

Cabinet
8 November 2021
Public & Local Member Questions

Agenda item 6	Public Question Time
6.1	<p>Question from Jennifer Tabecki</p> <p>The Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Transport and Planning (ADEPT) recognises that there are key barriers to local government being part of the framework which must deliver the Government's Statutory Carbon Reduction Target.</p> <p>These are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Insufficiency of funding and the complexity of funding streams, with reliance on competitive bidding and 2. lack of local expertise <p>130 councils have already signed up to the Association's (ADEPT) Coalition who's 'Blueprint for Accelerating Climate Action for a Green Recovery at the Local Level' aims at pressurising central government to work to overcome these barriers, including proper local funding.</p> <p>Will Norfolk County Council add their name and influence to this Coalition?</p> <p>Response from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste Norfolk County Council acknowledges the need for both additional external resources and the development of in-house capacity and skills in the delivery of our goals relating to net zero.</p> <p>Norfolk County Council has also prioritised working in partnership with expert organisations and bodies including the Tyndall Centre, UEA and with key organisations locally, including District Councils and Suffolk County Council.</p> <p>The Council's role as part of the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership (NCCP) is also very helpful both in delivering our own organisational strategy, and in coordinating a successful countywide approach in terms of securing external resources and in developing new skills and technologies to support our delivery.</p> <p>Norfolk County Council is an active member of ADEPT and will continue to work with this body on important matters such as this one.</p>
6.2	<p>Question from Sarah Eglington Recognising that nearly 80% of councils have declared a climate emergency, including our neighbouring counties of Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Lincolnshire, Norwich Friends of the Earth would like to ask how Norfolk County Council can justify not doing so?</p> <p>Response from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste The report to Cabinet on the Environmental Policy sets out the significant amount of work already successfully completed in terms of climate change, as</p>

	<p>well as setting out the hard work which still lies ahead if we are to reach our goal of achieving net zero across our council estate by 2030, and in fully supporting our partners across the county. As previously stated, our focus remains on delivery.</p> <p>Supplementary question from Sarah Eglington</p> <p>If Norfolk County Council are acknowledging that there is a climate crisis and are satisfied that the aspirations stated within their environmental policies are achievable, when will they be publishing their baseline statistics against which they will measure success, and the target dates by which that success must be achieved?</p> <p>Response from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste</p> <p>The report detailing progress on the Environmental Policy sets out the Council's achievements to date, many of which are of national significance.</p> <p>Details of the Council's progress around Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions are included in the report, whilst Annex A of the report – Summary of Commitments for Scope 1 and Scope 2; Annex B – Summary of commitments for the Environmental Policy, and Annex C – Summary of commitments for Scope 3, set out the next steps for the Council in terms of priorities for achieving net zero across our estate by 2030.</p> <p>A further update on progress including emissions monitoring will be provided to Council in the New Year.</p>
6.3	<p>Question from Daryl Long</p> <p>What action is the County Council taking regarding tree replacement in Norwich and when? Having taken over this responsibility from the City Council, the County Council appears to be taking no responsibility for tree replacement within a realistic timeframe. As we lose our trees we gain more tarmac and parked cars. Budget pressures cannot be offered as an excuse, there must be a designated and protected budget to ensure all trees are replaced and, indeed, more planted. The environmental impact of city trees, or lack of, is well understood. If you understand the need for cycle paths then you must understand the need for trees in our city.</p> <p>Response from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste</p> <p>The Council has a countywide action plan to plant an additional 1 million trees across the whole county. We also aim to replace trees that have been removed, subject to identifying a suitable location and funding being available. Where these are removed due to highway improvement schemes, usually a greater number of trees are planted as replacements. For highway maintenance, the current funding position does mean that we will prioritise replanting in conservation areas. The time taken to replant will depend on a number of factors, such as other proposed works, whether the location is suitable and funding. Tree planting tends to be done in a limited time window each year and that will also affect the timescale for replacement.</p>

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Local Member Questions**

Agenda item 7	Local Member Issues/Questions
7.1	<p>Question from Cllr Paul Neale</p> <p>For the last 11 years, due to a backlog of highways maintenance, the council has reallocated approximately 67% of the Integrated Transport allocation into Highway maintenance. This means about £30m of local highways improvements have not been possible, things like zebra crossings, road safety signage, traffic calming measures, and changes to waiting or parking zones. In 2017 county members were allocated annual discretionary budgets to tackle some of these but in total only £2.85m has been made available. That's only 9.5% of what would have been available in those 11 years. Could the council increase discretionary budgets to a realistic workable amount to meet the back log in our districts.</p> <p>Response from the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport</p> <p>The local member discretionary budgets have recently been increased from £6,000 per year to £10,000, totalling some £840,000 available per annum. The scope of the funding has been widened this year to include environmental initiatives such as the installation of electrical vehicle charging points and tree planting.</p> <p>Following the recent Budget, we are currently awaiting details of Norfolk's allocations for highway structural maintenance and improvements. It is understood it will be a 3-year settlement.</p> <p>These will inform the recommendations in the Highway Capital Programme report 2022-25 to Cabinet, planned for March 2022. It will include consider the proposed balance between maintenance and improvement spend. However, it remains prudent asset management to focus on maintaining Norfolk's highways asset whilst a maintenance backlog exists.</p>
7.2	<p>Question from Cllr Jamie Osborn</p> <p>Recommendation 8 of the report states that: "the Council will continue to work in partnership in delivering the wider net zero ambitions for the region". There is nothing in the report that details what work has been going on so far, progress on reducing area-wide emissions, or pathways to net zero. It appears that no effort has been made to assess what emissions reductions are needed or how they will be achieved. Can the cabinet member present me with evidence that this work has been undertaken?</p> <p>Response from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste</p> <p>The report detailing progress on the Environmental Policy includes several nationally recognised, major pieces of work which have</p>

	<p>involved successfully working with partners, including development of the Natural Capital Compendium for Norfolk and Suffolk, working with UEA and Suffolk County Council; the development of a new Pollinator Action Plan for Norfolk; and the Wendling Beck Exemplar Project (WPEP).</p> <p>Annex C of the report – Summary of commitments for Scope 3 in the report also sets out the further work we will do in terms of carbon reduction beyond the Norfolk County Council estate.</p> <p>The County Council also continues to be a key member of the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership (NCCP), whose work including coordinating action towards net zero, is vital to ensuring a consistent countywide approach which maximises our ability to secure additional resources and to upskill the workforce.</p> <p>The benefits of Norfolk County Council supporting such a collaborative approach can be evidenced in our very recent successes in securing Community Renewal Funding to help Norfolk deliver a number of net zero initiatives across the county:</p> <p>Energy Solutions at Hethel Net Zero Norfolk - Sustainable Travel Network Road to Net Zero Business Support</p> <p>Supplementary question from Cllr Jamie Osborn Over the 15 years since 2005, average carbon emissions in Norfolk declined 27%, an average of less than 2% a year. To reach net zero even by 2050, emissions will have to be cut by more than 13% year-on-year. Acknowledgment of that fact is missing from the Environmental Policy. Will the council commit to this science-based target of at least 13% year-on-year reduction area wide?</p> <p>Response from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste The approach of the County Council is clearly set out in the report, including in the three appendices at the end of the report.</p>
7.3	<p>Question from Cllr Steff Aquarone What does the Cabinet member think about the Swedish approach to road accidents: to start from the premise that the only acceptable number of road deaths and injuries is zero - and work back from there, shifting the onus from the individual driver, to a societal responsibility placed upon authorities and manufacturers to design out risks?</p> <p>Response from the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport</p> <p>Over the last 30 years Norfolk has had a good record in reducing road casualties. Traditionally this has been through treating identified accident 'cluster sites' with engineering measures. Whilst the long-term progress is good, over the last decade this has stalled, both in Norfolk and nationally. With accident cluster sites being harder to identify, we have already changed this approach.</p> <p>Both the Department for Transport and this Council have adopted the 'Safe</p>

	<p>System' strategy for road safety. This represents current best practice in road safety and is derived from the Swedish Vision Zero and Dutch Sustainable Safety strategies. 'Safe System' is based on the underlying principles that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • human beings make frequent mistakes that lead to road collisions; • the human body by nature has a limited ability to sustain collision forces with known tolerance to injury thresholds; and • it is a shared responsibility between stakeholders (road users, road managers, vehicle manufacturers, etc.) to take appropriate actions to ensure that road collisions do not lead to serious or fatal injuries. <p>In Norfolk, we have developed a route-based approach to road safety which aims to reduce road user risk proactively. This involves a video drive through of the route which is then sent to the Road Safety Foundation who code the identified roadside and geometric hazards and use modelling software to identify counter measures which will be most cost effective in reducing the likelihood of a fatal or serious injury. The recommended counter measures are captured in a Route Improvement Report and will form the long-term road safety improvement plan for the road in question. Lower cost measures will be funded by the local safety schemes budget and some interventions may be cost effectively delivered in conjunction with other planned maintenance schemes.</p> <p>In the first instance we are applying the safe system approach to Norfolk's major road network but in the long term intend to treat all Norfolk's A and B class roads.</p> <p>Second Question from Cllr Steff Aquarone: Joy Baker was the Norfolk woman who was taken to court repeatedly because she home educated. She was persecuted, abused, and at one point had her children taken away from her before she finally won her case against the council. Monday 15th November marks the 60th anniversary of this victory. Will he join me in recognising Joy Baker Day on 15th November and supporting parents where they wish to home educate their children?</p> <p>Response from the Cabinet Member for Children's Services Norfolk county council fully recognises the right of parents to home educate their children. Joy Baker blazed a trail for current policy which we welcome. For many years we have maintained a small team to support families who have chosen to educate their children at home – called Services to Home Educators. Not all local authorities do this as there is no statutory duty to do so. We value and respect the decisions that parents make. We continue to invest in this support and have recently expanded the team to ensure that we are able to provide as much support as we can to families, not least during these more challenging times.</p>
7.4	<p>Question from Cllr Tim Adams How many people are there currently resident in social care homes across Norfolk that have been rated as requiring improvement or inadequate by the</p>

	<p>Care Quality Commission?</p> <p>Response from the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention</p> <p>Thank you for your question. As you are obviously aware, Care Homes are independent businesses regulated by the Care Quality Commission and it may be better to address this question to them. I can however say that there are 332 residential and nursing homes across Norfolk; of these 81 are judged as requiring improvement and 17 as inadequate.</p> <p>As you would expect, where there are concerns about quality of care we impose restrictions on placements, and these are only lifted once our Integrated Care Quality Team is satisfied that risks or actions have been addressed. We do also offer support to independent care businesses to improve (which many accept), this is outlined in my response to question 7.5.</p>
7.5	<p>Question from Cllr Brian Watkins</p> <p>With the current level of staff in quality assurance it takes 2 years for the staff to get round all the care providers. Clearly this is unacceptable to ensure that the whole system is robust and for the public to have confidence in it. By how much will the Cabinet member be seeking to increase social care quality assurance this year to protect vulnerable patients?</p> <p>Response from the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention</p> <p>Thank you for your question. As Cabinet Member I rely on the advice and guidance of the Officers, as is right and proper in this sort of situation. Norfolk's in-house quality assurance team works alongside the Care Quality Commission (CQC). It uses a risk based approach which gives the team alerts and early warning to be able to target support to strengthen quality. The audit approach is a nationally recognised method (known as PAMMS) and is supported and increasingly relied on by the regulator. Although this enables all services to be audited within two years, the Council adopts a targeted risk-based audit approach which prioritises higher risk and enables more frequent audits in some cases. Our approach both holds providers accountable for quality deficits and enables restrictions to be place, where appropriate, but importantly it enables support to improve. As well as responding to early indications of declining quality, the joint health and social care team is proactive in training, advice and best practice support.</p> <p>The integrated team was expanded in 2019, with further investment this year to provide a total of 16 quality monitoring officers and two temporary provider engagement officers. In addition, two temporary posts have been agreed, which will increase the provider support element of the work. This is particularly important where providers are struggling due to workforce and leadership shortages.</p> <p>Equally important is that this team is not the only source of quality assurance. The team supports the drive for improvement across the sector, but works closely and collaboratively with operational teams, with safeguarding teams, and our colleagues within health and the CQC. It is critical for good quality</p>

	<p>assurance and improvement that reliance is not placed on a single team. Therefore, a continued priority is the development of a quality culture across all our staff, partners and providers through training, shared information, commissioning practices, the work of organisations such as Healthwatch and supporting feedback from people who use services.</p>
7.6	<p>Question from Cllr Lucy Shires In Social Care the average spend per worker on training is £150 per year compared to £1,500 in the NHS. What will the Cabinet member be doing in Norfolk to address this disparity?</p> <p>Response from the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention Thank you for your question. I have long recognised the significant disparity in funding between health and social care, whoever is in power at Westminster. As a result of this disparity we have sought out extra funding for training and successfully secured up to an extra £7.58 million, including up to £3.79 million from the European Social Fund, to deliver a large-scale programme of training and mentoring to the social care (and health) workforce across Norfolk and Suffolk. The <u>Developing Skills</u> project, which is a partnership initiative, offers a wide range of fully funded opportunities, including functional skills and developmental qualifications. The main aim of the project is to empower people working in our social care sector to develop new skills and confidence. This will enable them to continue providing high-quality care to local people.</p> <p>More broadly, Norfolk County Council has worked with local social care providers and other stakeholders to develop a <u>Workforce Strategy</u> and Implementation Plan for Adult Social Care, which includes a range of priority actions aimed at improving recruitment and retention within the sector over the next five years. This strategy will link into, and add value to, positive activity already underway across local providers as well as developments with national policy and funding.</p>
7.7	<p>Question from Cllr Saul Penfold Will the County Council seek to run a scheme like North Norfolk District Council's tree giveaway day?</p> <p>Response from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste Norfolk County Council has set the ambition of planting 1 million trees over five planting seasons. In order to deliver this ambitious programme, the Council has developed a strategy with partners from the public and private sector, including our District Councils.</p> <p>A number of programmes have already been developed to encourage local communities and schools to plant trees in their local environment, and the Council has developed a new Environmental Hub at Gressenhall Farm & Workhouse where a community nursery is being established for members of the public to learn about caring for trees and to collect trees for planting in their own locality.</p> <p>Through our Tree Planting Pledge, with other Local Authorities, we will work with North Norfolk District Council to ensure that their schemes for engaging</p>

	<p>and supporting tree planting in their areas complement other plans elsewhere across the county so that we can collectively deliver our collective targets for this important programme.</p>
7.8	<p>Question from Cllr Sharon Blundell At the People Select Committee it was made clear that progress on achieving a better rate of EHCP completions could be hampered by capacity issues in Educational Psychology teams. What is the process for reviewing this capacity?</p> <p>Response from the Cabinet Member for Children's Services The capacity of Educational Psychology teams to contribute to the assessment process of an Education Health and Care Plan is a national issue. There is a shortage across the country. In Norfolk we have agreed ambitious trajectories to improve the timescale in which we complete EHC plans. At each stage of our planning we review existing capacity and acknowledge that we need more Educational Psychologists if we are achieve our ambition of 90% of plans in timescale. We buy time from agencies wherever we can and we enhanced our local capacity in order to achieve our improved outcomes. We have an established a trainee scheme for Educational Psychologists in Norfolk which is leading to us training and recruiting more Educational Psychologists to take up posts with us. In line with our ambition to achieve even better timescales for assessment and to meet need earlier, we are continually seeking more Educational Psychologists to work directly with us, as are most other local authorities.</p> <p>Supplementary question from Cllr Sharon Blundell When will the result of the review become publicly available?</p> <p>Response from the Cabinet Member for Children's Services The review process with regard to capacity is ongoing and as demand rises this has an impact. The national shortage means that we have an ambition to recruit as many as we can, but like most authorities we struggle to do so.</p>
7.9	<p>Question from Cllr Dan Roper What was put into the Covid care packages that were sent out to residents?</p> <p>Response from the Cabinet Member for Communities and Partnerships Norfolk has taken an holistic approach to providing support to households either Shielding (Clinically Extremely Vulnerable) or Self Isolating. Wherever possible we have made use of volunteers to carry out emergency shops and medicine collections and provided support using Local Council Community Hubs.</p> <p>Norfolk County Council purchased 5,151 food boxes (following investigation into costs from a number of suppliers to ensure the best combination of value for money and provision of acceptable nutritional standards).</p> <p>We purchased a range of food parcels from different suppliers, which we then supplemented with a range of items specific needs (we did this in conjunction with local council community hubs) this included fresh food, bread, milk, Baby food, nappies, hygiene products as well as foods specific to dietary</p>

	<p>requirements such as Gluten free and Vegan.</p> <p>The majority of the pre-packaged food parcels were from Morrison's and these contained the following</p> <p>Custard creams Wine gums Simmer Sauce Cheese mix Chilli Con Carne Mix Semi Skimmed Long life Chicken Breast chunks Morrisons vegetable soup Morrisons tomato soup Napoli Kidney Beans Pear Halves Fray Bentos meatballs Chickpeas in water Morrisons tuna chunks Morrisons fusili Easy cook basmati rice Sweetcorn Branston Beans 4 pack Corn Flakes Pataks Tikka Masala kit Passata Tomato and Basil sauce Toilet roll – 4 rolls wrapped</p> <p>Supplementary Question from Cllr Dan Roper How much did the council spend on them overall?</p> <p>Response from the Cabinet Member for Communities and Partnerships The total cost of these parcels was £194,000 this was funded with money from central Government to support Shielding and Self Isolation, and supplemented with generous donations from local food suppliers in Norfolk.</p>
7.10	<p>Question from Cllr Rob Colwell Since the updated Norfolk Local Flood Risk Management Strategy Policy Review 2021 was published highlighting at Policy Undertaking Commitment 12: Water Company Liaison, that Risk Management Authorities will work closely with water companies in partnership to reduce the occurrence of public sewer flooding, I wondered what recent representations the Cabinet member may have made to Anglia Water in relation to protecting our 9 precious Norfolk chalk streams?</p> <p>Response from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste The Norfolk Strategic Flooding Alliance (NSFA) was set up by Norfolk County Council (as Local Lead Flood Authority) in February 2021, chaired by Lord Dannatt. The Alliance comprises all parties with responsibilities for water management, including the Environment Agency and Anglian Water, and recognises the benefits by working closely together for maximising benefits to</p>

	<p>residents and the environment.</p> <p>This is being demonstrated in the first tranche of local NSFA flood sites, identified for investigation and resolution, where some of the problems have been exacerbated by inundation of the Anglian Water foul systems.</p> <p>In addition, and specifically in relation to the River Burn, a chalk stream, the NSFA has set up a working group which is seeking funding to develop a catchment wide approach to reduce flooding and make the best use of water.</p> <p>Supplementary question from Cllr Rob Colwell Will the Cabinet Member join me in expressing his utter disgust in local Tory MPs in voting against measures to protect our Norfolk rivers and beaches?</p> <p>Response from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste The prime responsibility for water quality in the county rests with the Environment Agency, and we will continue to work closely with the Environment Agency, and all other relevant bodies, on all matters relating to Norfolk's rivers and beaches.</p>
7.11	<p>Question from Cllr Ben Price During 2020, there were hundreds of sewage spills from water companies into Norfolk's rivers. In Thorpe Hamlet, where we have seen an increase in public river use, drains located at Bishopsbridge Rd, Elm Hill, Riverside Rd and Chalk Hill Rd had a combined 720 spills, lasting for 12,000 hours during 2020. That is equivalent to a continuous flow of waste into the Wensum for every minute of that year, and more! Almost all Norfolk MPs voted against laws to prevent water companies dumping sewage. What action will the Leader of this council take to stop this pollution, so that he sends the right message to those MPs and river users?</p> <p>Response from the Leader and Cabinet Member for Governance and Strategy Thank you for the question. One of the most prolific causes of sewage entering our waterways in Norfolk is during times of high rainfall and flooding. I am glad that over the past twelve months NCC has, alongside Lord Dannatt, formed and lead a strategic response to this issue. We have, alongside other organisations provided funding and leadership to address many specific flooding issues. My division is particularly affected by this so I am glad to see action on the ground. In terms of representation to our MPs we have briefed them on this issue at our regular meetings and made them aware of local concerns. This is a serious matter, especially in the months coming and we will continue to press not only our MPs but all organisations who have a role in flood prevention and dealing with sewerage to take proactive action to prevent not only floods but damage to our waterway ecosystems.</p> <p>Supplementary question from Cllr Ben Price The council has an ambition to have planted in Norfolk one million trees by 2025. Residents of Norwich regularly contact Green councillors lamenting tree losses on highways located outside conservation areas, with no guarantee that they will be replaced. In the Environment Policy you state by March 2022 planting season this council will have facilitated the planting of 51,884. At this</p>

	<p>rate you will not hit your target in the 5 year period, but in 38.5 years. Could the cabinet member please explain what mechanism will be introduced to dramatically increase the planting program from currently around 26,000 a year to 316,039 a year to meet the 2025 target?</p> <p>Response from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste Despite the significant impact of Covid-19, the County Council has successfully planted more than 50,000 new trees across the County in line with our tree-planting strategy, and my thanks go to the officers, partners and local residents involved in delivering this impressive performance.</p> <p>We will continue to deliver the Council's commitment to delivering 1 Million Trees for Norfolk over the coming planting seasons, operating on the key principle of the 'right tree in the right place', to maximise the potential of the newly planted trees to thrive.</p> <p>In order to help deliver this ambitious goal, we have created a new Environmental Hub, including tree nursery for native Norfolk trees, at Gressenhall Farm & Workhouse. We also continue to work closely with many local and national partners, including the Environment Agency, DEFRA and the Woodland Trust, and we remain confident that this target is achievable.</p>
7.12	<p>Question from Cllr Alexandra Kemp Residents and I ran a passionate campaign in 2018, to save South Lynn Children's Centre. Post-pandemic, we need to intensify its use for parent and toddler groups. Invest in Youth Worker on-site support for young people at risk. Unmet needs are placing more pressure on the police. But Supplementary Agenda p31 says: We are developing a Building Assets Strategy to deliver savings from reduced spend on leases and associated revenue costs; this proposal is focussed on a review of current Children's Services occupied buildings, to reduce usage or release space that is no longer required. Can the Administration confirm it will safeguard South Lynn Children's Centre.</p> <p>Response from the Cabinet Member for Children's Services This site is and remains an ECFS base, with services delivered by our partner Action for Children. There are no plans to review or change this activity or operating bases across the County.</p> <p>As Cllr Kemp will be aware, there are a number of minor technical issues to work through on the existing lease, but all partners are seeking to resolve these and they do not affect the ongoing occupation and delivery of the service.</p>
7.13	<p>Question from Cllr Mike Smith-Clare Can the Cabinet Member for Children's Services confirm how many of the total number of Norfolk 16 to 19-year-olds currently identified as NEET are also identified as being a carer?</p> <p>Response from the Cabinet Member for Children's Services We do not have information identifying young carers in this group, so we are</p>

	<p>unable to provide an accurate figure of 16-19 year olds who are NEET and carers. All our guidance advisers have had training in how to identify a Young Carer, their legal & statutory rights, the types of support available and how to make a referral for a Young Carers Assessment. Where we are aware of young carers at risk of NEET or NEET, we work with the relevant teams to provide enhanced support.</p> <p>Supplementary question from Cllr Mike Smith-Clare How many of the 16 to 19-year-olds identified as NEET have left a course that they started in September 2021 and are receiving information and guidance to help them back into training and/or employment?</p> <p>Response from the Cabinet Member for Children's Services It is too early to provide this information. We are in the very initial stages of receiving the first data from post 16 providers of students who have left their provision. We have arrangements with all the providers to receive this data on a monthly basis from November onwards. Once the data is received we contact all of the students who have left to ascertain their current situation and to offer guidance and support for them to re-engage in alternative provision.</p> <p>Historically more young people drop out after the October half term and the Christmas holidays so a better indication of the percentage of young people leaving provision and their subsequent status is taken at the end of February.</p>
7.14	<p>Question from Cllr Brenda Jones Please can the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention confirm how much money will care homes operated by the Jeasal Group receive from the latest round of Infection Control Fund money Norfolk County Council is to receive from Central Government?</p> <p>Response from the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention Thank you for your question. I am really pleased that The Round 5 Infection Control and Testing Fund for Norfolk is £7.327m. This funding will provide financial help to support safe infection control practices within Norfolk care provision until March 2022. The funding has just been received and all providers have been contacted to enable them access to this latest round of financial support.</p> <p>Planned payments in relation to infection control, testing and vaccination funding will be £563.57 per bed in residential care home settings. Jeasal Residential Care Services currently supports 61 people in Norfolk residential care homes, the majority of whom are private self funders, it is important to recognise that the funding is to support ALL care provision and is based on the number of registered beds in operational homes.</p> <p>Supplementary question from Cllr Brenda Jones What steps has Norfolk County Council taken to audit the use of Infection Control Fund payments made to Jeasal and all other private sector care providers since it was first paid in May 2020?</p> <p>Response from the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health</p>

	<p>and Prevention</p> <p>Thank you for your question. All infection control funding is subject to the providers entering into a Grant Agreement with the Council. This requires an undertaking that the funding will only be spent on the allowed criteria. At the end of each funding period each care provider is required to complete a declaration with any underspends returned to the Council, these declarations can be subject to audit.</p>
7.15	<p>Question from Cllr Terry Jermy</p> <p>Street lighting remains the County Council's main source of electricity consumption. As the report for the Cabinet Meeting confirms on page 57, just 41% of NCC's streetlights have been converted to LED - approximately 22,000 lights - this is hugely disappointing given the obvious opportunities to save carbon and money. Can the Cabinet Member for Commercial Services and Asset Management confirm when the Council will achieve 100% of its lights being converted to LED?</p> <p>Response from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste</p> <p>The Council has invested significantly since 2008 in modernising our streetlighting assets including upgrading 22,000 streetlights to energy efficient LED alternatives. Alongside this, the Council has a policy of not adopting new streetlighting unless there is a proven safety need. Where streetlighting is operational, we have implemented dimming or part night lighting on suitable routes when usage is low to further enhance our energy and carbon savings.</p> <p>We are currently delivering a significant £8.5m LED upgrade programme to upgrade a further 15,000 main road streetlights by 2023, which will increase the number of LED streetlights to around 37,000 or 70% of our overall stock, reducing our energy and carbon emissions by a further 5 million kWh and 1,200 tonnes of CO2 per year. The upgrade of these 15,000 units is targeted to the main road traffic routes which have the highest net gain in terms of energy consumption and savings due to the need for higher lighting levels and more stringent standards. In parallel with our current upgrade programme, we are reviewing the financial and contractual viability of converting the remaining stock of mainly residential type streetlights to LED, and officers are currently developing the business case and programme for this additional investment in LED lighting.</p>
7.16	<p>Question from Cllr Chrissie Rumsby</p> <p>What assurances can the Cabinet Member for Children's Services give that cuts to the budget for the schools library service will have no detrimental impact on the school provision of libraries to children in Norfolk, especially given the need to make up for lost learning during Covid-19 lockdowns?</p> <p>Response from the Cabinet Member for Children's Services</p> <p>For the 14% of schools who have continued to buy the service it is clear they have valued the additional support and resources. However we know that schools have libraries and have developed reading resources aligned to their curriculum planning. We are confident that through the structured reading programmes that all schools have in place, children will be supported to catch up in their reading.</p>

7.17	<p>Question from Cllr Emma Corlett There is virtually no mention of the climate in the budget report to Cabinet. What impact will the budget proposals have on the carbon reduction targets of the Council?</p> <p>Response from the Cabinet Member for Finance The Council has made very substantial progress on reducing carbon emissions. For example, compared to 2016/17, gross carbon emissions from our buildings and streetlights have reduced by 46%, and net carbon emissions by 82%. The paper to this cabinet meeting entitled "Natural Norfolk: Progress on delivering the Environmental Policy" sets out proposals for changes in the financial framework to support the achievement of net zero, whilst Annexes A and C set out concrete actions for substantially reducing carbon emissions.</p> <p>As stated in the budget paper, further work will be undertaken so that as far as possible any cost pressures linked to environmental policy and carbon reduction activities are reflected in the Budget and Medium-Term Financial Strategy presented to Cabinet in January 2022. Sustainability issues in relation to any new 2022-23 budget proposals will need to be further considered once initiatives are finalised as part of budget setting in February 2022.</p>
7.18	<p>Question from Cllr Colleen Walker At its meeting in September 2021 the Leader advised Council that the Local Transport Plan would be brought to the full Council meeting in November 2021 via Cabinet. Why is it not therefore on the agenda today?</p> <p>Response from the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport? The LTP was approved by Cabinet on 6 September to recommend to council. As set out at Council on 27 September, prior to presenting to council, the LTP was reviewed against recent published guidance and to undertake a final review to assure ourselves of legal compliance. That process has now been completed and it has been concluded that the LTP can go direct to the next meeting of Full Council.</p>
7.19	<p>Question from Cllr Rhodri Oliver Can the cabinet confirm that it is not agreeing the figures for increases in the ASC precept of 1% in the years 23-24, 24-25 and 25-26 shown in Table 11 under the alternative level for consultation following SR21?</p> <p>Response from the Leader and Cabinet Member for Governance and Strategy Once the council like others has its provisional settlement of government funding, likely to be mid-December, a view will then need to be taken on the structure of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.</p> <p>Supplementary question from Cllr Rhodri Oliver Can the cabinet confirm the total number and revenue cost per annum of all new hires of personnel made by the county council in the last 12 months</p> <p>Response from the Leader and Cabinet Member for Governance and Strategy</p>

	<p>The County Council had 1,200 (978 Full Time Equivalent (FTE)) new starters in the last 12 months. These will include substantive and temporary contracts. A large number of the new starters will be offset by leavers. The combined cost of the new starters on an annualised basis (including an assumed 25% for on-costs) would be approximately £29.5m out of a total payroll of £258m and total FTE of 6,469. Funding for these posts will be from a range of sources including external to the council.</p>
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