

Cabinet
7 December 2020
Public & Local Member Questions

Agenda item 6	Public Question Time
6.1	<p>Question from Amanda Fox Given the public opposition to the Western Link Road, would council be willing to allow the people of Norwich to decide for themselves on this by putting it to a citizens assembly?</p> <p>Response: Cllr Martin Wilby, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport.</p> <p>The Norwich Western Link is an important project for the county, including, but not limited to Norwich - which is why the county council has made it one of its key infrastructure priorities. There have been sustained calls to fill in what people saw as the 'missing link' between the A47 and Broadland Northway for some time, which in turn would take traffic congestion out of local communities and improve journey times and reliability. With significant growth anticipated in and around Norwich, we need to make sure we have the right infrastructure in place so that that Norfolk can grow successfully, continuing to provide a good quality of life for our residents, while also supporting local businesses and the economy. As the government has already stated, this will be even more vital as we recover from the coronavirus pandemic. I make no apology for our ambition for Norfolk and our communities.</p> <p>Three public consultations have been carried out to date on the Norwich Western Link, including the Local Access Consultation which was conducted between July and September this year. In our options consultation in 2018/19, 77% of respondents either agreed or mostly agreed when asked to what extent they agreed there was a need for a Norwich Western Link. There is also strong support for the link to be created from parish and district councils, Norfolk MPs, local businesses and emergency services, amongst others. So there is in fact public support for the delivery of an appropriate Norwich Western Link.</p> <p>A further public consultation on the project is planned for 2021 ahead of the planning application being submitted, and then people will have a chance to comment on the planning application once this has been submitted. The statutory process may also result in a public inquiry before all applicable consents are granted.</p>
6.2	<p>Question 2 from Amanda Fox Wouldn't it be better if all major infrastructure planning decisions were made in this way so that the people of Norwich decide how they would like the city to be shaped in the future.</p> <p>Response: Cllr Martin Wilby, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport.</p> <p>County councillors are elected to represent the whole of Norfolk and its people. There are many aspects we need to consider when deciding what infrastructure is needed in the county, including projected growth, potential risks, benefits and impacts, current and future transport issues and needs, how each project fits within the wider transport network, and relevant local and national policy. We also need to listen to what people are telling us they want and need, and this is done through a range of formal opportunities, such as consultations, but also just by getting in touch with your local councillor. There is often a balance to be struck between conflicting</p>

	<p>interests and we will always act in the best interests of Norfolk. There are no plans currently to change the democratic processes at the county council. Again, I make no apology for our ambition for Norfolk and our communities.</p>
6.3	<p>Question from Jan Davis The 2020/21 budget allocated a total of £4.055m for the Norwich Western Link road broken down into Procurement (£637K), Design (£931K), Statutory process (£1.94m) and Outline Business Case (£544K). A further £2.98m was allocated to acquire land. A total of just over £7m. How much of each of these allocations has been spent to date and how much is allocated for each in the 2021/22 budget?</p> <p>Response: Cllr Martin Wilby, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport To month ending October 2020 the costs for each element are Procurement (£0.338m), Design (£0.524m), Statutory Process (£1.013m), Outline Business Case (£0.326m) for financial year 2020/21. There is a degree of overlap between these activities, and the development of the scheme is in line with the budget allocation.</p> <p>Land acquisitions costs to the end of October are £2.380m and include costs from financial year 2019/20 as well as 2020/21. These are as the result of blight notices served on the Council where the qualifying criteria have been met following the preferred route announcement in July 2019.</p> <p>The budget for 2020/21 is heavily influenced by the design and build contractor procurement process currently underway. Allocations will be recommended as part of the Council budget setting early in the new year.</p>
6.4	<p>Question from Katy Jones As a result of the pandemic we have seen a huge rise in loneliness and isolation across Norfolk, across all ages. Can NCC confirm the plans and investments that they are going to make to address this critical issue which affects the lives, health and well-being of so many people?</p> <p>Response: Cllr Margaret Dewsbury, Cabinet Member for Communities & Partnerships. NCC has always championed initiatives that support residents to overcome loneliness and social isolation, with our “No Lonely Day” campaigns and practical offers like “Just a Cuppa” and activities for young children and their parents’ in libraries. Throughout the pandemic we have offered access to befriending services to our most vulnerable residents, particularly those who have been required to shield for long periods of time. We would expect to resume our offers in services such as libraries as soon as it is safe to do so, and will continue to work with partners to ensure we are reaching out to the people who need us.</p>

Agenda item 7	Local Member Issues/Questions
7.1	<p>Question 1 from Cllr Mick Castle Often sensationalist media stories about flooding featured in our local papers suggest a fragile coastline where Norwich is about to represent the new front-line coastal town with places like Yarmouth under the sea.</p> <p>Do the Cabinet Members agree with me that when it comes to development of a robust Flood Defence Policy for the County we need to quantify actual risk in a rational manner – recognising that there are many thousands of homes in Norwich and our Market Towns at risk of surface/rain water flooding (often overlooked) and that those homes at risk from coastal flooding are actually concentrated in a small number of locations?</p> <p>Response: Cllr Andy Grant, Cabinet Member for Environment & Waste. Yes, I agree that when it comes to the development of a robust policy, it does need to be in a rational and evidence-based manner. The council has assessed the surface water risk against all properties and key infrastructure across the county during the publication of the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA). This has provided comprehensive evidence of the level of surface water risk to our communities and guides our prioritisation of flood risk mitigation work.</p> <p>The policies in our Local Flood Risk Management Strategy have also recently been revised and updated and will be presented to Cabinet in January 2021 for approval.</p>
7.2	<p>Question 2 from Cllr Mick Castle Would the Cabinet Members agree with me that towns like Yarmouth - with upwards of 30,000 living in the seafront area and alongside the rivers Yare and Bure - the priority is to drive forward the Environment Agency's long-term project for improving river flood defences to a 1:200 year standard as that protects existing residents and businesses and also enables new homes and businesses to be developed in areas of the town identified for significant regeneration?</p> <p>Response: Cllr Andy Grant, Cabinet Member for Environment & Waste. The impacts of coastal towns exposed to significant flood risk, such as Gt Yarmouth, forms part of the work embodied with the "Broadlands Futures Initiative". This is a partnership project that draws on expertise from the Environment Agency, Broads Authority and the County Council. As yet, this work has not yet drawn any final conclusions. However, when it does, the appropriate response to address coastal and inland flood risk, highlighted by Cllr Castle, will be identified.</p>
7.3	<p>Question from Cllr Sandra Squire Given the connectivity issues plaguing online council meetings across Norfolk, including this council with members who couldn't connect, were disconnected or couldn't have their camera on during the recent council meeting, a situation which is replicated in district, town and parish councils, does the Cabinet member agree that simply congratulating ourselves on an apparent high level of residents that can receive super fast broadband, is missing the point entirely. That there is a great difference between what is advertised and what is actually received and more needs to be done to look at why these connections are so unstable.</p>

	<p>Response: Cllr Tom FitzPatrick, Cabinet Member for Innovation, Transformation & Performance.</p> <p>While we know that over 95% of Norfolk residents can now get Broadband running at Superfast (24mbps) or better speeds (as reported by reputable independent sources), we recognise that there is more to achieving good internet speeds than just service availability. Sometimes the speed experienced in the home is less than what's advertised and there can be many reasons for this ranging from faulty fibre connections, wiring or electronics, through to internal cabling, wi-fi setup and device (PC/tablet/phone etc) related issues.</p> <p>There are a number of variables to consider and diagnose in the event of poorly performing internet connectivity speeds and reliability. If you are not getting the speed you are paying for then the first point of call should be to check with your internet service provider and to see if that is the problem. If necessary consider switching provider to one which provides a faster or more reliable service, including wireless options in the 5% of homes where Superfast broadband is not yet available. You should try connecting your laptop directly into your router to get the best performance or use good quality power line or Wi-Fi extenders depending on the nature and layout of your property. Norfolk County Council will soon be launching a chatbot which will give elected members and residents advice on how to get the fastest possible broadband and mobile connections. This will also include the in-home issues such as wired connections, Wi-Fi, use of extenders, how to set up devices and more.</p> <p>The tens of millions of pounds of investment being in full fibre / gigabit capable circuits by Norfolk County Council and multiple private sector companies will continue to improve broadband speed and resilience for all of Norfolk's residents and businesses.</p> <p>It should also be noted that even with a good broadband connection, online services can suffer performance problems if they are over subscribed or not optimally configured. Norfolk County Council is continually reviewing its systems to ensure they are as responsive and stable as possible. Considerable progress has been made since Covid-19 so dramatically changed our ways of working. Teams video performance on Corporate laptops is already much improved and this process of optimisation will continue. Last, but not least are the digital skills that both officers and elected members require to get the best out of the devices, software and connections. Training materials and opportunities remain available on demand for councillors and offers in both recorded and live sessions.</p>
7.4	<p>Question from Cllr Alexandra Kemp Norfolk Policy on Speed Management on Single-Lane HGV Access Route Through Clenchwarton</p> <p>Clenchwarton is a Settlement. Clockcase Lane is the single-lane HGV Access Route, passing through Clenchwarton, to the Anglian Water Works.</p> <p>Norfolk County Council's Speed Management Policy says the norm is that HGV Access Routes, passing through Settlements, should be 30 mph, to give priority to protecting local communities, with the possibility of 20 mph in the immediate vicinity of areas with concentrations of vulnerable users. Therefore, Clockcase Lane, an important amenity for pedestrians and cyclists, who are at risk from Tankers, should have a 30 mph speed limit to protect people. Clenchwarton Residents think so. Does Cabinet agree?</p>

	<p>Response: Cllr Martin Wilby, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport.</p> <p>Clockcase Lane itself does not pass through a settlement, it is almost entirely rural in nature with two properties at the southern end. This location therefore does not fit the criteria for a 30mph limit however an alternative is to extend the existing 40 mph limit on Ferry Road (up to Bailey Lane) to benefit these two properties. You could choose to progress this option using the Local Member Budget allocated to you. If you wish to consider this further, you can contact your local Highway Engineer.</p>
7.5	<p>Question from Cllr Mike Smith-Clare</p> <p>Can the cabinet member for Children's Services explain why 34% of care leavers/ those still in care aged 16-17 and 49% of care leavers aged 18 and over are not in employment, education and training, and of those how many care leavers across both age groups are the whereabouts unknown?</p> <p>Response: Cllr John Fisher, Cabinet Member for Children's Services.</p> <p>I would like to thank Cllr Smith-Clare for his question as this does identify the change in statistics from September to now and why reporting to the Department for Education only occurs from December onwards. I believe that figures quoted in this question were for September 2020 but the most recent figures show 28% of 16/17 years old children in care and Care Leavers not in Employment Education or Training and 45% of care leavers aged 18-21.</p> <p>Data collected in the first months of the academic year is often not wholly accurate as children and young people aged 16+ are not counted as being in education, employment or training until they have begun their course and there is often a delay in the recording of academic attendance.</p> <p>Councillor Smith-Clare will be aware there are a great many reasons why young people in care or who have left care might face additional barriers to employment, education or training. These include health problems, ongoing mental health challenges, deficits in skills and qualifications and wider social and legal difficulties.</p> <p>As a member of the Corporate Parenting Board the Councillor will also be very familiar with the clearly defined and dedicated working groups within our Corporate Parenting arrangements focussed on this key issue and we are taking forward a range of steps to help more young people leaving care to progress positively to further education or employment. I would like to thank Cllrs Kemp and Squire for their work with this. Those plans include new apprenticeship schemes (including NCC and districts working together for a consistent and across county offer), volunteer and work experience opportunities for younger children to begin to develop their CVs, work with large organisations for guaranteed interview schemes for care leavers to name a few, supported by Members at County and District level . We are also working with our health partners and through our transformation plans to embed clinicians in teams to address mental health and emotional wellbeing will help and know that the CCG plans to provide a dedicated Leaving Care service to support both physical and mental health needs for 18+ which will further help us to address this.</p> <p>We only have one young person we are aware of who is whereabouts unknown and NEET – unfortunately he is an unaccompanied asylum seeking young person who came to us directly from Dover Port and left with someone the following day.</p>

	<p>I am surprised to have received this question from a Councillor who is already part of CPB and should be fully aware of work outlined and if the Councillor has other ideas or proposals which might help this then these would be most welcome either now or at the next meeting where the sub groups will be reporting on their work.</p>
7.6	<p>Question from Cllr Emma Corlett Please can the Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Development confirm when the full environmental impact assessment for the Western Link road will be available and how this will form part of the outline business case?</p> <p>Response: Cllr Martin Wilby, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport. The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) will be based on the design and build contractor's design and construction proposals. The procurement process for the design and build contractor is in progress and they are expected to be appointed in March 2021. The findings of the EIA will be reported in the Environmental Statement that will be provided as part of the planning application submission in autumn 2021.</p> <p>The Outline Business Case, due for submission early in 2021 is being prepared in accordance with Department for Transport (DfT) guidance and requires a detailed examination of the schemes environmental effects, sufficient for Government to understand the likely impacts and mitigation strategy proposed. The scheme is working to the principles of Biodiversity Net Gain which would leave habitats in a measurably better condition in accordance with Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Metrics.</p>
7.7	<p>Question from Cllr Danny Douglas The Norwich Western Link project stands to receive £1.657m from the 2019-20 Business Rates Funding pool. The refreshed Norfolk Strategic Infrastructure Development Plan on the Cabinet agenda cites the Business Rate Pool as a potential funding source for the development stage of the project. If any one of the Norfolk Councils pulls out of the funding pool as a result of reviewing the impact of the provisional settlement when it is announced, how will this affect the funding of the Norwich Western Link project?</p> <p>Response: Cllr Andrew Jamieson, Cabinet Member for Finance. The Business Rates Pool funding is rates collected for the 19/20 Financial year, has already been collected and agreed. It would make no difference at this stage if a partner withdrew from the arrangement</p>
7.8	<p>Question from Cllr Colleen Walker The budget for Members' Allowances has increased from £878,830 in 2017/8 to £999,540 for 20/21, in total £120,710. This cost increase is far more than the investment needed to keep the operations at Holt Hall. Similarly the costs of new car parking spaces at county hall c£2m in one year dwarf the predicted investment required capital works on Holt Hall over a decade. Can the Leader explain to my residents and Norfolk how these priorities have been determined, as many will find it perverse to use criteria that put Councillors and County Hall car parking above opportunities for young people to study outdoors?</p> <p>Response: Cllr Andrew Proctor, Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Strategy</p>

	<p>& Governance.</p> <p>The issues on Member allowances, allowing those who are from a range of backgrounds to represent their communities and provide a diversity of decision making have been well rehearsed. Many Conservative Members have not taken their allowance increase in 2021. All Members who have taken the 2021 increase have prioritised any spending of that over Holt Hall. There is still the need to provide sufficient parking as NCC rationalises its property estate to drive out important revenue savings and transform the way the council will work in the future. NCC has supported Children's wellbeing across the County including a £200k capital contribution to the new YMCA facility in Norwich and substantial investment into education, in SEND schools, working with NSFT to redesign mental health services for children and young people in Norfolk and improving levels of support for young carers. As Cllr Walker is aware Holt Hall attracts only 7% of all residential visits by Norfolk schools, that's 3,000 Norfolk pupils per year, out of a total of 112,000 and is one of several facilities across the County that provide a wide range of outdoor and structured learning for young people</p>
7.9	<p>Question from Cllr Chris Jones</p> <p>The Leader advised Cabinet on 2nd November 2020 that £6,000 had been spent on digital equipment for education from a £150,000 budget for laptops and other digital support, to expand the group of children from disadvantaged families who can access education online and maintain social contact as well as assisting people in financial crisis into work. Can he confirm how many households have benefited from the £6,000 spent, which divisions these households are located in, how the Council will determine who will benefit from the remaining £144,000 and if Councillors will be able to recommend residents in their division who are struggling with IT?</p> <p>Response: Cllr John Fisher, Cabinet Member for Children's Services.</p> <p>The Department for Education (DfE) has launched two schemes to support the distribution of digital devices and 4G routers to vulnerable young people through the current Covid crisis. The first was launched in May of this year and was aimed at care leavers and children with a social worker (0-19) and young people in year 10 who did not have access to a device through another source. This scheme is still active and distributing devices to care leavers and children with a social worker in Norfolk.</p> <p>For the 2020-21 academic year the DfE have extended the scheme to support vulnerable children in Norfolk schools which have been forced to close (or partially close) due to a Covid incident. Digital devices and routers are available, and schools can order machines directly from the DfE. Schools can apply for additional machines above their allocation directly to the DfE depending on the circumstances of the closure.</p> <p>The Virtual school for looked after children for Norfolk is supporting young people in care aged 16-25 to gain access to digital devices and specialist support through their Access to Computers and Technology (ACT) scheme. Younger pupils can be assisted by the virtual school to get access to devices through their school and the Pupil Premium programme.</p> <p>Norfolk County Council are also helping vulnerable young people and families claiming universal credit or who are on low wages to gain access to digital devices and 4G routers via their Norfolk Assistance scheme. The scheme can supply refurbished equipment to assist families in gaining access to the internet to help home</p>

	<p>learning, applying for jobs, as well as reducing isolation and connecting with family and friends. This digital inclusion scheme was approved with £150,000 from the DEFRA funding through Norfolk Assistance Scheme in Sept 2020.</p> <p>An awareness raising campaign was launched by NCC w/c 30th November and has been circulated widely to professional networks, schools and Children's Services teams. Posters and information will be provided through the library service and community venues that children, young people and families attend. A media release and dedicated web page will follow in due course. (see attached publicity material focused on schools and non-schools audiences) A family can make an application themselves via the website or can be assisted by a support worker, social worker, local member etc who can apply on their behalf. Individuals can also contact the CSC who can support an application being made over the phone.</p> <p>Since the scheme launched 30 laptops have been provided to individuals and families supporting their specific needs along with help with connectivity where needed.</p> <p>We anticipate there will be a further increase in the spending on this programme following the campaign and further training being provided to inhouse Childrens Services staff in completing applications on behalf of families. Decisions made on those who access the scheme are based on meeting the eligibility criteria and evidence of financial hardship.</p> <p>Members are able to direct residents to the scheme via this link (awaiting link).</p>
7.10	<p>Question from Cllr Brenda Jones Once again, the Government have failed to address the perilous chasm in Adult Social Care funding at last month's Comprehensive Spending Review. Does Cabinet therefore intend to recommend to Council that it levies the full Adult Social Care precept from April 2021 in order to help balance the books?</p> <p>Response: Cllr Andrew Proctor, Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Strategy & Governance. We are still looking at all options as part of the budget preparations for 2021/22. Proposals will be presented at the Budget Council in February 2021 and therefore no decisions have been made concerning the Adult Social Care Precept at this time.</p>
7.11	<p>Question from Cllr Julie Brociek-Coulton The Chancellor's Comprehensive Spending Review did nothing to address the specific financial pressure on our carers, particularly ringfenced money over this Winter. What plans does the Cabinet have to financially support Norfolk's carers in the coming challenging months??</p> <p>Response: Cllr Bill Borrett, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health & Prevention. Thank you for your question. Norfolk's enhanced Carers Matter Norfolk service launched on 1 September 2020, it's focused on providing robust support to carers earlier and improving carer wellbeing. This five-year contract is being delivered via a Social Impact Bond model and is focussed on delivering outcomes-based contracts that are continuously informed by carers themselves.</p> <p>The model combines £1.3m of annual existing Norfolk County Council budgets,</p>

	<p>including £0.16m paid by the local Clinical Commissioning Group. In addition, we will be able to claim up to £4.1m from the Life Chance Fund (LCF), for a total of £10.6m spend for carers over five years. This project effectively protects and locks in our spending of £1.3m on carers support services for the next five years, demonstrating the high level of commitment to tackle what the Council has identified as a high priority, and in addition the opportunity to attract additional funding via the LCF.</p> <p>Furthermore, as part of addressing the unprecedented challenge for social care that Covid-19 presents, the government provided adult social care with funds through the Infection Control Fund. Designed to support with the prevention and control of Covid-19 in care, Norfolk County Council is actively pursuing utilising the current round of funding it to support unpaid carers in their own homes.</p> <p>We have and continue to recognise the extraordinary lengths that they are going to while they support their loved during the pandemic.</p>
7.12	<p>Question from Cllr David Rowntree Barclays bank have announced that they are closing their branch in my division, leaving my residents with no local access to banking facilities. This story is repeated across Norfolk, with banks and building societies withdrawing their services from our towns and suburbs. Can the Cabinet Member for Growing the Economy explain what steps Norfolk County Council is taking to ensure residents across the county have reasonable access to banking facilities?</p> <p>Response: Cllr Graham Plant, Cabinet Member for Growing the Economy. There are currently no plans for the County Council to intervene in providing access to banking. We do lobby for reasonable access for banking for residents.</p>
7.13	<p>Question from Cllr Chrissie Rumsby Could the Cabinet member for Highways and Infrastructure provide a written statement of the performance against targets for Highways teams covering Norwich since the termination of the agreement with Norwich City Council and the service was brought under Norfolk County Council control?</p> <p>Response: Cllr Martin Wilby, Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport. Since April, we have introduced a monitoring regime and I am pleased to say that, despite the challenges of the Covid situation, the team are performing well and we are now delivering a consistent service across all highways area teams.</p> <p>Since April, the team have received 1,877 customer queries and responded to 90% of these. The remaining queries are live and are currently being investigated. In addition, 2,622 individual works orders have been raised by the team and these have been or are in the process of being delivered. Contractor performance is also monitored and Norse Highways are above target for the delivery of all highways works, averaging over 96% of works delivered on time.</p> <p>In addition, the 2020 National Highways and Transport (NHT) network survey results have just been issued. I am pleased to report that for the second year running Norfolk County Council has come first among its peers for overall satisfaction. In addition, we were also ranked 1st amongst our peer group for the 'professionalism of staff regarding enquiries'.</p>

7.14	<p>Question from Cllr Dan Roper Is there a legal requirement for the sale of the building or land that any future use of Holt Hall has to be for educational purposes?</p> <p>Response: Cllr Greg Peck, Cabinet Member for Commercial Services & Asset Management. As set out in report detailed work around the disposal has not been undertaken. However, a title report has been commissioned and there are no restrictions that would bind the future use of the land. As vendor, NCC could impose any restrictions on the land although this would obviously limit the market.</p>
7.15	<p>Question from Cllr Steff Aquarone Will the testimonies that were given about the value of outdoor education provided by outdoor learning specialists as part of the consultation on the future of Holt Hall be given due weight or is this decision just about the money?</p> <p>Response: Cllr John Fisher, Cabinet Member for Children's Services. The value of outdoor learning is recognised in the Cabinet report. Section 5.2 notes the background research and engagement with national leaders in this field between December 2019 and February 2020. During this time, we looked at the role played by other councils and this has influenced our view that we should cease being a direct provider. These initial findings were shared with staff and they were invited to comment at this stage. More recently feedback from staff and others has included some positive suggestions of outdoor learning activity beyond Holt Hall. The Norfolk County Council Specialist Outdoor Learning Manager and Adviser will be critical to shaping the future offer. It is not all about the money which is clearly recognised in the report.</p>
7.16	<p>Question from Cllr Brian Watkins How much has the council saved this year through the council staff not being in the office and not incurring expenditure for activity such as car travel?</p> <p>Response: Cllr Andrew Jamieson, Cabinet Member for Finance. The council has saved approximately £3m and this is being utilised by services to support the response to COVID-19.</p>
7.17	<p>Question from Cllr Tim Adams Care providers are struggling during the Covid pandemic to properly protect people with learning disabilities. People with learning disabilities were up to six times more likely to die from Covid-19 during the first wave of the pandemic. Why have they been forgotten?</p> <p>Response: Cllr Bill Borrett, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health & Prevention. Thank you for your question. The short answer is that they haven't been forgotten. Care providers in Norfolk have gone to great lengths to support and protect people with learning disabilities. Adult Social Services has worked closely with all Norfolk's care homes, supported living settings and day services to ensure measures are in place to protect their residents, including strict infection control procedures.</p> <p>For services that support people in the community, we have provided regular, up to date and clear advice about how to limit the spread of the virus during lockdown and</p>

	<p>under the requirements of the national Covid 19 alert levels.</p> <p>Where possible providers are open, with others deciding to provide individual or virtual support under lockdown. Regardless of the number of people a provider supports, we are paying providers at the level paid to them in February (pre-lockdown) to ensure that their income remains at a level enabling them to continue their activities.</p> <p>We have funded extra capacity in the NCC Health and Safety team to assist with risk assessments and we have made funding available from the infection control fund to enable them to make changes and adaptations to reduce infection risk.</p> <p>Where providers need to provide additional support (for example someone living in supported living is unable to attend their usual day service) we are making additional payments to enable them to do so.</p> <p>Respite provision remains open but at a reduced capacity to ensure people can self-isolate for the duration of their stay, in line with national requirements. Where this reduction in capacity has reduced a providers income NCC has provided additional financial support</p> <p>Between March and June a learning disability focused covid positive residential provision was purchased, to reduce infection risk if anyone was unable to self isolate at home (including in an other residential or supported living service). There are plans in place to be able to deploy a similar service at short notice, should it be required over the winter.</p> <p>Throughout the pandemic the learning disability operational social care teams have maintained regular telephone contact with all people with a learning disability who receive NCC services who live in the community. This is to keep in touch, to ensure their ongoing welfare, and to enable practitioners to respond quickly where a situation is deteriorating and identify and deploy support</p>
7.18	<p>Question from Cllr David Harrison</p> <p>How many local community schemes were established across Norfolk to help residents cope during the first wave of pandemic. How many of these are closing and how many would you estimate will still be active after Christmas?</p> <p>Response: Cllr Margaret Dewsbury, Cabinet Member for Communities & Partnerships.</p> <p>Local councils are working closely with their communities to understand the number and capacity of local community organisations and local groups. Due to the nature and size of these organisations it is difficult to provide exact numbers of them, or the number of requests passed to them.</p> <p>All local councils are reporting that there is good and sustained coverage of these groups, and Norfolk Community Foundation is providing support for them through the winter so that they can continue to provide their vital community activities at this challenging time.</p> <p>Norfolk County Council donated £100,000 to Norfolk Community Foundation (NCF) at the beginning of the pandemic to provide support for the community response, and</p>

	<p>more recently have provided £200,000 to NCF to support families in winter hardship. In addition, NCC have also provided Covid funding to Voluntary Norfolk (£60,000) and Community Action Norfolk (£15,000) to work with community volunteers and smaller voluntary organisations and to regularly provide updates as to any additional needs the sector may have and how best to support them.</p>
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