

Norfolk County Council

Minutes of the Meeting Held at 10am on Monday 23 November 2020

Present:

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

Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Tim Adams; Cllr Stephen Askew; Cllr Stuart Clancy; Cllr David Collis; Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris; Cllr Margaret Stone and Cllr Chrissie Rumsby;

1 Minutes

- 1.1 The minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 21 September 2020 were confirmed as a correct record and would be signed by the Chair as soon as possible.

2 Chair's Announcements

- 2.1 Council was advised of the sad passing of former County Councillor Tony Tomkinson who died on 17 October 2020. Tony served as a County Councillor for Clavering Division from 2001 to 2012 and was Chair of Norfolk County Council in 2010-11.

Tony then served as the Armed Forces Commissioner for Norfolk from 2012 to 2019. He was the first Armed Forces Commissioner to be appointed in the country. He led the Norfolk Armed Forces Covenant Board from inception to a position of great strength, demonstrated by the support for the Norfolk Armed Forces Covenant Conference in 2018.

Tony's personal belief in the importance of remembering those who sacrificed their lives to serve their country was reflected by the launch of the Norfolk Armed Forces Covenant World War One Fund, which enabled communities to commemorate World War One. Tony's legacy is an ambitious Action Plan the Covenant Board continues to take forward and deliver.

Tony loved Norfolk and cared very much for its communities and the people in his Division. From the many tributes that have poured in for Tony, it is clear he was a much respected councillor and he was considered to be a true gentleman.

Our thoughts are with his wife Sheila and their family at this difficult time.

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

- 2.2 In October, the Chair attended the annual service to commemorate the life and death of Edith Cavell. On Remembrance Sunday, he joined HM Lord Lieutenant and Lord Dannatt at the Service of Remembrance outside Norwich Cathedral. A small Remembrance Service had been filmed at County Hall prior to lockdown and circulated on Wednesday 11 November for all staff and Members to participate, which was the first internal virtual event and had been very well received.
- 2.3 On behalf of Council, the Chair congratulated Cllr Stuart Dark on receiving an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) in Her Majesty the Queen's Birthday Honours List in recognition of his services to the community.

3 Declarations of Interest

- 3.1 Cllr Chenery of Horsbrugh declared an other interest as he was a Trustee of NORAH (Norfolk Archives and Heritage Development Foundation).
- 3.2 Cllr Sandra Squire declared an interest in agenda item 11 (Motions to Council – Motion 5, Holt Hall) as she was Chairman of a Community Interest Company which dealt with promoting water sports and outdoor activities, although the company had no association with either Norfolk County Council or any of its properties.
- 3.3 The following Councillors declared an interest in agenda item 11 (Motions to Council – Motion 5 Holt Hall) as they had signed a petition to save Holt Hall from closure:
- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Cllr Emma Corlett | Cllr Jess Barnard |
| Cllr Brociek-Coulton | Cllr Dan Roper |
| Cllr Colleen Walker | Cllr Mike Smith-Clare |
| Cllr Brenda Jones | Cllr Kim Clipsham |
| Cllr Dave Rowntree | Cllr Mike Sands |
| Cllr Brian Watkins | Cllr Steve Morphew |
| Cllr Danny Douglas | |
- 3.4 Cllr Sarah Butikofer declared an interest in agenda item 11 (Motions to Council – Motion 5 Holt Hall) as she had signed the petition and was also in contact with the Friends of Holt Hall.
- 3.5 Cllr Marie Strong declared an interest in agenda item 11 (Motions to Council – Motion 5 Holt Hall). Cllr Strong had not signed the petition but opposed the closure of Holt Hall and had spoken with residents about the matter.

4 To receive any items of business which the Chairman decides should be considered as a matter of urgency.

- 4.1 Council **AGREED** to consider the following item of urgent business under special circumstances as defined in Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972. The grounds for taking the urgent item was that it was not known until 20 November which political group Cllr John Timewell would join, therefore it was not possible to produce a report on the allocation of seats before the meeting. It would be an unacceptably long delay for Council to wait until the next scheduled Council meeting in April 2021 to approve this matter.
- 4.2 **Proportional Allocation of Seats on Committees**
- 4.2.1 Council received the report (Appendix A) by the Executive Director of Strategy & Governance, setting out that, following the resignation of Councillor John Timewell from the Liberal Democrat Group and his move to the Conservative Group, the political balance on the Council had changed and it was necessary to review the overall allocations of committee places to political groups.
- 4.2.2 Council was asked to approve the allocation of committee places and note that there would be 1 extra place to the Conservative Group and 1 less place for the Liberal Democrat Group.

4.2.3 The Leader advised that the Conservative Group would take up the Group's additional seat on the Scrutiny Committee to be vacated by the Liberal Democrat Group.

4.2.4 Council **RESOLVED** to:

Approve the allocation of committee places and note that there would be 1 extra place to the Conservative Group and 1 less place to the Liberal Democrat Group on the Scrutiny Committee.

5 Questions to Leader of the Council

5.1 Question from Cllr Steve Morpew

Cllr Morpew asked if the Leader had any regrets about declaring Norfolk open for business before the half term holidays and subsequent increases in infection rates in parts of the county. He also asked, given the speed the infection could spread, what lessons had been learned with regard to prematurely asserting Norfolk should emerge from the current lockdown into the lowest tier of restrictions before knowing the terms of the restrictions or the rate of infection.

The Leader replied that as far as the economy and the public health implications of covid were concerned, it had always been about striking the right balance between lives and livelihoods. He added that everyone wanted Norfolk's economy to be revitalised as there were many small businesses who operated on low margins and who were dependant on certain times of the year to attain the revenue they needed. The Leader continued that he felt it was not unreasonable at that time to state that Norfolk was open for business, particularly when businesses had made determined efforts to be covid-safe.

With regard to the spread of infections, the Leader said that this was always likely as additional testing was bound to identify more cases. He cited the University of East Anglia which had identified many cases from testing and felt it was better to find those cases than for them to remain undetected.

In conclusion the Leader felt everyone should be optimistic, particularly as a vaccine appeared imminent and that Norfolk's infection rate was still lower than other parts of the country. He added that a vast amount of learning had taken place over a relatively short timescale in a rapidly moving and changing situation and that the work Norfolk had done in keeping services running had been tremendous. He continued that he would like to see Norfolk retain a position of not having onerous restrictions when lockdown finished on 2 December 2020.

5.2 Question from Cllr Dan Roper

Cllr Roper asked, given the figures on business birth rates in Norfolk showed it was well below the UK average and had fallen year on year between 2014 and 2018, what the Leader thought the reasons for this were.

The Leader replied that he hoped everyone wanted to support Norfolk's business and value them which had been done in the past and would continue in the future. He added that Norfolk had a strong record of business growth and keeping businesses going and that small and medium sized enterprises were very successful in Norfolk as well as being the backbone of the Norfolk economy. He added that he sat on the New Anglia Capital Board which was part of the

Local Enterprise Partnership where he saw first hand some real entrepreneurship and how people brought new businesses to its attention to request funding. It was accepted that Norfolk had been behind the times in terms of new business start-ups when measured per capita, although Norfolk had many businesses that survived more than 2 years, with the survival rate of businesses in Norfolk higher than the national average at approximately 45% - the national average was 42% and London 39-40%. The Leader referred to the work at Hethel Innovation which supported new business start-ups, many of which had been in existence for a long time and had a survival rate beyond 2 years of approximately 95% compared with 30% in the rest of the country. He urged everyone to value and support local businesses.

5.3 **Question from Cllr Sandra Squire**

Cllr Squire asked, given that reorganisation and devolution plans appeared to be on hold, if the Leader could confirm whether the County Council elections scheduled for May 2021 would go ahead and what plans were being made to hold an election during a pandemic in making it as safe as possible for voters, candidates and those involved in all aspects of an election.

The Leader replied that he had not heard anything to suggest elections would not go ahead in 2021. He added that any elections would not be held on any new boundary arrangements, or about a unitary government. Regarding the issue of safety, the Leader said that he didn't believe elections would proceed if voting wasn't covid-safe for everyone concerned.

5.3 **Question from Cllr Ian Mackie**

Cllr Mackie referred to a media report on 27 October, where Cllr Corlett had been quoted, on behalf of the Norfolk Labour Group, that the County Council's covid response was worse than useless and that the EDP had also stated that it was self-congratulatory claptrap. Cllr Mackie asked if the Leader agreed that this was inaccurate and seemed hugely unfair and disrespectful to the hard work of County Council staff over recent months.

5.3.1 Cllr Steve Morphey raised a point of order that the quote was inaccurate and had not been what Cllr Corlett had said, adding that it would be inappropriate for the Leader to respond to a false statement.

5.3.2 Cllr Emma Corlett raised a point of order by way of personal explanation, in that her comments specifically referred to the Cabinet report being self-congratulatory.

5.3.3 The Leader considered it was appropriate to respond as the EDP hadn't printed his full reply on 27 October. He added that the report had provided a look back at the work the Council, its staff and partners had done and the achievements over recent months, the work of which was ongoing and would continue into the future. He added that thanks were owed for everything that had been achieved and continued to be achieved in supporting Norfolk's residents, businesses and communities, as well as reflecting that communities had responded so well in supporting themselves and others, which showed a true Norfolk team effort.

The Leader referred to the clamour for a local inquiry, stating that the covid pandemic wasn't yet over and that it was important resource intensive inquiries did not take place.

The Leader also said that he had been disappointed in the press report as he didn't feel the Cabinet report was worse than useless, adding that the comments were at variance with the conclusions of the Scrutiny Committee meeting on 23 September.

5.4 Question from Cllr Alexandra Kemp

Cllr Kemp raised a question about Norfolk County Council's Help for Victims of Domestic Abuse, White Ribbon Day and the County Council's Domestic Abuse Change Champions. She asked if the County Council was going to continue to fund the NCC Domestic Abuse Change Champions in 2021, highlighting that during the pandemic there had been a 77% increase in calls to the helpline for this essential service.

The Leader responded that he supported white ribbon day, adding that concerns about domestic abuse had been raised in Norfolk, as well as nationally by the Chief Constable. He continued that Children's Services had reviewed, developed and enhanced its domestic abuse offer and response and had supported a training programme in upskilling people in how to deal with domestic abuse. Children's services had also committed to coordinating and maintaining the Domestic Abuse Champions Network which involved training, consultation and partnership working. The Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence Board had requested an organisation called Safe Lives, a National abuse charity who supported Norfolk as a domestic abuse beacon, undertake a review and offer recommendations on how to deliver the service in the future. He added that the Children's Services Leadership Team had discussed various options and would provide a report on the outcomes in due course.

5.5 Question from Cllr Colleen Walker

Cllr Walker asked if the Leader believed public sector workers, including Norfolk County Council staff who were clapped during the lockdown for their amazing work during the pandemic, should be rewarded with a pay freeze.

The Leader replied that the government had pumped in £bns to support people and the economy over recent months and that public sector borrowing had risen to £2 trillion. He added that he appreciated public sector pay had been talked about, although there were no details as yet. He also added that the Chancellor of the Exchequer would be making a Spending Review announcement on 25 November and he awaited the outcome of that.

5.6 Question from Cllr Brian Watkins.

Cllr Watkins asked if the Leader agreed with the comments made by the Leader of South Norfolk District Council that the spread of the pandemic was due to a lack of discipline by the public.

The Leader replied that Norfolk had responded magnificently to the restrictions which had been hard for everyone concerned. He added that he felt there were cases where people were starting to think a vaccine was close and things were back to normal, although this was not the case as the vaccine was not yet ready and would need to be rolled out when it became available. He added that his message was not to do with enforcement it was about continuing the good work being done; the hands, face and space campaign and isolating when necessary.

6 Recommendations from Committees

6.1 Recommendations from the Cabinet meetings held on 5 October and 2 November 2020.

The recommendations from the Cabinet meetings held on 5 October and 2 November 2020 were moved by the Cllr Andrew Proctor, Chair of Cabinet.

Council **RESOLVED** to:

6.1.1 Finance Monitoring Report 2020-21 P5: August 2020

1. **Approve** the expenditure of £0.022m to purchase and implement a Case management system for appointeeships and deputyships as set out in paragraph 4.1 of Capital Appendix 1, to be funded from additional prudential borrowing.
2. **Approve** the expenditure of £0.039m to replace Museums Service tills as set out in paragraph 4.2 of Capital Appendix 1, to be funded from additional prudential borrowing.
3. **Approve the addition** of £30m prudential borrowing to the capital programme.

6.1.2 Schools Capital Programme

- Note the total funding for Schools' Capital Programme for the next three years and beyond
- Agree an initial £30m borrowing as part of the requirement of the programme and inclusion in the County's Council's Capital Programme for next year.
- Review the funding gap annually to take account of other sources of external funding which may come forward and opportunities for alternatives fully exploited.
- In the event of a continued funding gap, as a last resort council investment will be profiled as indicated under paragraph 2.17 (these figures may change based any new sources of funding)
- **AGREE** that this is incorporated into the Capital Programme

6.1.3 Statement of Purpose of Norfolk Adoption Service 2020-21

Approve the Statement of Purpose and Functions for the Local Authority Adoption Service to comply with the Care Standards Act 2000.

6.1.4 Statement of Purpose of Norfolk Fostering Service 2020-21

Approve the Statement of Purpose and Functions for the Local Authority Fostering Service to comply with the Care Standards Act 2000.

6.1.5 Annual Review of NCC Residential Children's Homes.

Approve the Statements of Purpose for the Local Authority Children's Homes to comply with the Care Standards Act 2000.

6.1.6 Finance Monitoring Report 2020-21 P6: September 2020

1. **Approve** additional prudential borrowing of £1.4m to be available for the purchase of farmland at Outwell and associated costs, subject to approval, as set out in paragraph 4.1 of Capital Appendix 2.

6.2 **Recommendations from the Employment Committee meeting held on 30 September 2020**

The recommendations from the Employment Committee meeting held on September 2020 were moved by the Cllr Andrew Proctor, Chair of Employment Committee.

Council **RESOLVED** to:

- **Approve** the revised Terms of Reference of the Employment Committee as set out in Appendix A of the report.

6.3 **Recommendations from the Corporate Select Committee meeting held on 9 November 2020.**

- 6.3.1 The recommendations from the Corporate Select Committee meeting held on 9 November 2020 were moved by Cllr Karen Vincent, Chair of the Select Committee.

- 6.3.2 Cllr Alexandra Kemp moved an additional recommendation to Paragraph 18 (Social Value), part D(iii) to include the words "This will apply to young people in the care of Norfolk County Council and to Care Leavers". The motion was seconded by Cllr Mike Smith-Clare.

In response, the Chair of Corporate Select Committee advised that the Committee would be considering the Constitution over the next two meetings and would pick up the motion for the Committee to consider at its next meeting.

- 6.3.3 Council **RESOLVED** to:

1. **Agree** the amendments proposed for recommendation to Council at its meeting on 23 November 2020, at:
 - 1.1 Appendix 5 (Officer Delegations)
 - 1.2 Appendix 15 (Financial Regulations)
 - 1.3 Appendix 16 (Contract Standing Orders) for immediate implementation after the Council meeting.

With the exception of paragraph 3.4.5 on which the Committee made no recommendation but asked the Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer to make a recommendation to Council on the issue.

6.4 **Proposed Amendments to the Council Constitution**

- 6.4.1 Council received the report by the Monitoring Officer setting out further proposed changes to the Constitution, in addition to those recommended by Corporate Select Committee. The recommendation was moved by the Leader of the Council.

6.4.2 Council **RESOLVED** to:

Agree to amend the Constitution at Appendix 15, paragraph 3.4.5 as set out below:

The Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services is responsible for ensuring that proposals demonstrate adherence to the guidance and Members should ensure that any proposed budget amendments are made available to the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services at least five working days before the County Council budget meeting. Members should adhere to any agreed protocol for budget amendments. Members' proposed budget amendments must be finalised two working days before the County Council budget meeting in order that the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services can report on the robustness of any proposed budget amendments. In accordance with established culture and practice, proposed budget amendments received in accordance with Financial Regulations will be published in advance of the County Council meeting at which they are to be discussed.

7. Cabinet Report (Questions to Cabinet Members)

Cllr Andrew Proctor, Leader and Chair of Cabinet, moved the report of the meetings held on 5 October and 2 November 2020. Council **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** the report.

7.1 Question from Cllr Brenda Jones to Cllr John Fisher, Cabinet Member for Children's Services.

Cllr Jones asked if the Council had a duty of care and a responsibility to ensure people contracted to work for the County Council were aware that PPE would be provided where necessary. She explained that some cleaning staff at a school in her division were not given PPE because the company they worked for required them to provide their own. When she had spoken to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care, he advised that Norfolk County Council could provide free PPE for people in this position. She asked if the Cabinet Member would look into the matter and let Council know the outcome.

The Cabinet Member responded that he was unaware of the situation and if Cllr Jones forwarded the details he would look into the matter and advise the employer what its responsibilities were and offer help where necessary.

7.2 Question from Cllr Dan Roper to Cllr Martin Wilby, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport.

Cllr Roper asked, following the Government Minister Baroness Vere's view on the A47 that Norfolk had to strengthen its case for dualling, where and how did he think Norfolk had fallen short of making a case so far.

The Cabinet Member responded that a strong case had been submitted for dualling the A47 through the A47 Alliance and that the priorities of East Winch to Tilney and the Acle Straight had been proposed for the next round of RIS3 funding. Although not successful in those bids, campaigning would continue to get the schemes funded as soon as possible. He continued that under the RIS1

schemes, £300m of funding would be spent in Norfolk in the next few years to upgrade the major parts of the A47 which was welcome and reiterated that campaigning would continue to dual the entire A47 from Lowestoft to Peterborough, which was a key route through to the Midlands from Norfolk and Suffolk and was a vital artery running through the middle of the county.

7.3 Question from Cllr Sandra Squire to Cllr Andy Grant, Cabinet Member Environment & Waste

Cllr Squire stated it was now a year since the council had adopted its new environmental policy and agreed the 1 million trees project. She asked the Cabinet Member to update Council with how many trees had been planted in the last year, what effect Covid had had on that and what plans were in place going forward, particularly to involve parishes and community groups.

As the Cabinet Member was unable to provide a response due to technological problems, a written response was provided. (Appendix C).

7.4 Question from Cllr Roy Brame to Cllr Greg Peck, Cabinet Member for Commercial Services & Asset Management.

Cllr Brame asked for some clarity on a story he had read in the press stating that Norfolk County Council had spent £1m on the Cosy Carpet building in Thetford and that the people of Thetford didn't gain any benefit from the action. He added that the only building he knew by this name was a retail outlet on the Mundford Road, however the picture that accompanied the story showed an important building in Thetford's heritage, dating back to the industrial revolution, where Charles Burrell steam engines were built. He thanked Norfolk County Council for saving the building, which had been on Breckland District Councils unsightly building list and now stood at the new bus terminus which was the entrance for tourists to the town, and also that moving of the old bus station had been a catalyst for building a riverside complex and cinema, which was a further benefit for the people of Thetford. He continued that both himself and Cllr Jermy had been briefed as to why the action was necessary and that the money referred to was for the whole of the land owned by Mr Guthrie and not only the building. He asked if that was true and also took the opportunity to ask why the press felt it unnecessary to ask for a comment from the Councillor who represented the people of Thetford on all three levels of local government in this part of Thetford.

The Cabinet Member for Commercial Services & Asset Management said he appreciated the comments about the benefits to Thetford, adding that Cllr Jermy had been made fully aware that the costs provided to him were not just for the warehouse but were for a number of parcels of land that now formed the bus station. The costs quoted were pro-rata'd across the whole scheme and included all works associated with the bus station, including the work to 4 Minstergate, the bus concourse, car parking, highway works and the toilet block. The reason the costs were prorata'd was stated in the Freedom of Information documents supplied to Cllr Jermy and the EDP.

The Cabinet Member continued that the cost of making the warehouse structurally sound, as well as the fees, such as legal, planning and design, could not be attributed to specific elements of the project as the cost was for the whole complex. He added that as part of the regeneration work, the Council had repaired and made watertight the historic former warehouse building, although the building itself was just a shell, with no interior floors or utilities.

The Cabinet Member reiterated that the settlement paid to Mr Guthrie was for the parcels of land used for the bus station, not just the warehouse. The land was now incorporated into the bus terminal and without the land the project could not have progressed. The final go-ahead for the project had been received in November 2013 when the Inspector had rejected Mr Guthrie's appeal against the compulsory purchase order stating that "The scheme was beneficial to Thetford" and the project "would secure the renovation of a grade 2 listed warehouse which had been derelict since 2001". The project had commenced in April 2014. The Cabinet Member reflected why the Rainbow Alliance hadn't taken the opportunity to settle the dispute while they were in power and if Cllr Jermy believed tax payers money should be put at risk by proceeding to a tribunal with the associated costs incurred. He asked if Cllr Jermy would like to apologise to officers for continuing to make claims in the press that they had done a poor job and wasted tax payers money.

7.5 Question from Cllr Alexandra Kemp to Cllr Bill Borrett, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health & Prevention.

Cllr Kemp stated that Winchley Care Home in West Winch was waiting up to five days for covid-19 tests results, putting residents lives at risk. She cited that recently, a batch of 36 residents tests were not returned. She asked what Public Health would be doing to ensure results were returned in a timely manner and what proper record keeping was done to ensure they were all returned.

The Cabinet Member replied that the responsibility for testing rested with Public Health England and not the County Council, although the County Council was in contact with Public Health England and the NHS laboratories responsible for providing the service. He continued that feedback from care home providers in Norfolk generally was that there had been a marked improvement in test result turnaround times recently and the delays of more than 2 days experienced during the first wave had almost been eradicated.

Where the County Council was made aware of significant delays, or no results, the Outbreak Control Teams investigated and it was often found that the cause was due to incomplete patient information, or in respect of the swabs submitted incorrect labelling, or the failure to return swabs within the time frame where samples could be successfully processed. The Cabinet Member continued that there was good communication with care homes with high quality support and advice offered and that Public Health in Norfolk continued to improve local systems and to influence national testing.

The Cabinet Member advised that on 19 November 2020, Winchley Care Home had been contacted as a result of Cllr Kemp's advance notice of the question, and the Manager had reported that three tests were currently pending, although they were not unduly delayed.

7.6 Question from Cllr Terry Jermy to Cllr Greg Peck, Cabinet Member for Commercial Services & Asset Management.

Cllr Jermy said that he noted the Cabinet Member for Commercial Services & Asset Management's defence of the Cosy Carpet, Thetford building and asked if he would commit to a formal review taking place to explore what happened and what lessons could be learned.

The Cabinet Member replied that he wouldn't support a review, as the freedom of information request had explained the details articulated in his response to Cllr Brame and he had nothing further to add.

7.7 Question from Cllr Sarah Butikofer to Cllr John Fisher, Cabinet Member for Children's Services.

Cllr Butikofer asked if the Cabinet Member for Children's Services was confident that the correct procedures had been followed when considering the future of Holt Hall and that he had been fully briefed unlike the local ward Member. She added that she was concerned decisions were being made behind closed doors and that she had received an email from a journalist asking if information she had received was correct and that Holt Hall had already got a sale agreed sign on it.

The Cabinet Member reassured Council that he was fully confident with the procedures undertaken and that he had been kept fully informed by officers as necessary. He continued that the decision would be made by Cabinet at its meeting on 7 December 2020 and apologised if Cllr Butikofer hadn't been kept informed. The Cabinet Member also confirmed that there was no for sale notice at Holt Hall and reiterated that Cabinet would be making its decision on 7 December 2020.

7.8 Question from Cllr Ed Maxfield to Cllr Martin Wilby, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport.

Cllr Maxfield referred to the registration of historic rights of way and said in the last four years the Council had received 131 applications for public rights of way to be included in a definitive map, although only 58 routes had been added so far. He added that one parish in his division had been waiting for 3.5 years for a route to be added and had only recently received draft approval. Cllr Maxfield asked if Council would be able to meet the January 2026 deadline for registering historic rights of way and if not, what was the Cabinet Member planning to do to resolve the matter.

The Cabinet Member responded that plans were in place to achieve the target and he was confident the Council would meet this target by 2026.

7.9 Question from Cllr Carl Smith to Cllr Graham Plant, Cabinet Member for Growing the Economy.

Cllr Smith referred to a recent Scrutiny Committee meeting where the leader of the opposition had asked people to stay away from Norfolk. He asked, given the role the tourism sector played in the economy, if the Cabinet member would join him in promoting the work of the tourism sector across Norfolk in these difficult times.

The Cabinet Member replied that the response was disappointing and explained that Experience Tourism had been set up to support tourism businesses as part of a long term recovery with the overarching goal to safely reopen tourism this year, although the end of the year was approaching.

The following points were noted:

- Funding to purchase PPE and other equipment had been provided to enable

- businesses to welcome customers in a safe environment.
- Increased staff presence in public spaces in key tourist locations to carry out cleaning and hygiene of public spaces, marshalling and delivery of the tourism offer.
- Support for key strategic programmes and projects such as major EU funded projects and celebrating culture 2021 which would focus on growing the cultural tourism offer and the development of a sustainable year-round visitor economy.
- To date, £2m had been provided to the seven district councils for investment in local businesses.
- Norfolk County Council had successfully bid, on behalf of the New Anglia LEP innovative project fund to celebrate culture in 2021.

The tourism industry was worth approximately £127bn and accounted for approximately 10% of GDP, as well as being Britain's fourth largest service export, accounting for 3m people working in local tourism across the country. By 2025 the tourism deal aimed to more than double the size of the industry to £260bn; grow those employed in the sector to 3.8m; increase productivity to £12bn and become the most successful destination in western Europe.

The Cabinet Member felt that the comments about "don't come to Norfolk" didn't reflect the work going on to improve the tourism sector and highlighted that he hadn't heard of any areas of tourism where there had been an outbreak of covid-19 and that we should ensure Norfolk was a tourist destination, especially next year which would be really important for Norfolk's economy.

7.9.1 Cllr Steve Morphew raised a point of order as a point of personal explanation on a matter of accuracy. He said that the newspaper had misquoted him and that he had said "I want the message spread that it's better not to come to Norfolk and if people do come to Norfolk can you be very, very careful and very safe".

7.10 **Question from Cllr Danny Douglas to Cllr Martin Wilby, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport.**

Cllr Douglas asked if the Cabinet Member would investigate the Bus Services Act 2017 to compel bus operators in both Norwich and Great Yarmouth, to return to a situation before 1932 when public transport in those places was provided by electric power.

The Cabinet Member responded that the bus companies in Norfolk had provided outstanding services since March 2020 and during the lockdown, by looking after residents and providing transport for key workers. He added that the bus companies could not have survived without the grants received from the Department for Transport, which had enabled them to keep running and he looked forward to a strong bus company culture across the whole of the county, covering all the rural areas as well as the city centres in the future.

7.11 **Question from Cllr Tim East to Cllr Martin Wilby, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport.**

Cllr East stated that there had been a significant rise in complaints about the condition of some of the county's public rights of way during covid, adding that public satisfaction was already low pre covid, especially from people with disabilities. As the Government considered it therapeutic for people to use

public rights of way, parks and open spaces during the pandemic, he asked what the Council would do to ensure people could walk these paths to get some exercise.

The Cabinet Member replied that most public rights of way were well maintained and he knew of two parish councils in his area that carried out work to keep them clear and maintain access for everyone, highlighting Scole which had recently won an award for keeping all their public rights of way clear, particularly during the lockdown period. The Cabinet Member agreed that people being able to get outside was good for their wellbeing and that it was important the rights of way were accessible for everyone.

7.12 Question from Cllr Mick Castle to Cllr Margaret Dewsbury, Cabinet Member for Communities & Partnerships.

Cllr Castle asked if the Council was actively pursuing the acquisition of the Palmers department store building to develop a new, larger library in Great Yarmouth Town Centre.

In reply, the Cabinet Member advised that the matter had been discussed some time ago, and that as far as she was aware, the library would be moving to the centre of Great Yarmouth although it was not known when the move would take place.

7.13 Question from Cllr Ian Mackie to Cllr Martin Wilby, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport.

Cllr Mackie referred to the recent frosty morning and asked if the Cabinet Member could update Council and Norfolk residents on the preparations and activities taking place with winter gritting to make Norfolk Roads as safe as possible.

The Cabinet Member replied that the gritters had covered the county on 22 November and again on the morning of 23 November in certain areas and that so far they had gritted approximately 3-4 times this winter.

The Cabinet Member advised that 7 new gritting vehicles had been received as part of the Council's plans to update and replace its fleet. The Norse highways crews were available every day to grit 49 routes covering more than 2000 miles across Norfolk.

Council was also advised that a competition had been held with primary schools across the county to name the 7 gritters and the Cabinet Member looked forward to announcing the names of the new gritters in the near future.

The Cabinet Member also highlighted that the highways team did a vital job in keeping people safe and that the latest technology enabled the vehicles to be as efficient as possible with technology allowing a quicker response to dealing with the road conditions, giving almost instant results and adjustments in the amount of salt being dispensed and the area of coverage, reacting to fast changing road conditions. The Cabinet Member reminded residents to be mindful of road conditions when travelling and urged everyone to drive appropriately and consider looking at the website, which contained some [Safe driving tips](#).

Council noted that regular gritting updates and other useful advice would be

posted on the Norfolk County Council website and on social media channels using the #Norfolkwinter on Twitter or on Facebook where residents could check which roads were on the gritting routes for the 2020-21 season.

The Cabinet Member also highlighted that approximately 1900 grit boxes were situated around the county. These could be used by anyone to salt public pavements, cycle paths and roads and he thanked the volunteers that carried out that work to keep people safe.

In conclusion, the Cabinet Member wished to record his thanks to the Highways staff for the fantastic job they did in keeping residents safe during the winter months, by gritting in all weather conditions.

8. Committee Reports

8.1 Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 23 September and 21 October 2020.

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

8.2 Corporate Select Committee meetings held on 14 September and 9 November 2020.

Cllr Karen Vincent, Chair, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

Question from Cllr A Kemp

Cllr Kemp said that she understood the Kick Start programme to help young people had received hundreds of applications from employers, although the programme which had been due to start in September, was currently on hold. She asked if the programme had been started to enable young people to access opportunities.

The Chair replied that she would find out and give a written answer.

Cllr Fisher confirmed that Children's Services was considering how to progress the Kick-start scheme.

8.3 Infrastructure & Development Select Committee meetings held on 16 September and 11 November 2020.

Cllr Barry Stone, Chair, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

8.4 People & Communities Select Committee meetings held on 18 September and 13 November 2020.

Cllr Shelah Gurney, Chair, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

8.5 Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 8 October 2020.

Cllr Penny Carpenter, Chair, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the

report.

8.6 **Health & Wellbeing Board meeting held on 14 October 2020.**

Cllr Bill Borrett, Chair, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

Question from Cllr Dan Roper

Cllr Roper stated that Norfolk had not been one of the 67 mass testing sites announced by the Government and he asked if the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board had received an explanation or rationale for the exclusion, given the expertise within the county.

The Chair thanked Cllr Roper for acknowledging the expertise in the county's Public Health Team and the way they had exceptionally worked over the last few months. He added that he was not concerned that Norfolk was not one of the pilot sites as he felt mass testing should be carried out in vulnerable areas such as care homes and food manufacturing businesses and that it would be a distraction if the whole population of Norfolk was tested due to the amount of resources which would be required.

Question from Cllr Brian Watkins

Cllr Watkins referred to the development of an integrated care system across Norfolk and the importance of working with other stakeholders. He asked if the Chair could state what particular improvements he would like to see in the next 12 months and how those improvements would be measured.

The Chair replied that the focus of the HWB strategy was on supporting people and prevention and the ambitions were clearly articulated in the Strategy which could be shared with Cllr Watkins if he wished. He continued that broadly the outline was investing in prevention and supporting people, so primary care was where people engaged to identify issues before they presented in acute care settings such as hospitals. He continued that this would help to keep the cost of interventions down and also respond to general views that people would rather work with the health service on prevention than be admitted to acute care settings. He added that it was a very important piece of work which would hopefully make a generational change to healthcare in Norfolk. The County Council was only one partner in the strategy, but he assured Members that the County Council was fully committed to working more closely with the health service.

Question from Cllr Alexandra Kemp.

Cllr Kemp said it had been a mistake to close the Queen Elizabeth Hospital pathology laboratory as this could have been used for local covid testing. She asked if it could be reopened.

The Chair agreed to provide a written response.

8.7 **Audit Committee meeting held on 15 October 2020.**

Cllr Ian Mackie, Chair, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

8.8 Planning (Regulatory) Committee meeting held on 16 October 2020.

Cllr Colin Foulger, Chair, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

8.9 Norfolk Records Committee meeting held on 30 October 2020.

Cllr Chenery of Horsbrugh moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

8.10 Joint Museums Committee meeting held on 30 October 2020.

Cllr John Ward, Chair, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

Question from Cllr Joe Mooney.

Cllr Mooney asked if the Chair could give Council a brief update on the renovation work taking place at Norwich Castle Museum.

The Chair responded that the renovation work at the Castle Museum was ongoing and was on schedule, with completion expected towards the end of 2021.

8.11 Employment Committee meetings held on 30 September and 3 November 2020.

Cllr Andrew Proctor, Chair, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

9. Appointments to Committees, Sub-Committees and Joint Committees (Standard Item).

9.1 Council **RESOLVED** to note the following changes made under delegated powers since the last meeting:

- Cllr Ed Maxfield to take up the Independent Group place on People & Communities Select Committee.
- Cllr Dan Roper to replace Cllr John Timewell on Corporate Select Committee.
- Cllr Jess Barnard to replace Cllr Chris Jones as substitute member on Planning (Regulatory) Committee.
- Cllr Jess Barnard to replace Cllr Brenda Jones on Norwich Area Museums Committee.
- Cllr Kim Clipsham to replace Cllr Steve Morphew on Norse Shareholder Committee.
- Cllr Chris Jones to replace Cllr Steve Morphew on Treasury Management Panel.
- Cllr Jess Barnard to replace Cllr Mike Smith-Clare on ESPO Committee.
- Cllr Danny Douglas to replace Cllr Terry Jermy on Norwich Western Link Group.

10. Appointment of Vice-Chair to Corporate Select Committee.

- 10.1 Council **RESOLVED** to note the following change made under delegated powers since the last meeting:
- Cllr Penny Carpenter to replace Cllr Ed Colman as Vice-Chair of Corporate Select Committee.

11. Notice of Motions

- 11.1 The following motion was proposed by Cllr Ed Maxfield and seconded by Cllr Sandra Squire:

Council notes the immense challenges faced by care workers in providing essential support to some of Norfolk's most vulnerable residents during the Coronavirus Pandemic and it thanks them for their hard work, bravery and compassion. To ensure that care workers are properly rewarded for the work they do, Council resolves to:

- Require that providers declare whether they pay the Real Living Wage to their staff; their policy on pay for travel time and supply of equipment; and their policy on pay for over-night care as part of their application for inclusion in the Council's Framework of providers. The Council will publish this information so that those purchasing care can take these factors into account when deciding on which organisations to commission
- Require officers to present a paper to the People and Communities Committee setting out a path towards signing up to Unison's Ethical Care Charter in full. If the costs involved in doing so exceed the Council's ability to fund the commitment, Council pledges to campaign actively for the Government for the increased funding needed, creating a level playing field and the highest standards possible for Adult Social Care

- 11.1.1 The following amendment was proposed by Cllr Bill Borrett and seconded by Cllr Shelagh Gurney.

Council notes the immense challenges faced by care workers in providing essential support to some of Norfolk's most vulnerable residents during the Coronavirus Pandemic and it thanks them for their hard work, bravery and compassion. To ensure that care workers are properly rewarded for the work they do, Council resolves to:

- To acknowledge that it has in place a set of robust criteria to ensure that staff are properly rewarded, as this is the key to good quality services. In particular for home support the Framework Contract already includes specific requirements taken directly from Unison's Ethical Charter.

~~Require that providers declare whether they pay the Real Living Wage to their staff; their policy on pay for travel time and supply of equipment; and their policy on pay for over-night care as part of their application for inclusion in the Council's Framework of providers. The Council will continue publish this information so that those purchasing care can take these factors into account when deciding on which organisations to commission~~

- ~~Require officers to present a paper to the People and Communities Committee setting out a path towards signing up to Unison's Ethical Care Charter in full.~~ If the costs involved in doing so exceed the Council's ability to fund the commitment, Council pledges to campaign actively for the Government for the increased funding needed, creating a level playing field and the highest standards possible for Adult Social Care

11.1.2 As proposer of the original motion, Cllr Ed Maxfield did not accept the amendment which was debated by Council.

11.1.3 Following debate and upon the amendment being put to a vote amended motion was **CARRIED** and became the substantive motion.

11.1.4 Upon the substantive motion being put to a vote, with 48 votes in favour, 0 votes against and 25 abstentions, the motion was **CARRIED**:

Council notes the immense challenges faced by care workers in providing essential support to some of Norfolk's most vulnerable residents during the Coronavirus Pandemic and it thanks them for their hard work, bravery and compassion. To ensure that care workers are properly rewarded for the work they do, Council resolves to:

- To acknowledge that it has in place a set of robust criteria to ensure that staff are properly rewarded, as this is the key to good quality services. In particular for home support the Framework Contract already includes specific requirements taken directly from Unison's Ethical Charter. The Council will continue publish this information so that those purchasing care can take these factors into account when deciding on which organisations to commission
- If the costs involved exceed the Council's ability to fund the commitment, Council pledges to campaign actively for the Government for the increased funding needed, creating a level playing field and the highest standards possible for Adult Social Care

11.2 The following motion was proposed by Cllr Tim East and seconded by Cllr Steff Aquarone:

Norfolk's Disabled Residents

It is clear from the Covid pandemic that the people of Norfolk value and want to help those who are less fortunate and need support. The number of community groups that have sprung up to do so has been extraordinary.

Yet residents with disabilities tell us that they have lost all respect for Norfolk County Council in how they have been treated over the last two years. They point to:

- the council's failure to meet national standards for the completion of education and health care plans and the cost of having to appeal against that
- how hard it is in Norfolk for adults with learning disabilities to get paid employment compared to the rest of the country

- the Council's refusal to reverse its cuts to the Minimum Income Guarantee until the Government stepped in and the council used Covid money to fund it. This caused months of anguish for the families affected and there has been no long term guarantee given

Added to this the Coronavirus Act - the emergency legislation the government passed at the beginning of lockdown - took away significant parts of councils' duty to provide care for disabled people.

Now is a good time to reassess how the council works with people with a disability so that the post Covid world can be better. We believe that people will strive to make the best of the opportunities presented to them, but only if sufficient barriers are removed. The role of the council is to remove these barriers.

Social research has shown that genuine co production delivers better outcomes, greater satisfaction from service users, and lower costs in the long-term. Services work best when they are designed with people, not dished out to them, or done for them.

More Councillors could also be involved and have a say than is currently the case with the reinstatement of the Councillors Strategic Equalities Group to look at and oversee the council's approach to equalities.

This Council, mindful of its public sector equality duty to eliminate discrimination and advance equality of opportunity for people with protected characteristics, including disabled people and families with young children **resolves to**

- (A) acknowledge the comments of people with disabilities in Norfolk's communities and apologies for how they have been treated over the last 2 years
- (B) agree that the Strategic Equalities Group should be reinstated with immediate effect to oversee the council's approach to equalities
- (C) agree that greater emphasis should be placed on equality assessments when taking council decisions
- (D) request that the Cabinet undertake an urgent review of how effective co-production has been in improving the lives of disabled people across Norfolk and what opportunities there are to make this process more effective.

11.2.1 The following amendment was proposed by Cllr Bill Borrett and seconded by Cllr Margaret Dewsbury:

It is clear from the Covid pandemic that the people of Norfolk value and want to help those who are less fortunate and need support. The number of community groups that have sprung up to do so has been extraordinary.

~~Yet residents with disabilities tell us that they have lost all respect for Norfolk County Council in how they have been treated over the last two years. They point to:~~

- ~~the council's failure to meet national standards for the completion of education and health care plans and the cost of having to appeal against that~~
- ~~how hard it is in Norfolk for adults with learning disabilities to get paid employment compared to the rest of the country~~
- ~~the Council's refusal to reverse its cuts to the Minimum Income Guarantee until the Government stepped in and the council used Covid money to fund it. This caused months of anguish for the families affected and there has been no long term guarantee given~~

~~Added to this the Coronavirus Act – the emergency legislation the government passed at the beginning of lockdown – took away significant parts of councils' duty to provide care for disabled people.~~

~~Now is a good time to reassess how the council works with people with a disability so that the post Covid world can be better. We believe that people will strive to make the best of the opportunities presented to them, but only if sufficient barriers are removed. The role of the council is to remove these barriers.~~

~~Social research has shown that genuine co-production delivers better outcomes, greater satisfaction from service users, and lower costs in the long term. Services work best when they are designed *with* people, not dished out to them, or done for them.~~

~~More Councillors could also be involved and have a say than is currently the case with the reinstatement of the Councillors Strategic Equalities Group to look at and oversee the council's approach to equalities.~~

This Council, mindful of its public sector equality duty to eliminate discrimination and advance equality of opportunity for people with protected characteristics, including disabled people and families with young children **resolves to**

(A) acknowledge the comments of people with disabilities in Norfolk's communities and ~~apologies for how they have been treated over the last 2 years~~ continue the existing dialogue.

(B) agree that the ~~Strategic Equalities Group~~ Equalities Diversity and Inclusion Performance Board should continue ~~be reinstated with immediate effect~~ to oversee the council's approach to equalities

(C) agree that continued ~~greater~~ emphasis should be placed on equality assessments when taking council decisions

(D) request that the Cabinet continue to support the principle of ~~undertake an urgent review of how effective~~ co-production ~~has been in~~ as a means of improving the lives of disabled people across Norfolk and continue to work with the Making It Real Group ~~what opportunities there are~~ to make this process more effective.

11.2.2 As proposer of the original motion, Cllr East did not accept the amendment which,

both himself and Cllr Aquarone as seconder, considered did not meet the constitutional requirements of amendment.

- 11.2.3 The Monitoring Officer advised that the requirements of the constitution were that amendments could add words or remove words without negating the original motion. The Monitoring Officer advised that the amendment was constitutionally acceptable and should be debated by Council.
- 11.2.4 The amendment was debated by Council.
- 11.2.5 Cllr Steve Morphey moved a Motion Without Notice under Rule 10.1 (d) in Appendix 7 to refer the motion and amendment to the People & Communities Select Committee to examine and bring back conclusions to Council in 2021. The motion was seconded by Cllr Chris Jones.
- 11.2.6 Upon the motion without notice from Cllr Morphey being put to a vote, with 24 votes in favour, 42 votes against and 3 abstentions the motion was **LOST**.
- 11.2.7 Council then debated the amended motion proposed by Cllr Borrett. Upon being put to a vote, with 42 votes in favour, 22 votes against and 6 abstentions the amended motion was **CARRIED** and became the substantive motion.
- 11.2.8 Upon the substantive motion being put to the vote, with 41 votes in favour, 18 votes against and 8 abstentions, the motion was **CARRIED**:

It is clear from the Covid pandemic that the people of Norfolk value and want to help those who are less fortunate and need support. The number of community groups that have sprung up to do so has been extraordinary.

This Council, mindful of its public sector equality duty to eliminate discrimination and advance equality of opportunity for people with protected characteristics, including disabled people and families with young children resolves to

- (A) acknowledge the comments of people with disabilities in Norfolk's communities and continue the existing dialogue.
- (B) agree that the Equalities Diversity and Inclusion Performance Board should continue to oversee the council's approach to equalities
- (C) agree that continued emphasis should be placed on equality assessments when taking council decisions
- (D) request that the Cabinet continue to support the principle of co-production as a means of improving the lives of disabled people across Norfolk and continue to work with the Making It Real Group to make this process more effective

Council adjourned at 1.15pm and reconvened at 1.50pm.

- 11.3 The following motion was proposed by Cllr Dan Roper on behalf of Cllr Steff Aquarone and seconded by Cllr Brian Watkins:

Training and Development

Helping Norfolk's economy rise up from the effects of Covid and the restrictions that have been placed on businesses needs all of the leadership and support the County Council can provide.

Part of that support should be to provide a tailored management training programme to the key sectors in Norfolk such as tourism, medical, research, elderly care, and arts and culture. The UK spends less money on management training than our global competitors and this programme would give Norfolk a chance to get ahead.

Improving profitability in this way makes it easier for companies to develop their own training and development strategies: Norfolk suffers from an exodus of young people, and struggles with recruitment that requires relocation. Having a strong and successful training strategy helps employers recruit people with skills, as well as those without, whether amongst graduates or people with more established careers.

There are insufficient networks and specialist associations to allow business owners to learn from each other, and even a lack of basic training and qualification opportunities in key vocational sectors like hospitality and social care.

We believe that Norfolk is full of untapped potential and that a new approach to management training and development is part of the response that is urgently needed.

This Council resolves to

- (A) set up as a matter of urgency, a tailored management training programme to our key sectors (tourism, medical, research, elderly care, and arts & culture) alongside substantial communications work to highlight the availability of the programme to all businesses across Norfolk.
- (B) undertake major communications work to ensure that as many of Norfolk's businesses know about this training and have the opportunity to sign up and benefit from it.
- (C) supplement the free peer network programme and the general business support provided by the New Anglia growth hub for Norfolk and Suffolk. For a small cost it would give enormous benefits to helping Norfolk businesses to bounce back better

11.3.1 Following debate and upon being put to a vote, with 6 votes in favour, 45 votes against and 12 abstentions, the motion was **LOST**.

11.4 The following motion was proposed by Cllr Mike Smith-Clare and seconded by Cllr Danny Douglas:

Holiday Hunger

Council welcomes the additional funding from Government to help tackle holiday hunger this Christmas and congratulates Marcus Rashford on his campaign to

persuade Government to change their mind.

Council believes all this money should be spent in line with the terms and timescales set out for use of the funding and unless specified otherwise, the money should be distributed directly to schools based on the number of children at those schools in receipt of free school meals.

- 11.4.1 Cllr Mike Smith-Clare, as mover of the motion and in accordance with Norfolk County Council Constitution, Appendix 7, paragraph 11.8, **WITHDREW** the motion.
- 11.5 The following motion was proposed by Cllr Mike Smith-Clare and seconded by Cllr Sarah Butikofer:

Holt Hall.

Council believes Holt Hall is a valuable resource for young people in Norfolk and that any loss of service would be a huge loss to them, especially our more vulnerable and disadvantaged youngsters and those with Special Needs.

Council therefore believes no decision on the provision of outdoor learning from Holt Hall should be taken without a full public consultation and the opportunity for members to be truly involved, not just briefed in accordance with the Local Member Protocol and accordingly resolves that

1. A full consultation exercise be carried out to inform any decisions taken by officers and the Cabinet
2. The Leader be requested to refer the final decision on the services provided from and the future of Holt Hall to full Council as part of the budget proposals for 2021/22
3. Further decisions on outdoor learning including the future of Whitlingham be subject to a similar consultation exercise.

- 11.5.1 Following debate and upon being put to a recorded vote (Appendix B), with 20 votes in favour, 39 votes against and 1 abstention the motion was **LOST**.

- 11.6 The following motion was **WITHDRAWN** by Cllr Steve Morphew:

Corporate Board

Council notes the constitution approved in 2019 includes several references, including the terms of reference and membership of the Corporate Board as Appendix 27 of the Constitution.

Council further notes that part of the terms of reference are "...whilst the aim will be to publish actions arising from each meeting, publishing all papers and minutes may prejudice the effective conduct of public affairs."

Council further notes the Corporate Board "has a strong relationship with other governance arrangements, to inform decision making and progress delivery at pace" and believes this can only be achieved where Corporate Board papers that are not restricted by virtue of the public interest tests should be available to Council members and the public in accordance with the rules that apply to other information.

Council therefore requests the Leader to make all Corporate Board papers, including agendas, reports and minutes that have not been restricted by virtue of section 7 of Appendix 13 (Access To information Procedure Rules) in the Constitution, available to members in accordance within the protocol annexed to Appendix 13.

12. Electoral Review of Norfolk.

- 12.1 Council received the report by the Executive Director of Strategy & Governance seeking agreement to submit the counter proposals of the Member Working Group (MWG) as the Council's formal response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England consultation.
- 12.2 Cllr Andrew Proctor, Leader of the Council, introduced the report and moved the recommendation.
- 12.3 Cllr Steve Morphey advised Council that the Labour Group had not taken part in any of the discussions and meetings and had made its own submission to the Boundary Commission.
- 12.4 Council **RESOLVED** to:
- Approve** the Member Working Group report as the Council's submission in response to the Local Government Boundary Commission for England consultation.

13. Pay Policy Statement

- 13.1 Council received the recommendation report from the Head of Paid Service.
- 13.2 Cllr Andrew Proctor, Leader of the Council, introduced the report and moved the recommendation.
- 13.3 Council **RESOLVED** to:
- **Approve** the Pay Policy Statement 2020-21.

14. County Council Elections May 2021- Appointment of County Returning Officer

- 14.1 Council received the report by the Executive Director of Strategy & Governance to appoint an officer of the Council to be the Returning Officer for elections of Councillors of the County as required by the Representation of the People Act 1983.
- 14.2 Cllr Andrew Proctor, Leader of the Council, introduced the report and moved the recommendation.
- 14.3 Council **RESOLVED** to:
- **Appoint the Head of Governance and Regulatory Services** to hold the post of County Returning Officer for the elections scheduled for May 2021 and for any subsequent County Council elections and by-elections.

15. Appointment of Statutory Scrutiny Officer

- 15.1 Council received the report by the Executive Director of Strategy & Governance to appoint a named individual to the role of Statutory Scrutiny Officer to comply with legislation.
- 15.2 Cllr Andrew Proctor, Leader of the Council, introduced the report and moved the recommendation.
- 15.3 Council **RESOLVED** to:
- **Appoint the Head of Governance and Regulatory Services** to the role of Statutory Scrutiny Officer.

16. To answer questions under Rule 8.3 of the Council Procedure Rules

Question from Cllr Steve Morphew to Cllr Andy Grant, Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste.

The Council's Environmental Policy, that forms part of the policy framework of the Council, commits the Council to "ensuring that each project the Council undertakes is assessed for the contribution it will make towards achieving our targets."

In the Environmental Policy Update report to the Infrastructure and Development Committee on 11th November 2020 there was no reference to the impact of major capital schemes, particularly those that would directly have an impact on carbon emissions like the Norwich Western Link and building additional car parking spaces at County Hall.

As it is Council policy, can the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste report on what assessments have been carried out, the findings on both of these specific schemes and advise Council what other schemes are being assessed at present?

Written reply by the Cabinet Member:

The Norwich Western Link Strategic Outline Business Case was approved by the Department for Transport in May 2020. This included a detailed environmental assessment in accordance with the Government's requirements.

This work is being significantly updated as part of the subsequent Outline Business Case which is due for submission early next year based on developed scheme proposals, an updated traffic model and further environmental surveys.

The Environmental Impact Assessment has started and will include taking account of the county council's Environmental Policy. This extensive piece of work will consider the Design and Build contractors proposals (currently being procured) and is due for submission with the planning application in Autumn 2021.

The county council is taking forward three other large and major projects (Long Stratton Bypass, West Winch Housing Access Road and A47/A17 Pullover Junction, King's Lynn). These are at an earlier stage than the Norwich Western Link, but are all following the process described above. All projects that require a statutory approval (eg planning consent) will take environmental policies into

account. Wider transport strategy updates, and thereby the projects delivered as part of these, will also consider environmental policies. For the review of the Local Transport Plan, this is taking the form of sustainability appraisal including a strategic environmental assessment. Development is also being informed by technical work assessing the impacts of different policy levers on carbon emissions from transport.

Additional Car Parking at County Hall: The Planning Application, as approved on 24th September 2020, was assessed against the strategy of the NCC Environmental Policy. The accompanying planning statement references and assesses in depth the environmental impacts and the Planning Policies it adheres to. The scheme contributes to the goals of the Environmental strategy including:-

A reduction in carbon emissions by :

- 1) A net reduction in car parking spaces across the Council's Property Estate with the closure of Carrow House and Satellite Offices restricting the reliance on private motor vehicles. This is further supported by increased parking restrictions for staff by reducing permitted parking days.
- 2) The closure of older, less energy efficient premises reducing the carbon emissions generated from heating, powering and lighting those premises and relocation to the newly refurbished, significantly more energy efficient, County Hall.

Additionally we would note that as part of the overall proposal, NCC would be encouraging Sustainable travel choices through the production of a robust travel plan to accompany the application.

We are also managing Land Sustainably by installing new sustainable urban drainage systems and creation of new car parking in previously developed car parking areas, as opposed to greenfield sites and increasing Biodiversity by replacing non-native and low species rich hedge row with new nectar/berry-rich shrubbery.

The meeting concluded at 3.15pm

Chairman



If you need this document in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact Customer Services 0344 800 8020 or 18001 0344 800 8011 (textphone) and we will do our best to help.

PROPORTIONAL ALLOCATION OF SEATS ON COMMITTEES

Report by the Executive Director of Strategy & Governance

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Following the resignation of Councillor John Timewell from the Liberal Democrat Group and his move to the Conservative Group, the political balance on the Council has changed and it is necessary to review the overall allocations of committee places to political groups.

2. Allocations

- 2.1 There are 99 main committee places. The overall composition of the County Council is now 54 Conservative, 16 Labour, 9 Liberal Democrat, 3 Independent group, 1 non-aligned Member and 1 vacancy. Based on the above Council composition, the allocation of the 99 places to political groups should be as follows:

Conservative	65
Labour	19
Liberal Democrats	11
Independent Group	04
TOTAL	99

- 2.2 The table below sets out the current allocation of places to each committee.

Committee and number of places	Con	Lab	Lib Dem	Indep
Planning (Regulatory) (13)	8	3	1	1
People & Communities SC (13)	8	3	1	1
Infrastructure & Development SC (13)	8	2	2	1
Corporate SC (13)	9	2	1	1
Scrutiny Committee (13)	8	3	2	0
Health Overview & Scrutiny (8)	5	2	1	0
Audit Committee (7)	5	1	1	0
Standards Committee (7)	5	1	1	0
Pensions Committee (5)	3	1	1	0
Employment Committee (7)	5	1	1	0
Currently Allocated (99)	64	19	12	4
Overall number of places that each group should have based on the new political balance	65	19	11	4

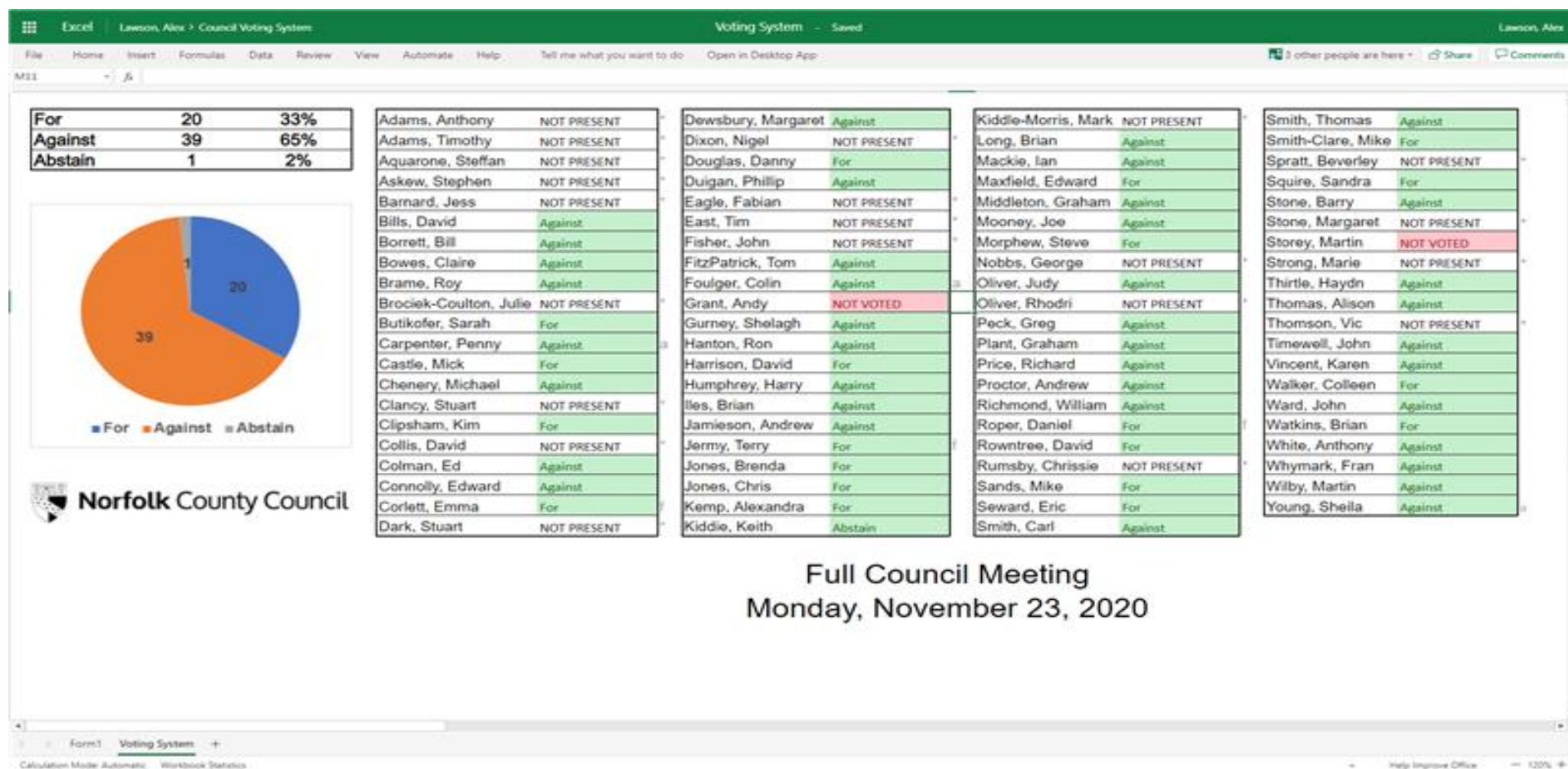
- 2.3 Under the current allocation of places, the Liberal Democrat Group has 1 place more than its revised entitlement (12 instead of 11) and the Conservative Group has 1 place less than its entitlement (64 instead of 65). Consequently, 1 of the Liberal Democrat Group's current places should be given to the Conservative Group.

3 Recommendation

Council is asked to approve the allocation of committee places and note that there will be 1 extra place to the Conservative Group and 1 less place to the Liberal Democrat Group.

Council – Monday 23 November 2020.

Recorded Vote – Agenda item 11. Motion 5 Holt Hall.



Full Council Meeting
Monday, November 23, 2020

With 20 votes in favour, 39 votes against and 1 abstention, the motion was **LOST**.

Questions requiring responses from the Council Meeting – Monday 23 November 2020

	Question and response:
<p>Question from Cllr Sandra Squire to the Cabinet Member for Environment & Waste (couldn't verbally respond due to technological problems)</p>	<p>Cllr Squire stated it was now a year since the council had adopted its new environmental policy and agreed the 1 million trees project. She asked the Cabinet Member to update Council with how many trees had been planted in the last year, what effect Covid had had on that and what plans were in place going forward, particularly to involve parishes and community groups.</p> <p>Response: By the end of this season we would have planted 35000 trees on the county farms estate and highways, however we will have planted 45000 as long as the Woodlands Trust have signed off a piece of work we have done with them. Covid has delayed a lot of other quick wins due to the lockdown and distancing requirements, however we are hoping next year to have a lot more community planting days and various other events to bump this up. We have used this period of time to get a lot of the background work done. We are preparing the procurement bids to submit for the purchase of all these trees as there is lots of competition for the purchase of trees. We have written and sent a tree pledge to all the Districts to try and get full support under Together For Norfolk. We will shortly be writing to all the Parishes and Town Councils with a similar pledge but awaiting more info for this. We are also about to form an alliance or joint working pledge with Norfolk Wildlife Trust, The Woodlands Trust, Natural England and Defra so that going forward we will all be on the same page and achieve better scales together.</p>
<p>Question from Cllr Alexandra Kemp to the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board</p>	<p>Cllr Kemp said it had been a mistake to close the Queen Elizabeth Hospital pathology laboratory as this could have been used for local covid testing. She asked if it could be reopened.</p> <p>Response: This is a decision for the NHS Foundation Trust and I would advise that you raise your concern with them directly, by writing to Caroline Shaw the Chief Executive of The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn.</p>