

## **Norfolk County Council**

### **Minutes of the Meeting Held at 10am on Monday 16 April 2018**

**Present:**

Mr A <b>Adams</b>	Ms A <b>Kemp</b>
Mr T <b>Adams</b>	Mr M <b>Kiddle-Morris</b>
Mr S <b>Aquarone</b>	Mr B <b>Long</b>
Mr S <b>Askew</b>	Mr I <b>Mackie</b>
Ms J <b>Barnard</b>	Dr E <b>Maxfield</b>
Mr D <b>Bills</b>	Mr G <b>Middleton</b>
Mr B <b>Borrett</b>	Mr J <b>Mooney</b>
Ms C <b>Bowes</b>	Mr S <b>Morphew</b>
Mr R <b>Brame</b>	Mr G <b>Nobbs</b>
Mrs J <b>Brociek-Coulton</b>	Ms J <b>Oliver</b>
Mrs S <b>Butikofer</b>	Mr R <b>Oliver</b>
Mrs P <b>Carpenter</b>	Mr G <b>Peck</b>
Mr M <b>Castle</b>	Mr G <b>Plant</b>
Ms K <b>Clipsham</b>	Mr D <b>Roper</b>
Mr D <b>Collis</b>	Mr D <b>Rowntree</b>
Mr E <b>Colman</b>	Ms C <b>Rumsby</b>
Ms E <b>Corlett</b>	Mr M <b>Sands</b>
Mr S <b>Dark</b>	Mr E <b>Seward</b>
Mrs M <b>Dewsbury</b>	Mr T <b>Smith</b>
Mr D <b>Douglas</b>	Mr M <b>Smith-Clare</b>
Mr P <b>Duigan</b>	Mr B <b>Spratt</b>
Mr F <b>Eagle</b>	Ms S <b>Squire</b>
Mr T <b>East</b>	Mr B <b>Stone</b>
Mr S <b>Eyre</b>	Mrs M <b>Stone</b>
Mr J <b>Fisher</b>	Dr M <b>Strong</b>
Mr T <b>FitzPatrick</b>	Mr H <b>Thirtle</b>
Mr C <b>Foulger</b>	Mrs A <b>Thomas</b>
Mr T <b>Garrod</b>	Mr V <b>Thomson</b>
Mrs S <b>Gurney</b>	Mr J <b>Timewell</b>
Mr R <b>Hanton</b>	Mrs K <b>Vincent</b>
Mr D <b>Harrison</b>	Mrs C <b>Walker</b>
M Chenery of <b>Horsbrugh</b>	Mr J <b>Ward</b>
Mr H <b>Humphrey</b>	Mr B <b>Watkins</b>
Mr B <b>Iles</b>	Mr A <b>White</b>
Mr A <b>Jamieson</b>	Mr M <b>Wilby</b>
Mr T <b>Jermy</b>	Mrs S <b>Young</b>
Mrs B <b>Jones</b>	
Dr C <b>Jones</b>	
Mr C <b>Jordan</b>	

## **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr A Proctor; Mr S Clancy; Mr A Grant; Mr W Richmond, Mr K Kiddie; Mr C Smith, Mr N Dixon; Mr R Price and Mr M Storey.

## **1 Minutes**

- 1.1 The minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 12 February 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the inclusion of Mr D Rowntree's apologies.

## **2 Chairman's Announcements**

- 2.1 The Chairman gave Council a brief overview of some of the events he had undertaken since the last meeting, giving Council a flavour of the range of events he had attended. The Chairman highlighted attending two Citizenship Ceremonies; speaking at the Unison Retired Members Annual General Meeting; a number of exhibition launches at museums, libraries and Norwich University of the Arts. The Chairman added that he had spent a memorable morning at Norwich Crown Court, sitting on the bench next to the judge and hearing many cases. He had also attended award ceremonies, highlighting the Fire & Rescue Service awards at County Hall and the Volunteer Awards at Waterloo Park. The Chairman had also attended a number of funerals and many church services including two commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Victoria Cross heroes where stone plaques had been laid. One of the civic receptions and events which had stood out was attending the St Winnolds Horse Fayre Parade at Downham Market and another memorable evening was spent bowling at North Walsham with the charity About with Friends who catered the Citizenship Ceremonies for Norfolk County Council. The Chairman had also attended the RAF 100 reception at RAF Marham where he had learned about the history of the base as well as the new F35B lightning aircraft which were due to arrive at the base in the near future. The Chairman also met with scout, guide and brownie groups who were all rising to his Chairman's challenge to demonstrate what they were doing to alleviate loneliness in their communities.
- 2.2 Mr B Spratt congratulated the Chairman on the service of Thanksgiving which had taken place on Sunday 15 April and said how well organised and how well attended the service had been.

## **3 Declarations of Interest**

- 3.1 M Chenery of Horsburgh declared an Other Interest in item 8 (Report of the Norfolk Records Committee) as he was a Trustee of the charity NORAH (Norfolk Archives and Heritage Development Foundation).

## **4 Questions to Leader of the Council**

4.1 The Leader made the following statement of apology to Mr S Morphew.

“At the press meeting after the special full Council meeting on 8 January 2018, I stated that Cllr Morphew incited hate. I acknowledge that it was inappropriate and retract that statement. I have already apologised and given my assurance that I will not repeat it. I agreed to make this statement in public as the original accusation was made in public.

I look forward to continuing to have a productive relationship with Cllr Morphew.”

4.2 **Question from Mr S Morphew**

4.2.1 Mr Morphew thanked the Leader for his statement of apology.

Mr Morphew stated that Keith Simpson MP had recently said that people should count their fingers after shaking hands with Mr Jordan. This suggested he was telling Norfolk Mr Jordan could not be trusted. Given how nice the Leader was about Keith Simpson in the remarks when he was not very complimentary about Norfolk MPs he asked if the Leader had changed his mind as a result.

4.2.2 The Leader replied that the inference was he might take Mr Simpson’s fingers.

4.3 **Question from Mr D Roper**

4.3.1 Mr Roper referred to the recent charges for disposal of DIY waste and asked the Leader to outline what discussions and agreements he had undertaken with the Leaders of Norfolk’s District Councils before the decision was made and also asked if he was willing to give a cast iron assurance that he did not think the imposition of the charges would lead to an increase in fly-tipping.

4.3.2 The Leader deferred the question to Mr M Wilby who responded that the Norfolk Waste Partnership included members from all the District Councils and were fully aware of what was happening and what came into force on 1 April. He added that any instances of fly-tipping were being monitored and to date there had been no increase in fly-tipping, particularly near the sites of the recycling centres.

4.4 **Question from Mr M Castle**

4.4.1 Mr Castle asked if there were plans to improve and/or remodel the Members’ meeting rooms (in the vicinity of the Council Chamber and marble map area) to bring them up to 21<sup>st</sup> century standards, to enhance their use and to make optimum use of the space available.

4.4.2 The Leader replied that there were plans which would come forward later in the year.

4.5 **Question from Ms A Kemp**

4.5.1 Ms Kemp referred to the major reorganisation of the NHS which the Policy & Resources Committee had approved. Ms Kemp said this was part of the Policy Framework and the Health and Wellbeing Board had included it in its discussions for the Strategy. Ms Kemp felt this decision should have been made by full Council as it affected too many people in Norfolk and King’s Lynn in particular due to King’s Lynn hospital being at risk of losing some of its departments and people would have to travel to Norwich or Great Yarmouth. Ms Kemp asked the Leader what he was going to do about this situation and if, when the risk register was introduced, he would make sure that a risk was included about King’s Lynn hospital losing some of its departments.

- 4.5.2 The Leader replied that as far as he was aware the decision made by Policy & Resources Committee was only an expression of interest and no further action was being taken or was needed at the present time.
- 4.6 **Question from Mr G Nobbs**
- 4.6.1 Mr Nobbs referred to the recent Radio Norfolk interview and asked the Leader to name the three District Council Leaders, all of whom were Members of Norfolk County Council, two of whom were present today, saying they were plotting against him and had been doing so for years. Mr Nobbs asked the Leader to give Council some details of the plot and whether it was against the Leader as an individual or as Leader of the Council, or as Leader of the Conservative Group.
- 4.6.2 The Leader replied that they were only doing what Mr Nobbs used to do.
- 4.7 **Question from Mr B Watkins**
- 4.7.1 Mr Watkins said that, with the Council facing many financial challenges in the coming years, it really needed as many friends as it could get and there clearly needed to be a more harmonious relationship between the County Council and Norfolk's Westminster politicians. Mr Watkins asked the Leader if he agreed with this viewpoint and if so, how he hoped to go about mending relations.
- 4.7.2 The Leader agreed and said three Norfolk MP's had recently visited him with most of the others coming to see him in the near future. The Leader added that the only MP who had not yet responded was Clive Lewis.
- 4.8 **Question from Mr T Jermy**
- 4.8.1 Mr Jermy referred to the recent publication of the Councillor expenses and allowances paid to Members for January 2018 on the Norfolk County Council website. Mr Jermy said as a result of the vote on allowances, for a single month, the Leader was paid £7,458.35. He asked the Leader, given that he had undertaken to donate his increase to charity, if he would like to take this opportunity to let members know which Norfolk charities had benefited.
- 4.8.2 The Leader replied "no".
- 4.9 **Question from Mr S Aquarone**
- 4.9.1 Mr Aquarone said that he was sure the Leader would agree how important it was to support local business and that it could be done using the County Council's own spending power. Mr Aquarone asked if the Leader was able to provide a breakdown of how much of Norfolk County Council's non-wage expenditure was made within the county and East Anglia and the rest of the country and also, given what Council had heard of About with Friends, could he also tell Council how much he had spent in social enterprises.
- 4.9.2 The Leader replied that some analysis could be carried out although some of the information would be approximate.
- 4.10 **Question from Ms E Corlett**
- 4.10.1 Ms Corlett asked if the Leader agreed that the data published on the Norfolk County Council gender pay gap was disappointing and if he could tell Council what was being done to address the issue.

- 4.10.2 The Leader responded that work to equalise the gap would continue.
- 4.11 **Question from Mr D Rowntree**
- 4.11.1 Mr Rowntree asked if the Leader knew the answers to the questions raised himself as he was continually being advised by officers.
- 4.11.2 The Leader replied that he wasn't fully aware of the detail of everything that happened in Norfolk County Council. He was aware of the bigger issues but the little details he didn't know which was why officers attended to give advice.
- 4.12 **Question from Mr J Timewell**
- 4.12.1 Mr Timewell asked if the Council had undertaken any assessments on the impact on Norfolk of leaving the European Union and if so, what the conclusions had been.
- 4.12.2 The Leader replied that a study was being undertaken although a view had not yet been reached. He added that there were a lot of benefits but he did not think a full analysis could be done until the national deal was known.
- 4.13 **Question from Ms A Kemp**
- 4.13.1 Ms Kemp said that although the country hadn't left the European Union yet, the government was watering down pollution controls. She added that it had just come to her attention that, as far as power stations were concerned, the Environment Agency was actually thinking it wouldn't apply the latest 2007 limits to nitrogen dioxide. She asked the Leader, as the representative of Norfolk to the Government, what he was going to do about this issue, because why should the people of King's Lynn have to breathe fouler air than the people of Europe.
- 4.13.2 The Leader replied that all District Councils, as far as he was aware, were on top of pollution, particularly traffic pollution. He added that he considered the country was and he also hoped the world was, as everyone had seen national programmes about plastic floating in the Caribbean which he felt was dreadful. He continued that Norfolk County Council could not do much about it, but as individuals everyone could do their part.
- 4.14 **Question from Mr G Nobbs**
- 4.14.1 Mr Nobbs asked the Leader, and Chairman, if he thought the answers he had given today were adequate.
- 4.14.2 The Leader replied that he thought his answers had been too detailed.

## **5 Notice of Motions**

- 5.1 The following motion was proposed by Mr M Castle and seconded by Ms S Squire:
- "COUNCIL acknowledges the diverse nature and large physical size of Norfolk as a County and the need to ensure that the re-introduction of Cabinet-style governance from 2019 is complemented by the establishment of Area Committees to ensure that local concerns and aspirations can be adequately taken into account by the Cabinet in future decision-making.

COUNCIL resolves to establish two new Area Committees during the 2018-19 municipal year to serve the Kings Lynn & West Norfolk and Greater Yarmouth

areas, comprised of local County Councillors meeting twice yearly in the first instance in Kings Lynn and Great Yarmouth respectively with suitable additional co-opted places available to enhance the representative nature of those Committees.”

5.1.2 Following debate, and upon being put to a vote, with 3 votes in favour and 2 abstentions, the motion was **LOST**.

5.2 The following motion was proposed by Mr D Rowntree and seconded by Ms J Barnard:

“With the expansion of reliable broadband links Council believes it is now appropriate to live stream full council meetings and to improve public access to the proceedings at council committee meetings. Council therefore resolves to:

1. begin live web streaming of full Council meetings from the Annual Meeting in May 2018
2. make audio recordings of main Council committee meetings that will be available to the public on request from May 2018
3. request Policy and Resources Committee to include arrangements for streaming of all main Council and Committee meetings in any proposals for a return to a cabinet system
4. request Policy & Resources Committee to make the necessary funds available to implement this decision”

5.2.1 The following amendment was proposed by Mr M Castle and seconded by Ms S Squire:

“With the expansion of reliable broadband links Council believes it is now appropriate to live stream full council meetings and to improve public access to the proceedings at council committee meetings. Council therefore resolves to:

1. begin live web streaming of full Council meetings from the Annual Meeting in May ~~2018~~ 2019
2. make audio recordings of main Council committee meetings that will be available to the public on request from May ~~2018~~ 2019
3. request Policy and Resources Committee to include arrangements for streaming of all main Council and committee meetings in any proposals for a return to a cabinet system
4. request Policy & Resources Committee to make the necessary funds available to implement this decision”

5.2.2 As proposer of the original motion, Mr D Rowntree did not accept the amendment which was debated by Council.

5.2.3 Following debate on the amendment and upon being put to a vote, with 3 votes in favour, the amended motion was **LOST**.

5.2.4 Council then debated the substantive motion as set out in paragraph 5.2 above. Upon being put to a vote, with 28 votes in favour, 45 votes against and 0 abstentions the substantive motion was **LOST**.

5.3 The following motion was proposed by Ms C Rumsby and seconded by Ms E Corlett:

“Council endorses and reaffirms the Communities Committee opposition to the application by the PCC to take over Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service and regrets the decision by the PCC to take the proposal to the next stage. Council welcomes the cross party consensus that such a move would not be in the best interests of the service or the county.

Council resolves to launch an information campaign to ensure residents of Norfolk understand the issues involved in such a takeover and are aware of the efficient and effective way Norfolk FRS operates at present.”

5.3.1 The following alteration was proposed by Ms E Corlett and seconded by Ms C Rumsby. The alteration was **agreed** by Council.

“Council endorses and reaffirms the Communities Committee opposition to the **potential** application by the PCC to take over Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service and regrets the decision by the PCC to take the proposal to the next stage. Council welcomes the cross party consensus that such a move would not be in the best interests of the service or the county.

Council resolves to launch an information campaign to ensure residents of Norfolk understand the issues involved in such a takeover and are aware of the efficient and effective way Norfolk FRS operates at present.”

5.3.2 The following amendment was proposed by Mrs S Butikofer and seconded by Mr D Roper:

“Council endorses and reaffirms the Communities Committee opposition to the potential application by the PCC to take over Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service and regrets the decision by the PCC to take the proposal to the next stage. Council welcomes the cross party consensus that such a move would not be in the best interests of the service or the county.

~~Council resolves to launch an information campaign to ensure residents of Norfolk understand the issues involved in such a takeover and are aware of the efficient and effective way Norfolk FRS operates at present.~~

Council **RESOLVES** to prepare its own business case for the retention of NFRS under NCC Control. This will ensure that NCC is in a stronger position to answer any issues that arise from the work commissioned by the PCC and will be able to present clear information to residents on the efficient and effective way Norfolk NFRS operates at present”.

5.3.3 As proposer of the original motion, Ms C Rumsby accepted the amendment, which became the substantive motion.

- 5.3.4 Following debate, and upon the substantive motion being put to a vote, with 72 votes in favour and 3 abstentions, the motion was **CARRIED**.
- 5.4 The following motion was proposed by Mr T East and seconded by Mr D Roper:
- “Council notes the strong negative public response to proposals in the 2018 budget consultation to reduce subsidies/grants for bus services.
- Council affirms that rural bus services provide a key lifeline for those who rely on public transport. It is vital that people can get to their place of work, the GP, or their place of education.
- Council resolves that reductions to bus subsidies/grants will not be reintroduced as a budget proposal in the lifetime of the Council’s current Medium Term Financial Plan.”
- 5.4.1 Following debate, and upon being put to a vote, with 29 votes in favour, 45 votes against and 0 abstentions, the motion was **LOST**.

## **6 Recommendations from Service Committees**

### **6.1 Policy & Resources – Recommendations from the meeting held on 26 March 2018**

- 6.1.1 Mr C Jordan, Chairman of Policy & Resources Committee, moved the recommendations in the report.

#### **6.1.2 Proposed additions to the capital programme: Better Broadband for Norfolk (BBfN).**

Council **RESOLVED** to:

- Approve the allocation of the following funding to a proposed contract for the provision of Next Generation Access broadband infrastructure as a result of proposals from 6 March 2018 Digital Innovation and Efficiency Committee:
  - £11m raised via borrowing in anticipation of expected rebates that will be due under the terms of current BBfN contracts, to be allocated between 2019-20 and 2021-22.

#### **6.1.3 Repton Property Developments Ltd. Articles of Association, etc.**

Council **RESOLVED** to:

- Nominate David Dukes as a replacement County Council Officer Director for Repton Property Developments Ltd.

#### **6.1.4 NORSE Consents**

Council **RESOLVED** to:

- Appoint Directors to companies in the NORSE Group as detailed in



Appendix A of these minutes.

**6.2 Environment, Development & Transport Committee – Recommendations from the meeting held on 19 January 2018.**

6.2.1 Mr M Wilby, Chairman of Environment, Development & Transport (EDT) Committee moved the recommendations in the report.

**6.2.2 Highway capital Programme and Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP).**

6.2.3 Council **RESOLVED** to approve:

- The proposed allocations and programme for 2018/19 and indicative allocations for 2019-20 (as set out in Appendices A, B and C of the report);
- An additional £20m funding to invest in Highways with the allocations as set out in Paragraph 3.4.2 and Appendix D of the report, including a permanent funding solution of the Northern Distributor Road;
- The Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP) for 2018-19 to 2021-22.

**6.3 Recommendations from Personnel Committee meeting held on 4 December 2017.**

6.3.1 Mr C Jordan, Chairman of Personnel Committee moved the recommendation in the report.

**6.3.2 Pay Policy Statement**

Council **RESOLVED** to:

- **Approve** the final version of the Pay Policy Statement, set out at Appendix A of the report) and make ready for publication.

**6.3.3 Question from Dr M Strong**

Dr Strong said her question was about the change to the structure of the Norfolk Library and Information Service and the redundancies that had been made to bring the change about. She added that originally it was hoped that there could be voluntary redundancies but because there were too many, that had not been possible. She said she also knew that some people had found employment elsewhere within the service, but asked how many redundancies had been made.

The Chairman of Personnel Committee said that as far as he was aware, there was a policy which covered all redundancies.

Dr Strong asked how many specific redundancies had been made because of the reforming of the library service. The Chairman responded that as he understood it there was a range of policies that covered personnel and employment.

Dr Strong asked if the Chairman could look into the specific redundancies made

to the library service. The Chairman agreed to ask the Executive Director to reply to the question.

## **7 Reports from Service Committees (Questions to Chairmen)**

### **7.1 Report of the Adult Social Care Committee meetings held on 15 January and 5 March 2018.**

Mr B Borrett, Chairman of Adult Social Care Committee moved the report.

#### **7.1.1 Question from Mrs B Jones**

Mrs Jones asked the Chairman how much it had cost the Council, in time and money, to police applications for the disregard and if it was anticipated that this would cost more than would be saved.

The Chairman replied that he didn't have a specific figure but he understood that it went through the budget as a cost saving measure so he considered it was not going to cost more than it saved.

#### **7.1.2 Question from Mr B Watkins**

Mr Watkins stated that the Department of Health had previously made clear its expectations for health and social care systems to hit new stringent targets for delayed transfers of care and that for Norfolk and Waveney it meant a reduction of 15% between July 2017 and March 2018 and delays attributable to Adult Social Services of 21% reduction over the same period. Mr Watkins said that the Chairman had previously expressed his doubts about whether the targets were achievable, and therefore he would be grateful if the Chairman could give an update as to how well Norfolk County Council was doing in meeting the targets and what the implications were likely to be if we failed to meet them in terms of future funding.

The Chairman replied that it was challenging and he thought closer working with the NHS would help address the issue, part of which was how/who the delays were attributable to because the figures on who was responsible were produced by the NHS. He added that until now the County Council had not been able to comment on delays being attributed to the County Council, some of which he disputed. He continued that he was looking forward to working with the NHS on the figures.

#### **7.1.3 Question from Ms S Squire**

Ms Squire asked, with the recent closure of a number of care homes, if the Chairman was satisfied that there was sufficient capacity to cope both now and, with rising demand, in the future. She asked if there were any areas where levels or quality of provision was a concern and where the elderly were having to be accommodated far from family and friends.

The Chairman replied that most of the residential care was provided by the private sector which had always been the case. He added that the County Council worked very hard to keep a range of provision and that the structure of fees charged had been developed specifically to protect a good geographical spread, therefore he was sure that in the medium term there was adequate provision.

7.1.4 **Question from Mr M Sands**

Mr Sands said in relation to the Better Care Fund and following on from something that Mrs Jones had said, Norfolk County Council had £18m in the Better Care Fund in the last year, only £9m of had been spent which carried £9m over to the current year, making a total of £20m when it was added to the £11m. Mr Sands asked the Chairman how this would be used to directly support vulnerable adults, particularly those with a disability, and given that the disregard amounted to 0.11% if the disregard of the disregard could now be disregarded.

The Chairman replied that in regard to the Better Care Fund there was a need to work jointly with the NHS. He added that the money had been allocated to reserves and the initial plan would be carried out 12 months later.

7.1.5 **Question from Ms E Corlett**

Ms E Corlett stated at the recent Health Scrutiny meeting, the Chief Executive Officer of Mental Health Trust had said they were considering withdrawing some rehabilitation services for people with long-term mental health problems. Ms Corlett asked if the implications of this had been discussed with the County Council so that potential budget implications for the adult social care budget could be taken into account.

The Chairman replied that no specific discussions had taken place.

7.1.6 **Question from Ms A Kemp**

Ms Kemp referred to an issue about deprivation of liberty of residents in care homes with dementia. She said she spoke from experience as her late aunt had suffered from dementia before she died the year before last. She continued that her aunt had liked to get out of the care home and Ms Kemp was able to take her out but most of the others in that care home were not allowed out. Ms Kemp considered this was a deprivation of liberty and legal guidance and asked the Chairman what Adult Social Care Committee was doing to make sure there was a reasonable opportunity for residents in dementia care homes to access the community for their wellbeing.

The Chairman replied that the care homes were inspected by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) Inspectorate and deprivation of liberty was something they were inspected on. He added that if care homes failed to take regard of the regulations he was sure they would fail their inspection.

7.1.7 Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

7.2 **Report of the Business & Property Committee meetings held on 20 November 2017, 18 January and 14 March 2018.**

Mr B Iles, Vice-Chairman of Business & Property Committee moved the report.

7.2.1 **Question from Mr M Castle**

Mr Castle asked the Vice-Chairman to let Council know how many homes it was envisaged could be delivered over the coming three years using the Repton Property Developments company, and also if he could tell him if there had been any expressions of interest as yet from Councils and Housing Associations about collaboration.

The Vice-Chairman replied that it was a difficult question to answer but we were dealing with 140 houses in Acle which appeared to be the extent of our ambitions at the present time.

7.2.2 Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

7.3 **Report of the Children's Services Committee meetings held on 16 January & 13 March 2018.**

Mrs P Carpenter, Chairman of Children's Services Committee moved the report.

7.3.1 **Question from Dr E Maxfield**

Dr Maxfield referred to the September Children's Services Committee meeting where concern had been expressed about the failure of the Police to fully staff their side of the Youth Offending Team. He added that the Chairman had agreed to write to the Chief Constable at that time and he understood that after one of the three posts had been left unfilled for some considerable time, the Police had decided to stop funding one of the posts and to cut their representation. Dr Maxfield asked the Chairman, given the growing concerns about gang crime and the exploitation of young people through county lines drug dealing, if she would take another look at this position and again stress to the Chief Constable and to the Police and Crime Commissioner, the importance of the police working with other agencies and fully investing in the work done to support vulnerable young people as a means of preventing crime.

The Chairman responded that she would make sure.

7.3.2 **Question from Mr M Smith-Clare**

Mr Smith-Clare asked, following a recent Private Eye article, how many young care leavers who had asked to access their personal files had been informed that they were missing. He also asked if the Information Commissioner was fully aware of the situation.

The Chairman replied that she didn't have that detail available but would provide a written response.

7.3.3 **Question from Ms S Squire**

Ms Squire referred to the high needs block which had been restructured to mitigate the financial pressures in special schools, and asked how this had impacted on vulnerable young people outside of the special schools system when mainstream schools faced equally demanding financial pressures. She also asked what evidence the council had that could prove that the vulnerability of children with special educational needs in mainstream schools had not increased as a result of the money being moved.

The Chairman replied that she would continue to monitor the impact of cluster funding on Norfolk children.

7.3.4 **Question from Ms K Clipsham**

Ms Clipsham said that in the absence of the Chairman, before Christmas 2017, Mr S Dark, A/Chairman, had offered to visit the early years centre in West Earlham, Norwich, in her division. She added that to date, this visit had not happened and she asked the Chairman if she would visit the centre to see first-hand the level of

deprivation in the area. She continued that no-one could fully understand how the cuts were affecting the people who used that centre and also, that she could not believe Mr Jordan thought this was caring for the people of Norfolk. Ms Clipsham challenged the Chairman to change the situation.

The Chairman responded that she would be happy to visit the early years centre, but no decisions were being made as yet about any of the children's centres.

**7.3.5 Question from Mr D Harrison**

Mr Harrison said he was a Member of Broadland District Council and had been happy to see the council tax exemption given to young care leavers, although the County Council had refused to do so. He asked the Chairman why this was and if she would care to reconsider the decision.

The Chairman responded that she had not personally seen a report, although she understood the County Leadership Team (CLT) would be receiving a report on this topic at its meeting in the near future. Once CLT had seen the report, the Chairman would be able to provide an answer to Mr Harrison's question.

**7.3.6 Question from Mrs C Walker**

Mrs Walker referred to the deadline for Councils for transferring all existing Statements to Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) which was 1 April 2018. She asked if Norfolk had met this deadline and if not, how many children were still waiting for their EHCPs.

The Chairman responded that the deadline had been met, however there were 40 children with their families which had not met that deadline and stressed that this was in agreement with their families.

**7.3.7 Question from Ms S Squire**

Ms Squire asked if officers would be reporting to the Children's Services Committee on the effectiveness of their interventions at the short stay school bearing in mind that it was a trust and the trustees should have had robust financial controls in place to mitigate any financial risk and ultimately were the ones responsible for the running and management of the school, not this council.

The Chairman responded that work was being carried out with the governing body of the short stay school and that she could not report back until she had all the information available.

**7.3.8 Question from Ms E Corlett**

Ms Corlett said that the Executive Director of Children's Services had informed the Committee at its March meeting that a review of the partnership with Barnardo's was taking place as it "had not had the impact we'd hoped". Ms Corlett asked if the review had been concluded and when the conclusions would be shared with Group Spokespersons.

The Chairman responded that the review had concluded and Children's Services Committee would be receiving a report at its May meeting.

**7.3.9 Council RESOLVED to note the report.**

7.4 **Report of the Communities Committee meetings held on 17 January & 7 March 2018**

Mrs M Dewsbury, Chairman of Communities Committee, moved the report.

7.4.1 **Question from Dr C Jones**

Dr Jones asked, in light of reports of the Police & Crime Commissioner blocking users from social media and deleting comments which he disapproved from Facebook, if the Chairman would agree with him the importance that Norfolk's Fire and Rescue Service should be headed by someone who embodied the Nolan Principles of openness and accountability.

The Chairman replied "yes".

7.4.2 **Question from Mr B Watkins**

Mr Watkins asked if the Chairman could answer when, and what proportion of the Government's homelessness reduction of £30m, did she anticipate coming to Norfolk and what impact did she think this extra funding would actually have on the level of rough sleeping in the county.

The Chairman replied that she didn't have that information, but would try to find out.

7.4.3 **Question from Ms S Squire**

Ms Squire said during the last committee meeting, it was noted in the report from the Fire Service that the number of call outs due to flooding had risen significantly and with the Borough and District Councils facing increasing pressures to build more and more homes, many of these were often being built on areas known for being at potential risk of flooding. Ms Squire asked if the Chairman would agree that it was perhaps time for the extra cost of these flooding incidents on our Fire Service to be pointed out to both the District and Borough Councils and the Government.

The Chairman replied that the main flood authority was now the County Council, although in most cases the District and Borough Councils knew exactly where the flood areas were and would not recommend those areas to be built on.

7.4.4 **Question from Mr M Sands**

Mr Sands stated that Trading Standards was one of Norfolk County Council's most respected and important services in Communities. Mr Sands asked, with the rapid approach of Brexit, if any consideration had been given to the impact of this on the workload of Trading Standards, in particular to the work Trading Standards did with Defra, the Environment Agency and also with the marketing of illicitly imported goods.

The Chairman replied "yes" and agreed to speak to Mr Sands outside the meeting to provide more detail.

7.4.5 Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

7.5 **Report of the Digital Innovation & Efficiency Committee meetings held on 22 January & 6 March 2018.**

Mr T Garrod, Chairman of the Digital Innovation & Efficiency Committee moved the report.

**7.5.1 Question from Dr M Strong**

Dr Strong referred to the Committee meeting where main mobile phone providers had attended and the meeting scheduled for afterwards with some of the main providers which had been cancelled. Dr Strong asked if the cancelled meeting had yet been rearranged.

The Chairman responded that the meeting had not yet taken place and no date had yet been arranged. He added that Officers had received the recommendations from the mobile phone survey which would be presented to the next Committee meeting in May 2018.

**7.5.2 Question from Mr D Rowntree**

Mr Rowntree referred to the change in the data protection rules which would affect all Councillors in the work they carried out and asked the Chairman if he could let Council know if there was any training planned on the new regulations.

Mr Rowntree also mentioned that Norfolk County Council was the only council he knew of that did not provide a proper casework system to help them manage their caseloads and asked if there were any plans to provide such a casework system to help Councillors manage their division business effectively.

The Chairman replied that, with regard to the first question, he knew of no GDPR training but he would be happy to work with all groups. With regard to the second question about a caseload system, the Chairman replied that he had not heard of such a system but would again be happy to have a conversation with Mr Rowntree outside the meeting.

**7.5.3 Question from Ms S Squire**

Ms Squire referred to the presentation on the results of the study into mobile phone coverage in the county which she had attended and found interesting. She asked if the Chairman would agree that it was perhaps a little unfair that the full results of the study were not being released to the public before the mobile phone operators had seen them, as it contained "commercially sensitive information". After all, it was this council who had commissioned the study, and Norfolk tax payers who had paid for it.

The Chairman responded that the Council had commissioned the study and tax payers had paid for it, but as a tax payer himself, he would want his Councillor to work productively with the mobile phone providers and to encourage them to invest in our county to improve mobile phone signals, not to embarrass them and this was why the data had not been released. He added he wanted to work with mobile phone providers to get the best mobile phone investment possible in Norfolk.

**7.5.4 Question from Ms A Kemp**

Ms Kemp referred to the commendable work being done regarding assistive technology and the demonstrator suite at county hall. She added that a couple of years ago she had held an event in South Lynn with N-able where they had brought a lot of equipment with them, for example talking clocks that helped people remind themselves to take their pills, temperature sensors, GPS satellite positioning so

people could go outside and not be lost and also sensors that alerted carers from a distance if someone was out of bed at night, etc. Ms Kemp said that it was a very good idea to build the demonstrator suite at county hall, but in order to get this information into all divisions, what did the Chairman think could be done to ensure a travelling roadshow was available around Norfolk so that rural areas and towns could benefit from this, as it could keep people out of social care and could save a lot of money.

The Chairman responded that the travelling roadshow was in hand but he would like to point out that the demonstrator suite was not only about technology, it was also about how technology could be used and to demonstrate to staff allowing them to experiment to find out how technology could be used to improve the lives of the people they cared for.

**7.5.5 Question from Mr D Collis**

Mr Collis said he had really enjoyed the presentation and had found it useful, giving him a good background knowledge. He added that the one thing which had caused him some concern was the fact that the report would not be issued immediately, with the response given at the time being that they needed to provide the information we had gathered to all suppliers so those suppliers could offer an explanation about how they could improve reception in appropriate areas. Mr Collis asked if that invalidated the report as a whole because what sort of follow-up report would be produced when alleged holes had been filled in.

The Chairman replied that he felt sharing information with suppliers was the best way to get the best signal for Norfolk that we could. He added that the Digital Information & Efficiency Committee would be receiving a report at its May Committee meeting.

**7.5.6 Council RESOLVED to note the report.**

**7.6 Report of the Environment, Development and Transport Committee meetings held on 19 January & 16 March 2018.**

Mr M Wilby, Chairman of EDT Committee moved the report.

**7.6.1 Question from Mr T Jermy**

Mr Jermy said that just about everywhere he went there seemed to be a view that the removal of the DIY concession would lead to an increase in fly-tipping in Norfolk, which was also the view taken by the EDP. Mr Jermy asked the Chairman to reassure Councillors about the practical measures Norfolk County Council would be introducing to effectively monitor this so that he could say that there had not been an increase in fly-tipping, or we can change our mind and re-look at the system if it did.

The Chairman replied that monitoring was being carried out as he had said earlier in the meeting. Monitoring was being undertaken with District Councils and with recycling sites, particularly near the recycling centres to see if there was an increase in fly-tipping. So far no increase in fly-tipping had been witnessed across the county and monitoring would continue. The Chairman said he hoped the situation would soon settle down and be successful.



**7.6.2 Question from Mr T East**

Mr East asked what the overall increased cost to council tax payers would be as a result of the DIY household waste charges being introduced, bearing in mind the increased costs of clearing it up fell within the District Council remit and also if there had been any communication from farmers and landowners about concerns over the possible increase in fly-tipping.

The Chairman replied he had had contact farmers and was in fact a farmer himself and there had been some concerns. He added that similar policies had been introduced in other counties across the country and they had not experienced any increases in fly-tipping. Fly-tipping was illegal and the Chairman was sure that the majority of Norfolk residents would like to do things properly and dispose of their waste properly. He added that if there was no increase in fly-tipping there would be no increase in costs.

**7.6.3 Question from Mr M Castle**

Mr Castle asked the Chairman to tell Council if he would be prepared to commission a detailed report on how bus routes, both existing and new provision, might be developed in conjunction with bus operators to better meet the Council's aspirations for improving accessibility in rural areas and to inform the Council's scheduled Market Town Studies.

The Chairman replied that he would provide a written reply.

**7.6.4 Question from Mr E Colman**

Mr Colman thanked the Chairman for attending a Parish Council meeting and Town Council meeting in his division, where it had been a great opportunity to learn more about the A47 Alliance campaign. Mr Colman asked the Chairman how the campaign was progressing.

The Chairman replied that the campaign had been launched four weeks ago in King's Lynn, with full support from across the county and further afield. He added that several of Norfolk's MPs had attended, giving their support, as well as the Roads Minister. Archant had placed approximately 30k postcards in its publications and so far around 1800 had been returned, pledging support to the campaign. He continued that the aim was to keep lobbying Ministers and to take the postcards down to Westminster during the summer. The Chairman advised that he would be meeting with the Mayor of Cambridge on Friday 20 April and he hoped that the Mayor would campaign from his end of the A47. He added that so far, there had been really good support across the region and thanked everyone for their continued support.

**7.6.4 Question from Mr B Watkins**

Mr Watkins asked if the Chairman of EDT shared his concern over the level of air pollution in Norwich, where some areas were considered dangerous and if so, would he agree to investigate Norwich City Council's feasibility study of using anti-pollution bus stops similar to those on trial in London, where the bus stops used filtration systems to trap pollution and were said to provide cleaner air around the bus stops.

The Chairman said he shared concerns about air quality and believed there should be good air quality across the county, not just in Norwich. He added that some work was being carried out with bus companies on the quality of emissions and

they were upgrading their buses which would hopefully improve the air quality in Norwich City and across other parts of the county.

**7.6.5 Question from Mr E Seward**

Mr Seward said that the Chairman had correctly said in response to an earlier question from Cllr Roper, that the Norfolk Waste Partnership had considered the issue of charging for household DIY waste. He continued that what the Chairman hadn't said was whether the District Councils that sat on that Partnership were in favour of it as the Corporate Director in North Norfolk had reported to Mr Seward that they had consistently opposed such charging and he had also been told by his colleague Tim Adams that the Leader of North Norfolk District Council last week said the same thing to Cromer Town Council. Mr Seward asked the Chairman if it was the case that whilst he had gone ahead with this, North Norfolk District Council had said in the consultation arrangements that they were opposed to this measure.

The Chairman replied that all authorities across the county were fully aware of the proposals, everybody in the Council Chamber had been aware of the proposals and they had been through our budget consultation, been through EDT Committee which was supported, therefore everyone was fully aware. The Chairman added that he was sure the scheme would settle down and that other authorities in the country had introduced similar policies to this which was why we were continuing with the scheme.

**7.6.6 Question from Mr Tim Adams**

Mr Adams said he was sure everyone welcomed the news of additional money being provided for road service repairs, although he was aware that some local authorities had difficulty in identifying and repairing defects due to the lack of surveyors. Mr Adams asked if the Chairman could provide an assurance that this would not be an issue in Norfolk and that repairs would be completed within the Council's standard of six weeks following identification. He also asked if Norfolk could lead the way in using recycled plastic as a replacement material for resurfacing Norfolk's roads.

The Chairman replied that all new innovations were considered and that he was quite confident that we were catching up with road surfacing repairs and hopefully the better weather would help with that. He added that he was sure all road services would be how they should be as soon as possible.

**7.6.7 Question from Mr D Roper**

Mr Roper referred to the Council meeting in December 2014, where Council had unanimously passed a motion about reducing the use of single use plastics in Norfolk and ourselves as a Council. He asked the Chairman if Councillors could have a written update about what progress had been made with implementing that resolution.

The Chairman replied he would provide written response.

**7.6.8 Question from Ms A Kemp**

Ms Kemp referred to a problem in South Lynn with a bus lane that was in danger of a traffic order which would produce congestion onto Wisbech Road but also it would seriously prejudice the investigation of a major international archaeological site. She added that the point was that we needed to take time while the archaeologists deliberated, they mapped the area, they did the testing of the

geophysics and then the scheduling of the site as this could be on a par with the Sedgeford archaeological site which has been going for 10 years. Ms Kemp asked if the Chairman and Leader would visit Hardings Pits to meet with the archaeologists and herself to see how important this site was and how that traffic order must not go ahead.

The Chairman replied that, as this needed to go through the proper planning process which would be for the Borough Council to determine, he would speak with Cllr Brian Long about it.

7.6.9 Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

7.7 **Report of the Policy and Resources Committee meetings held on 29 January & 26 March 2018.**

Mr Jordan, Chairman of Policy and Resources Committee, moved the report.

7.7.1. **Question from Mr G Nobbs**

Mr Nobbs asked the Chairman if a member of staff, and his question applied to either direct staff or those in the Norse Group of companies, decided one day to tell their immediate superior that he or she wished to leave with immediate effect, thus giving no notice whatsoever, exactly what, apart from holiday pay and existing pension rights, was that person entitled to be paid by the County Council and the tax payers of Norfolk.

The Chairman agreed to provide a written response.

7.7.2 **Question from Ms S Squire**

Ms Squire asked the Chairman whether the Council would consider flying the Union Jack outside County Hall from the 25th June in support of herself and Team Great Britain when they left New York on the final leg of their Round The World Yacht Race, finishing in Liverpool on 28th July.

The Chairman replied that it was a good idea.

7.7.3 **Question from Mr R Oliver**

Mr Oliver said there were millions of pounds which needed to be saved in order to have a balanced budget over the next few years and much of our income depended on District Councils and Borough Councils collecting revenue through council tax. He added that he understood one of Norfolk's failing authorities was one of the worst in the country for collecting council tax and was costing tax payers £100,000 year. Mr Oliver asked if the Leader agreed that was unacceptable that billing authorities did not do their job properly and would he look into it to raise issues appropriately.

The Chairman agreed to look into it, but said there was also a Norfolk authority that was in the top percent in the country so there was a big difference and something needed to be done.

7.7.4 Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

8 **Other Committees**

8.1 **Report of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 7 December 2017, 11 January & 23 February 2018.**

8.1.1 M Chenery of Horsbrugh, Chairman, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

8.1.2 **Question from Mr T East**

Mr East referred to the consultation on the Greater Norwich Local Plan for the period up to 2036 which had recently finished. He said he noted with concern that there was little information within the 185 page document about future healthcare provision, commencing with the proposed housing increase throughout Norfolk. He added that this was a serious omission and needed investigating by NHOSC and asked the Committee's Chairman to include it as an agenda item for discussion at its next meeting, or the one after that.

The Chairman replied that he would look into it.

8.2 **Report of the Planning (Regulatory) Committee meetings held on 1 December 2017, 16 February and 23 March 2018.**

Mr C Foulger, Chairman, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

8.3 **Report of the Audit Committee meeting held on 23 January 2018.**

Mr I Mackie, Chairman, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

8.4 **Report of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 4 December 2017.**

8.4.1 Mr C Jordan, Chairman, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

8.4.2 **Question from Mr D Roper**

Mr Roper referred to Page 107, paragraph 2.2, (Gender Pay Gap Reporting) of the agenda and the fact that the majority of grades had a difference of less than 1% and asked if Council could have more information about the minority of grades that were not covered by that statement and what the level of disparity was.

The Chairman replied that 6.8% was the average and agreed to provide a more detailed response in writing.

8.5 **Report of the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting held on 6 March 2018.**

8.5.1 Mr B Borrett, Chairman, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

8.5.2 As the Chairman had offered his apologies and had left the meeting, a written response would be provided for the following question:

8.5.3 **Question from Mr M Sands.**

Mr Sands referred to the decision support tool applied by NHS to "stop" providing continuation of care. Mr Sands said that he had not yet had a response either to his enquiries on behalf of Norfolk residents affected, or his request that this became an agenda item for Adult Social Care.

Mrs M Stone, Vice-Chairman in the Chair.

**8.6 Report of the Joint Museums Committee meeting held on 12 January 2018**

Mr J Ward, Chairman of Norfolk Joint Museums Committee, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

**8.7 The Chairman asked Council to join him in congratulating the learning team at Norwich Castle on them having been awarded the Sandford Award for Heritage Education.**

Mr J Ward, Chairman, in the Chair.

**8.7 Report of the Records Committee meeting held on 12 January 2018.**

Mr P Duigan, Vice-Chairman, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

**8.8 Report of the Norwich Highways Agency Joint Committee meeting held on 18 January 2018.**

Mr J Fisher, Chairman, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

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

There were none

**10 To answer questions under Rule 8.3 of the Council Procedure Rules**

There were none.

The meeting concluded at 12.40am.

**Chairman**



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## Appendix A

Company	Resign	Appoint
NPS North West	Mike Britch	Dean Wetteland
NPS London Limited	Mike Britch	Dean Wetteland
NPS South West Limited	Mike Britch	Dean Wetteland
NPS Leeds Limited	Mike Britch	Dean Wetteland
NPS Norwich Limited	Mike Britch	Steve Daw
NPS Barnsley Limited	Mike Britch	Nicholas Maddox
NPS Peterborough Limited	Mike Britch	Dean Wetteland
Barnsley Norse Limited	Mike Britch	Nicholas Maddox
Hamson Barron Smith Limited	Mike Britch	Dean Wetteland
NPS South East Limited	Mike Britch	Dean Wetteland
Norse Energy Limited	Mike Britch	Dean Wetteland
Norse Energy (Hafod) Limited	Mike Britch	Dean Wetteland
Norse Energy (Stoke Gifford) Limited	Mike Britch	Dean Wetteland
Norse Energy (BSCC) Limited	Mike Britch	Dean Wetteland
Norse Energy (BSCC Biomass) Limited	Mike Britch	Dean Wetteland
International Aviation Company – Norwich Limited	Mike Britch	Dean Wetteland
Broadland Growth Limited	Mike Britch	Simon Hersey
Norse Development Company Limited	Mike Britch	Dean Wetteland
NPS Infinity Limited	Mike Britch	Dean Wetteland
Build Insight Venture Ltd	Mike Britch	Steve Daw
Build Insight Ltd	Mike Britch	Steve Daw
Build Insight Consulting Ltd	Mike Britch	Steve Daw
Robson Liddle Limited	Mike Britch	Dean Wetteland
John Packer Associates Limited	Mike Britch	Dean Wetteland

Bowen Dann Knox Architects Limited	Mike Britch	Dean Wetteland
Barron & Smith Limited	Mike Britch	Dean Wetteland
Naturally Passive Limited	Mike Britch	Dean Wetteland
Heath UK Limited	Mike Britch	Dean Wetteland
Hearth UK (Exeter) Limited	Mike Britch	Dean Wetteland
CornerstoneNPS Limited	Mike Britch	Dean Wetteland
NPS Group Limited	Mike Britch	Dean Wetteland
Daventry Norse Limited		Mark Emms
Daventry Norse Limited		Nicholas Drake
NEWS ltd	Tracy Jessop	Joel Hull