concerns around climate change, Norfolk County Council adopted an ambitious new Environmental Policy in November 2019. This Policy sets out the goal for Norfolk County Council achieving ‘net zero’ carbon emissions on our estates by 2030, and the means by which we will achieve this. Beyond our immediate estate, we also recognise our role within the wider County working with Government, District Councils and other key organisations in both the public and private sectors. Since the adoption of the Policy, significant work has been undertaken across a number of delivery areas including working with partners, communities and landowners to plant one million trees over five planting seasons; working with partners on a major active travel programme including the development of new walking and cycling infrastructure and EV charging points; and further work has successfully been completed on our long-term plans to install LED streetlights across Norfolk.</p> <p>The Council's approach to tackling climate change is set out in full in the Environmental Policy adopted in November 2019 and available on the County Council website.</p>
7.3	<p><b>Question from Cllr Rhodri Oliver</b>          Could the cabinet member outline all the different uses that were considered, the resulting reports that were drawn up, the professional advice sought and what consultations with the public and other stakeholders have been conducted in respect of the land currently being marketed for sale adjacent to Rosecroft School.</p> <p><b>Response from the Cabinet Member for Commercial Services and Asset Management</b>          Cllr Oliver will be aware that the local planning authority sets the ‘use of land’ and not Norfolk County Council. In October 2019 planning permission was granted for the site for the development of eight residential units. This replaced a planning</p>

	<p>permission from 2017, also for residential development, both of these were granted by Breckland District Council.</p> <p>Details of these and the public consultation can be found on the Breckland Planning portal.</p>
7.4	<p><b>Question from Cllr Paul Neale</b></p> <p>During the lockdown, many children who rely on Alternative Provision for education were left with little or no support due to AP providers not being recognised by the county council as schools. While mainstream schools received laptops for their students, AP provisions had to source donations from charities, initially. This is on top of a consistent lack of funding from state sources for AP providers that leave these institutions, who help some of the most vulnerable children in the county, at risk of a precarious financial position.</p> <p>Will the Cabinet Member agree to a review of the council's policy on Alternative Provision?</p> <p><b>Response from the Cabinet Member for Children's Services</b></p> <p>Alternative providers that are not state maintained are not recognised as schools by the Department for Education. All funding for schools, comes via the local authority through the Designated Schools Grant, and is delegated to maintained schools via a funding formula. Local authorities cannot deviate from that formula. Independent, or charitable alternative providers, that are not Ofsted registered and regulated are not commissioned by the local authority to provide education places. Schools can spend their budget on this provision, but the local authority works through schools, as all children must be on a school roll (or electively Home Educated) and schools are responsible for any additional alternative provision. We continue to encourage unregulated providers to seek registration and we work closely with the regional Ofsted team in line with DfE guidance.</p> <p><b>Question 2 from Cllr Paul Neale</b></p> <p>Some Alternative Providers are not commissioned by the county council directly due to these providers not being recognised as being regulated under DfE guidance. The DfE guidance was last updated in 2013. Will the Cabinet Member for Children's Services lobby Government for an update to the DfE guidance to ensure that alternative providers who work with excluded children can more easily be commissioned by local councils, thereby helping provide security for these services?</p> <p><b>Response from the Cabinet Member for Children's Services</b></p> <p>The council will continue to promote the use of registered and regulated provision for the most vulnerable children. As Cabinet Member for Children's Services I feel it would not be appropriate for me to lobby government to reduce checks and balances when children's safeguarding is at stake.</p> <p>The local authority does not commission alternative provision as schools remain responsible for every child's overall education. They can source and risk assess relevant alternative provision for some part of a young person's school week, and the council has no part in determining this provision. Schools are accountable (including through inspection), children are on their school rolls and it is not our place to directly commission this provision.</p>

7.5	<p><b>Question from Cllr Brian Watkins</b></p> <p>Is the Leader confident that devolution is back on the agenda following the publication of the County Council Network's report on the future of local government? If so, what lessons need to be learned from 'past battles' in order to build consensus about the best way forward for Norfolk?</p> <p><b>Response from the Leader and Cabinet Member for Governance and Strategy</b></p> <p>Thank you for the question. We welcome the Secretary of State's announcements and the opportunity of the County Deal approach. We are committed to working across our whole system to put forward a compelling case for Norfolk. I welcome the guidance set out in the letter to all County Leaders providing a framework to move forward with.</p> <p>Over the past two years we have focussed on working better together and the Covid Pandemic has seen local government across all tiers, rise to the challenge as a real place leader, championing the interests of communities and forging strong partnerships. I think that puts us in a good place to start to have discussions about the Government's call for bids.</p> <p><b>Question 2 from Cllr Brian Watkins</b></p> <p>How will the County Council seek to work with young people across Norfolk to improve their access to employment and further/higher education opportunities following the devastating impact of the Covid-19 pandemic?</p> <p><b>Response from the Cabinet Member for Children's Services</b></p> <p>There are a number of programmes already underway to support young people to access further/higher education and employment. As part of our normal work we track every young person aged 16 and 17 to support high levels of participation and our Guidance Advisers and Young Person Advisers work directly with those judged to be at risk of becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) and those who are NEET. All of our work does of course take account of the impact of the pandemic and we are planning further targeted projects as part of our Learning Recovery Programme. System Leaders across both the education system (Norfolk Learning Board) the post-16 provision (Education and Training Strategy Group) and the Skills Advisory Panel (SAP) have agreed priorities and are also developing collaborative action. Furthermore, we work closely with our colleagues in Growth and Development, HR and the New Anglia LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) to align programmes targeted to support employers training young people.</p> <p>New and existing work (often amended to address the impact of the pandemic) already underway:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summer 21 Transition Challenge – a programme of support for young people moving to the next stage of their education employment or training (<a href="https://helpyouchoose.org/content/infoadvice/summer-transition-2021/">https://helpyouchoose.org/content/infoadvice/summer-transition-2021/</a>)</li> <li>• Strategic and operational partnership working with the LEP, District Councils, DWP, Chamber of Commerce and other partners to ensure coordinated approach to young peoples' progression into employment</li> <li>• Participation and Transition support activities with young people including identification of those at risk of NEET, targeted support at points of transition</li> </ul>

	<p>after year 11, 12 and 13; advice, guidance and support for NEET including referral into EET provision; tracking and keeping in touch services (<a href="https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-local-offer/about-the-local-offer/meet-our-teams/participation-strategy-team">https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-local-offer/about-the-local-offer/meet-our-teams/participation-strategy-team</a>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinated working across NCC teams to join up EET support activity for vulnerable groups including for NEET, LAC/Care Leavers, SEN, YOT</li> <li>• Help You Choose – Norfolk’s Careers Information, advice and opportunities website and online applications system for 14-19 year olds. Used by all schools and post 16 providers and managing over 6000 post 16 applications per annum. Complemented by range of other information materials for young people, parents/carers and teachers/advisers (<a href="https://helpyouchoose.org/content/">https://helpyouchoose.org/content/</a>)</li> <li>• Coordination of Careers Network of school/college careers leaders and advisers including of SEN Transition Coordinators</li> <li>• WEX Norfolk – work experience service for schools and colleges including traded service of health &amp; safety checks and placement brokerage for SEND, and virtual employer experiences from 2020/21 (<a href="https://norfolk.work-experience.co.uk/">https://norfolk.work-experience.co.uk/</a>)</li> <li>• Provision of performance reports for schools to help target support for those most at risk of NEET (Risk of NEET Indicator – RONI) reports, and to review and evaluate the quality of their provision through Year 11 Destinations reports and Y12 &amp;13 Progression Reports</li> <li>• Apprenticeships Norfolk website promoting apprenticeships and recruitment services, grants and support to employers, providers and potential apprentices (<a href="https://apprenticeshipsnorfolk.org/">https://apprenticeshipsnorfolk.org/</a>)</li> <li>• New Pathways to Work Team working with young people in schools and colleges and LA teams including LAC/Care leavers, SEND, Home Educated, NEET etc – promoting awareness and progression into apprenticeships, traineeships, T levels and other work based options</li> <li>• Travel Independence Training (TITAN) for year 9-13s including face to face travel route training from home to college/work for young people with SEND (<a href="https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-and-college-transport/titan-travel-training">https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/school-and-college-transport/titan-travel-training</a>)</li> <li>• Participation in Careers Fairs and events aimed at young people and their parents</li> <li>• Higher Aspiration Scheme (<a href="https://helpyouchoose.org/content/infoadvice/decisions-choices/choices-18/norfolk-higher-aspirations-scheme/">https://helpyouchoose.org/content/infoadvice/decisions-choices/choices-18/norfolk-higher-aspirations-scheme/</a>) extensive programme of activities targeted at year 12s and 13s to promote higher level learning in Higher Education and in higher/degree apprenticeships and proactive working with the LEP Careers Hub, Enterprise Adviser Network and NEACO to promote effective careers education and guidance for young people</li> <li>• Recruit Retain Reward A grant of £1000 for Norfolk based non levy paying business to take on a new young apprentice (aged 16-24) or a young apprentice made redundant as a result of C-19 <a href="https://apprenticeshipsnorfolk.org/recruit-retain-reward">https://apprenticeshipsnorfolk.org/recruit-retain-reward</a> the funding can be utilised in a number of ways including supporting the apprentice</li> <li>• Youth Pledge for Employers The project aims to engage with a wide range of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) across the New Anglia LEP, to develop opportunities for young people to engage in work-based experience, structured employment activities and sector related learning.</li> </ul>
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	<p><a href="https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/business/volunteering-and-mentoring/youth-pledge">https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/business/volunteering-and-mentoring/youth-pledge</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CHANCES, bespoke support for those who are long term unemployed (1 year plus) and with a health condition to help them to overcome barriers in moving closer to or into the labour market. Those aged 18+ and in receipt of Universal Credit or Employment Support Allowance are eligible.</li> </ul> <p><a href="https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/business/grants-and-funding/european-funding/eu-programmes/business-growth-innovation-and-skills/chances">https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/business/grants-and-funding/european-funding/eu-programmes/business-growth-innovation-and-skills/chances</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Range of support and challenge activities to system and learning providers to ensure sufficient and suitable provision for young people and to ensure transition support across 13-19 including through Education Training Strategy Group (ETSG), Skills Advisory Panel (SAP), Norfolk Provision Network; Apprenticeship Norfolk Providers Network, Sixth Form+ Network</li> </ul> <p><u>Planned work</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ESF NEET Support programme – if it is approved – targeting non engaging NEET in Norwich</li> <li>• Social Recovery Project targeting yp NEET/at risk with low level mental health issues</li> <li>• Public Sector Training Academy (CRF bid)</li> </ul>
7.6	<p><b>Question from Cllr Dan Roper</b></p> <p>Will the Portfolio Holder please provide details of the number of landowners and householders still awaiting payments arising from the construction of the Broadland Northway and what is the total amount of money still outstanding?</p> <p><b>Response from the Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure</b></p> <p>More than 100 separate land interests have been directly affected by the project and more than a half have so far been legally completed. Of the outstanding cases, for over half of them the final figure has been agreed but the formal legal transfer has yet to be completed.</p> <p>Of the remaining c.25% of cases, negotiations are continuing with landowners and their representatives/agents but in some instances a compensation claim, or indeed contact from the landowner is still awaited, despite chasing them.</p> <p>Advance payments of compensation have been made in the majority of outstanding land acquisition cases.</p> <p>With compensation cases still to be finalised it is not possible to state what the total amount still to be paid is. However, the latest land estimate remains within the budget allowance.</p> <p>There are also claims received from homeowners who have not had land taken but believe that their property value has suffered because of the scheme, with over 650 such 'Part 1' claims been received to date.</p> <p>Just because a Part 1 claim is submitted does not automatically mean that a compensation payment is due to the homeowner. They or their appointed agent must justify and evidence the impact and that it is covered under the limited assessment criteria. In approximately half the claims received our surveyors do</p>

	<p>not consider there is any justifiable loss, and the claim is being resisted.</p> <p>Of the Part 1 claims received, approximately 50% have been resisted, 25% have been provisionally agreed, 12% are new claims to be assessed, 8% are being actively negotiated and of the final 6%, it is just the property value, as at the valuation date, that is to be agreed.</p> <p>As with the land acquisition compensation total payment, it is not possible to state what level of payments will ultimately be made until all negotiations have been completed and the timescale for claims to be submitted expires.</p> <p><b>Question 2 from Cllr Dan Roper</b></p> <p>There are residents and landowners in my division who have been waiting for nearly three years for compensation payments linked to construction of the Broadland Northway. Does the Portfolio Holder feel this is reasonable and what assurances and timeframes can he provide re these individuals receiving the money that they are due?</p> <p><b>Response from the Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure</b></p> <p>Compensation resulting from major infrastructure projects are historically a long and complicated process as in many cases the full impact of the scheme cannot be assessed until the scheme has been open to traffic for some time.</p> <p>To help overcome this, on the land acquisition cases advance payments of 90% of the Council's assessment of compensation can be made following possession being taken and this has been done in many cases on this scheme.</p> <p>As well as the Council progressing matters it is also incumbent on landowners or their appointed advisors to submit and then progress negotiations or legal transfers. This has caused delays in some cases.</p> <p>It is also important to ensure, especially for Part 1 claims, that they are valid or appropriate claims. Across the scheme homeowners are represented by a number of different agents, some of whom are national agents specialising in such claims, but also involved in other schemes across the country, whereas others are local agents who have limited experience in dealing with such compensation claims.</p> <p>It is important to ensure consistency across the whole length of the scheme and with the different agents, and this takes time. It is normal to meet with agents collectively and individually to progress discussions but this has been restricted due to Covid.</p> <p>With a number of cases now agreed between our surveyors and the homeowners the payment authorisation process is underway and we are optimistic that payments will be made in the next two months.</p>
7.7	<p><b>Question from Cllr Tim Adams</b></p> <p>Could the Cabinet member please advise what alternatives to glyphosate are being considered for weed control on our footways and roads and how soon will alternatives start to be used?</p> <p><b>Response from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste</b></p>

	<p>Norfolk County Council takes a careful approach to the use of herbicides and pesticides across its estate, including highways, County Farms and other locations and one which is always led by national legislation and directives, including the Plant Protection Products (Sustainable Use) Regulations 2012.</p> <p>As laid out in the Pollinator Action Plan, the Council's approach to its Roadside Nature Reserves (RNRs) is to avoid the use of pesticides. Officers are currently working on a new policy with regard to the Council's use of herbicides and pesticides and this will be shared with the Environment Member Oversight Group in due course ahead of any committee review as part of the Council's overarching approach to its policy framework.</p> <p><b>Question 2 from Cllr Tim Adams</b> Following the exponential levels of growth we have seen this year, the failure to keep many junctions and sight lines clear, and the absence of any strategy to manage grass verges in line with the advice of organisations such as Plant Life, should the most recent reduction in the grass verge maintenance budget be seen as a failure and just another budget cut disguised as something positive?</p> <p><b>Response from the Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure</b> This season's prolonged wet and mild weather have been the perfect growing conditions for Norfolk's roadside verges, resulting in exceptional growth across the county.</p> <p>This year, the County Council has changed the annual grass cutting arrangements: urban cuts have been reduced from 5 to 4 cuts; rural cuts on roads classified A and B have remained at 2 full cuts; and rural cuts on roads classified as C and Unclassified have been reduced to one cut.</p> <p>Whilst this approach will result in budget savings (circa £100k) for the County Council (which have already been agreed by Members and included in the budget) there will also be environmental benefits for verges cut less often and to allow flowers to complete their full lifecycle rather than being cut down before setting seed – see: <a href="https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/about-us/news/road-verge-management-guide">https://www.plantlife.org.uk/uk/about-us/news/road-verge-management-guide</a></p> <p>A report entitled "Greenways to Greenspaces: Green Travel and Green Networks along our Highways Corridors" was presented to The Infrastructure and Development Select Committee in July which proposed that a new NCC policy on verge management is established to manage roadside verges. A copy of the report can be found <a href="#">here</a></p> <p>(The first rural verge cut commenced on 17 May 2021; the second and final rural cut commenced 26 July 2021).</p>
7.8	<p><b>Question from Cllr Steffan Aquarone</b> Could the cabinet member inform us what the Council is doing to maintain the trees that were planted along the Broadland Northway and comment on the ongoing concerns being raised by residents that many thousands of the trees are still dying?</p> <p><b>Response from the Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure</b></p>

	<p>It is very regrettable that some trees have not survived, and others are showing signs of decline.</p> <p>The Development Consent Order (DCO) requires the County Council to replace any trees which die within the first five years following the completion of the landscape planting (completed in 2019). Norfolk County Council reports back to Planning Authority (Broadland District Council) who are monitoring compliance to the DCO.</p> <p>A maintenance and replacement contract exists with Norse, which identifies trees on Broadland Northway which have not survived. A substantial programme of replanting was undertaken last year which was largely successful. A low failure rate has been observed after last year's replanting and those trees which have failed will be replaced in November /December 2021.</p>
7.9	<p><b>Question from Cllr Jamie Osborn</b></p> <p>The Economist leader on 17 July stated, "The opportunity to pollute the atmosphere without penalty is [a] distorting subsidy." Fossil-fuel polluters pay nothing to meet the cost of the damage produced by their pollution. In the run-up to COP26, there are increasing calls for a carbon tax that could help finance a just transition and help communities in locally and globally adapt to the inevitable change and disruption that climate breakdown is already bringing. Will the leader of the Council join these calls and urge the Government to explore options for a carbon tax?</p> <p><b>Response from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste</b></p> <p>In terms of climate action, Norfolk County Council is continuing to focus on the ambitious goal of achieving Net Zero by 2030 with regard to our own estate and operations, as well as working with a diverse number of partners across the County, delivering against many of the climate change topics which will be discussed at the forthcoming COP26. Many of the activities in the County Council's current programme, including the planting of 1 million trees, improvements to the green travel infrastructure across Norfolk, and the development of an innovative, new Environmental Hub at Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse, involve working closely with our local communities. We also recognise that our actions locally contribute to the actions which are needed nationally and internationally, and which will be considered fully by the COP26 members in Glasgow in the autumn.</p>
7.10	<p><b>Question from Cllr Mike Smith-Clare</b></p> <p>With the Summer holidays upon us, does the Cabinet Member for Children's Services know how many Norfolk children are receiving support to alleviate holiday hunger and how many are identified as living in poverty?</p> <p><b>Response from the Cabinet Member for Children's Services</b></p> <p>We are pleased to confirm that we have supported Norfolk schools, colleges, early years settings and our own colleagues to issue 27276 holiday food vouchers to eligible families so far. This includes families with children who are out of school, at independent settings or electively home educated. It represents a considerable achievement, as we worked with an allocation of 27000 vouchers and it means Norfolk children benefit from £2.45m of additional funding to ensure they are well-nourished.</p>

	<p>We identify children in low income families, and this data can be found on Norfolk Insight (<a href="https://www.norfolkinsight.org.uk/deprivation/">https://www.norfolkinsight.org.uk/deprivation/</a>). The most recent data available is for 2018/19 and at that time 21,812 Children under 16 were living in families with Absolute Low Income and 28,146 Children under 16 were living in families with Relative Low Income.</p>
7.11	<p><b>Question from Cllr Maxine Webb</b> Given the recent criticism of NCC's lack of co-production with disability groups and the good practice principle of 'nothing about us without us' will Cabinet amend Policy 16 of the Local Transport Plan to commit to working with groups made up of and representing disabled people, such as Making it Real Norfolk, Equal Lives, the Learning Disabilities Partnership Board and the Norwich Access Group to ensure disabled people are actively involved in decisions made about transport accessibility in the county?</p> <p><b>Response from the Cabinet Member for Highways and Infrastructure</b> We will make an addition to the wording of the first bullet point in the section of Policy 16 "What this means in practice" to include consultation with relevant groups representing people with disabilities.</p>
7.12	<p><b>Question from Cllr Chrissie Rumsby</b> Can the Cabinet Member for Children's Services confirm exactly what percentage of the Holiday Activity and Food Programme funding the Council has requested to use in order to provide places for children who are considered as vulnerable or in need of this provision over the Summer holidays and whether this includes the examples given in the Department for Education guidance notes: children assessed as being in need, looked-after children, children with an EHC plan, children assessed as otherwise vulnerable, children living in areas of high deprivation?</p> <p><b>Response from the Cabinet Member for Children's Services</b> In Norfolk, we have 50,000 places on the HAF programme this summer spreading across 16 days over the 6 weeks. We have been granted permission to offer up to 15% of our places to non-FSM children that are considered vulnerable following the DfE guidance. In addition, we are offering places to those electively home educated (EHE), supported directly by the Local Authority (Section 19), etc and using headteacher discretion as they know their own families. As a result we have offered 500 places to other vulnerable young people, which will give them up to 8000 places over the 16 HAF days.</p> <p>It is too early to evaluate the take up of these places, as the programmes have only just got underway and parents can still register for any of the offer in the coming weeks by going to <a href="https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/campaigns/big-norfolk-holiday-fun">https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/what-we-do-and-how-we-work/campaigns/big-norfolk-holiday-fun</a>. Norfolk is of course planning to utilise 100% of the funding offered by the DfE.</p>
7.13	<p><b>Question from Cllr Brenda Jones</b> Please will the cabinet member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention tell me how many people are currently on the social care waiting list, whether that number is going up and if so by how much?</p>

**Response from the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention**

Thank you for your question. During the Covid 19 pandemic the number of referrals to Social Care and Health has increased greatly, over the last year the number of people discharged from hospital to our teams has doubled. There are currently 1900 people on our waiting list an increase of 53% in the last year. I would like to pay tribute to the commitment of the staff across the Social Care and Health System who have soldiered on in very difficult conditions and who are working very hard to reduce the waiting list.