

Norfolk County Council
Minutes of the Meeting Held at 10am on Tuesday 11 October 2022

Present:		
	ADAMS Tim	KIDDIE Keith
	ADAMS Tony	LONG Brian
	ANNISON Carl	MACKIE Ian
	AQUARONE Steffan	MASON BILLIG Kay
	BAMBRIDGE Lesley	MAXFIELD Ed
	BENSLY James	MORIARTY Jim
	BILLS David	MORPHEW Steve
	BIRMINGHAM Alison	OLIVER Rhodri
	BLUNDELL Sharon	OSBORN Jamie
	BORRETT Bill	PECK Greg
	BOWES Claire	PENFOLD Saul
	BROCIEK-COULTON Julie	PLANT Graham
	CARPENTER Penny	PRICE Ben
	CLANCY Stuart	PRICE Richard
	COLMAN Ed	PROCTOR Andrew
	COLWELL Robert	RICHMOND Will
	CORLETT Emma	REILLY Mathew
	DALBY Michael	RILEY Steve
	DARK Stuart	ROPER Dan
	DAUBNEY Nick	RUMSBY Chrissie
	DAWSON Christopher	SANDS Mike
	DEWSBURY Margaret	SAVAGE Robert
	DIXON Nigel	SHIRES Lucy
	DUFFIN Barry	SMITH Carl
	DUIGAN Phillip	SMITH-CLARE Mike
	ELMER Daniel	STONE Barry
	FISHER John	THOMAS Alison
	FITZPATRICK Tom	THOMPSON Vic
	GRANT Andy	VARDY Eric
	GURNEY Shelagh	VINCENT Karen
	HEMPSALL Lana	WALKER Colleen
	HORSBRUGH Michael Chenery of	WARD John
	JAMES Jane	WATKINS Brian
	JAMIESON Andrew	WEBB Maxine
	JERMY Terry	WHITE Tony
	KEMP Alexandra	WHYMARK Fran
		WILBY Martin

Present: 73

1 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Stephen Askew, Cllr Graham Carpenter, Cllr Ed Connolly, Cllr Fabian Eagle, Cllr Julian Kirk, Cllr Brenda Jones, Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris, Cllr Paul Neale, Cllr Judy Oliver and Cllr Martin Storey.

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

- 2.1 The minutes of the County Council meeting held on 19 July 2022 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3 Chair's Announcements

- 3.1 The Chair said that while all of the Chair's events could be found on the Chair's website she wished to highlight two recent events. Firstly, to thank Members and the Norfolk Museums Service for attending and hosting the Chair's reception at the Gressenhall Rural Life Museum where it was a great pleasure to present Youth Flourish Awards to some inspiring young people in recognition of what they had done over the last few years. Secondly, the Chair wished to place on record thanks to Caroline Clarke, Sharon Stone and Michelle Bede-Cox for ensuring that the proclamation of His Majesty the King was delivered professionally and seamlessly here at County Hall on Sunday 11 September 2022.

- 3.2 The Chair invited the Leader of the Council and the other Group Leaders to say a few words in joining with her to express their thoughts following the sad death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth on 8th September 2022 and to celebrate the accession of our new King.

- 3.3 After the Leader of the Council, the other Group Leaders and the non-aligned Member had expressed their thoughts in remembrance of Her Majesty, the Chair asked Councillors to also remember former County Councillor Nigel Shaw, who was a sitting Broadland District Councillor and who died suddenly last month and The Viscountess Knollys, former High Sheriff, and former Vice Lord Lieutenant, who also served as a South Norfolk Councillor for many years.

- 3.4 Members of the Council then held a minute's silence in their memory.

4 Declarations of Interest

- 4.1 Cllr Lesley Bambridge declared an "other interest" in the third motion on the agenda (helping rural Norfolk with the cost-of-living crisis) in that she was a trustee of West Norfolk carers.

5 Petitions presented to Council

- 5.1 There were no items of petition for council to consider.

6 Business (if any) remaining from the last Council meeting.

6.1 The Chair said that there were various committee reports which Council had not had time to discuss at the previous meeting which were added into relevant items that could be found further on today's agenda as this was the most pragmatic way of dealing with them.

6.2 The Chair then referred to the reports and recommendations from Cabinet (and other Committees) at Items 11.1 and 11.2 of the agenda that Council had previously been dealt with directly after questions to the Leader. The Chair said that under the revised constitution these items would continue to be considered in the same order and therefore she would use her discretion under rule 2.2a of the constitution to reorder business and take items 11.1 and 11.2 immediately after item 7 on the agenda (see minute 8).

7 **Questions to the Leader**

7.1 **Question from Cllr Steve Morphey**

Cllr Steve Morphey said that the 'next years' budget gap was originally £60m. Despite starting the process earlier than usual the headline figures fall way short of bridging the shortfall. The Leader had wasted millions on what they now classed as superfluous tiers, duplication and cost more millions in consultant fees and redundancy to dismantle. Inflation, soaring demand for services and relying on a succession of false hopes there would be a government bailout had left us woefully short of resilience and forward planning, and he had been unable to influence even his own government. Did he think his letter to the latest iteration of the Prime Minister would reside on the same spike as those to her predecessors as councils become the sacrificial lamb to her economic shambles? Did he agree the local government pay settlement, care sector fees to meet increased pay and tackle staffing crisis, fuel increases and general inflation that did not even feature in the figures were likely to push next year's budget gap close to £100m? The Leader had left Norfolk exposed with no answers at a time of national crisis. Was it not time the Conservative Group found somebody more up to the task?

In reply, the Leader said that the £100m budget gap identified at the start of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) arose from inflation, demographics and financial pressures that came before the Council from one year to the next. These pressures had to be dealt with before anything else could be done. The MTFS would be updated as the implications of the cost-of-living crisis on the Council became clearer. The Administration was getting on with its well-established annual budget setting process and taking constructive steps to grow the local economy along the lines that the Prime Minister and government policy had set out to grow the national economy. Cllr Jamieson and the finance team were developing a robust balanced 2023-24 budget for the Council.

7.2 **Question from Cllr Brian Watkins**

Cllr Brian Watkins said that the Conservative Party Chairman Mr Jake Berry had said people struggling with bills should get a "new job." With the government u turns only to save their jobs rather than help people, why

could not a seemingly large number of prominent Conservatives understand what people were having to go through. What would the Leader's response be to an elector in his division who told him that they had to choose between eating and heating this winter?

In reply, the Leader said that he did not necessarily agree with all that was said by Mr Berry. However, it was important for everyone to take personal responsibility for how they ran their own lives and for the Government's approach to helping people in financial hardship to be placed in its proper context. This could best be seen in comments made by the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when she said that protecting the most vulnerable members of society was a top government priority. The Government had put in place an energy support scheme to help those in financial hardship and was doing all that it could to help achieve economic growth. Too often opposition political parties and those in the media talked the country down.

7.3 Question from Cllr Jamie Osborn

Cllr Jamie Osborn said that the Conservatives' disastrous "mini-budget" had seen interest rates soaring and many contracts becoming more expensive as the value of the pound had tanked. This would make Norfolk's borrowing even more expensive, putting even more pressure on the County Council's budget. Could the Leader tell us whether the mini budget would mean that even more cuts beyond the £60m already planned would be brought forward?

In reply, the Leader said that there was still some way to go in terms of pulling together a comprehensive list of budget savings for the next financial year, but he remained confident that by February 2023 the Administration would have a robust, balanced, and strong budget for the year ahead.

7.4 Question from Cllr Carl Smith

Cllr Carl Smith asked if the Leader could provide an update on progress with County Deals?

In reply, the Leader said that Norfolk remained a front runner in terms of concluding a county deal with the new Secretary of State. This might end up having many similarities with the published text for the North Yorkshire and York deal. The timing of any deal was in the hands of the Government, however, as the Prime Minister came from Norfolk and the Deputy Prime Minister from Suffolk there might be joint announcements regarding the outcomes of bids in both counties. The text of any proposed deal would be brought to Full Council for consideration and thereafter go out to formal public consultation probably in Spring 2023. Council would have a final say on a move to a directly elected leader, probably at the end of 2023.

7.5 Question from Cllr Alexandra Kemp

Cllr Alexandra Kemp said that since the Chancellor had introduced unfunded tax cuts that led to financial markets taking fright many people had seen

their mortgage rates double and their rents go up. The help promised with energy bills was not going to be enough because people also needed help with food bills. What was the current position regarding the household support fund and food hubs in King's Lynn and West Norfolk?

In reply, the Leader said the mini-budget was about more than income tax reductions; it put in place measures to strengthen the economy and support those in financial difficulties. The household support fund was provided through government funding to upper tier authorities to spend with their partners. Nourishing Norfolk was an example of how the County Council had worked in collaboration with its partners to establish 15 food hubs across the county. The Norfolk Food Hubs were a good example of the many ways in which Norfolk County Council and its partners supported people with the cost-of-living crisis.

7.6 Question from Cllr Alison Birmingham

Cllr Alison Birmingham said that back in May 2022, the Corporate Select Committee were advised that a written response would be sent out about the low occupancy rate of the new tier of the car park at County Hall. Could the Leader confirm if this was forthcoming and, if not, could we have an update because it was not looking good, weed strewn, empty, and neglected and we need to know what the plan is?

In reply, the Leader said that there was a long-term plan to get people back into the County Hall campus as soon as possible and that he would speak to Cllr Peck and the property team to get a response to the question. (See comment made by Cllr Peck at paragraph 9.2 of these minutes).

7.7 Question from Cllr Lucy Shires

Cllr Lucy Shires said that with East Anglia Ambulance Service about to declare a critical incident as they were under too much pressure for services to cope and NHS England already identifying Norfolk as somewhere it feared could see 'system failure' during this winter (which was defined as when 999, A&E, hospitals and social care all collapse) should the Leader and the Cabinet Member for Social Care lose half of their allowances for gross mismanagement?

In reply, the Leader said that he could only provide an answer to such a question as this by talking about the huge amount of strategic support that the County Council (partly through the hard work of the Cabinet Member for Social Care) gave to the NMS and to the social care sector to help deliver essential social care services in Norfolk in the best possible way.

7.8 Question from Cllr Ben Price

Cllr Ben Price said that last week saw Norfolk MPs and the New Anglia LEP celebrating the Government's plans to accelerate fossil fuel gas development in Norfolk. Yet the International Energy Agency, the world's leading authority on energy, said last year that no new oil and gas fields could be developed if we were to stay within relatively safe climate change

limits. At the same time, renewables made up the fastest-growing energy sector and provided energy that was nine times cheaper than gas. Did the Leader agree with the economic and scientific conclusions that new gas facilities should be halted immediately, and that renewable energy should be accelerated to help with the cost of living and climate crises?

In reply, the Leader said the huge amount of work that was being done to support the production of renewable and other forms of energy production on and off the Norfolk coast added to the energy security of the whole country at a time when this issue was of increasing importance.

The Council considered item 11.1 on the agenda next.

8 Reports and Recommendations to Council from Cabinet and other Committees

8.1 Recommendations to Council from Cabinet Meetings held on 8 August 2022, 5 September 2022, and 3 October 2022

8.1.1 Cabinet Meeting held on 8 August 2022 Finance Monitoring Report 2022-23 P3: June 2022

8.1.2 The recommendation from the Cabinet meeting held on 8 August 2022 about the Finance Monitoring Report 2022-23 P3: June 2022 was moved by Cllr Andrew Proctor, Chair of Cabinet, seconded by Cllr Graham Plant.

8.1.3 Council RESOLVED on a show of hands

- 1. That County Council approve the addition of £52.146m to the capital programme to address capital funding requirements funded from various external sources as set out in detail in capital Appendix 3, paragraph 4.1 of the Cabinet report as follows:**
 - **£27.292m Department for Education Basic Need Grant funding for 2022-2025**
 - **£19.321m Department for Education High Needs Grant funding for 2022-2024**
 - **£4.875m Department for Education Condition Grant Funding profiled into 2023-24**
 - **£0.989m Department for Education Schools Grant funding for 2022-23**
 - **Offset by £0.330m release of capital budget in Fire Services.**

- 2. That County Council approve the addition of £0.201m to the capital programme to fund the installation of electric vehicle charging points across the Council estate as set out in the Capital Appendix 3 paragraph 4.4 of the report and £3m for the Kings Lynn Multi-User Hub (Replacement Library Lyn LL1058) to fund the additional costs identified by the project team as set out in paragraph 4.5 of the report.**

8.1.4 **Cabinet Meeting held on 5 September 2022**
Finance Monitoring Report 2022-23 P4: July 2022

8.1.5 The recommendation from the Cabinet meeting held on 5 September 2022 about the Finance Monitoring Report 2022-23 P4: July 2022 was moved by Cllr Andrew Proctor, Chair of Cabinet, seconded by Cllr Graham Plant.

8.1.6 **Council RESOLVED on a show of hands (with 7 votes against and 8 abstentions)**

1. That County Council approve the addition of £95.952m to the capital programme to address capital funding requirements funded from various external sources as set out in detail in capital Appendix 3, paragraph 4.1 of the Cabinet report as follows:
 - Disabled Facilities Grant funding received from the Department of Health £9.158m
 - £86.764m grant funding from the Department of Transport for various capital projects include £14.6m for the 3rd River crossing.
2. To note the key member decision and to approve the addition of £3.4m to the capital programme to fund the additional costs for the Great Yarmouth Operations and Maintenance Campus as outlined in paragraph 4.3 of the report and that the County Council's contribution towards this is £0.5m.

8.1.7 **Cabinet Meeting held on 3 October 2022**
Finance Monitoring Report 2022-23 P5: August 2022

8.1.8 The recommendation from the Cabinet meeting held on 3 October 2022 about the Finance Monitoring Report 2022-23 P5: August 2022 (with the supplementary agenda) was moved by Cllr Andrew Proctor, Chair of Cabinet, seconded by Cllr Graham Plant.

8.1.9 **Council RESOLVED on a show of hands (with 1 vote against and 8 abstentions)**

That County Council approve the addition of £177.144m to the capital programme to address capital funding requirements funded from various external sources as set out in detail in capital Appendix 3, paragraph 4.1 of the report as follows:

- £1.044m uplift to Childrens Services capital projects, including £0.963m update to Section 106 Developer contributions
- £4.5m uplift to Section 106 Developer contributions to Highways capital projects for future years
- £171.599m grant funding updates from the Department of Transport for various capital projects

8.2. **Cabinet Reports (Questions to Cabinet Members)**

- 8.2.1 Cllr Andrew Proctor, Leader and Chair of Cabinet, moved the reports of the Cabinet meetings held on 3 May 2022, 6 June 2022, 4 July 2022, 8 August 2022, 5 September 2022 and 3 October 2022 (with the supplementary agenda).

Council **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** the reports.

8.2.2 **Question from Cllr Terry Jermy to Cllr Andrew Jamieson, Cabinet Member for Finance**

Cllr Terry Jermy said that the most recent Cabinet papers outlined how Norfolk County Council was currently borrowing £850 million, with a further £80 million due to be borrowed before the end of this financial year. The interest payable was already £31 million a year. Could the Leader confirm when Norfolk County Council was likely to top £1 billion in borrowing and whether the recent Government mini-budget and interest rises would further increase the cost of that borrowing and what were the financial implications?

In reply, Cllr Andrew Jamieson said that most of the Council's borrowing was at a fixed interest rate of 1.8% over 50 years. The money was being used to put in place transformational changes. The Council had borrowed £850m with a possible further £80m to be added. Borrowing was expected to exceed £1 billion sometime in the next 4 years. The Council's capital receipts programme had a significant impact on when and how much the Council borrowed.

8.3 **Question from Cllr Brian Watkins to Cllr Bill Borrett, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention**

Cllr Brian Watkins said that in the last five years there had been a significant increase in the number of Norfolk care homes that were either inadequate or required improvement. Whilst there were many that provided a high- quality service to patients, the county now had the worst social care market in the country. How bad did it have to get before the Cabinet Member realised that the present approach to monitoring performance of care homes was not working, and that a lot of patients and their families felt badly let down?

In reply, Cllr Bill Borrett said that while the County Council wanted to do all that it could to help support the social care market in Norfolk, as well as the dedicated individuals who worked in the social care sector, it was important to remember that care homes were run independent of the County Council. Care homes in Norfolk tended to be smaller and more geographically spread-out than those elsewhere in the country. The County Council was at the forefront of a national campaign run by the Association of Care Providers to help support care home businesses with recruitment, mentoring and training of staff. The Cabinet Member also said that he looked forward to the radical changes that were being planned for social care across the country and wanted Norfolk to be at the forefront of the changes.

8.4 Question from Cllr Ben Price to Cllr Graham Plant, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Growing the Economy

Cllr Ben Price said that the Government's plans for so-called investment zones could mean a reduced commitment to affordable housing. This could have a major impact on Norfolk where many families were unable to afford housing and rent prices were rocketing. When the County Council submitted its expression of interest to the Government for a Norfolk Investment Zone, would it include a commitment not to reduce affordable housing as a proportion of overall development within Norfolk?

In reply, Cllr Graham Plant explained the purpose of the Government's plans for investment zones and how the County Council was working with partners to put forward a formal expression of interest on this matter to the Government by the deadline of 14 October 2022.

8.5 Question from Cllr Lana Hemsall to Cllr Graham Plant, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Growing the Economy

Cllr Lana Hemsall said that the Government had outlined its focus on growth; could the Deputy Leader explain the projects that the County Council were involved in to grow the Norfolk economy?

In reply, Cllr Graham Plant explained how the County Council was working with partners to expand the local economy through investment in local businesses, training skills and infrastructure projects. These projects provided for growth in the offshore wind sector, and in the job opportunities that came from it, and enabled Great Yarmouth and other areas of the county to rival other parts of the UK in terms of economic growth and accelerated the growth already seen in the Norfolk energy sector. The creative sector was another example of where the Norfolk economy was growing strong and growing almost 3 times faster than the national average. In partnership with the UEA, and the LEP, the County Council was awarded £1.25m by DCMS to help support 80 creative organisations in Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, and Peterborough. In addition, Council funded targeted support programmes were in place such as for a retrofitting academy to develop the curriculum for a local retrofit skills infrastructure programme in the county.

8.6 Question from Cllr Alexandra Kemp to Cllr Martin Wilby Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport.

Cllr Alexandra Kemp spoke about the very poor public access arrangements to get on the West Lynn foot passenger ferry, particularly at low tide, and asked if the Cabinet Member would work with the Borough Council to rectify this situation given the vital role that the foot passenger ferry had in providing an alternative form of transport in the area to the car.

In reply, Cllr Martin Wilby said that he would see what could be done to improve the situation.

8.7 Cllr Maxine Webb to Cllr John Fisher Cabinet Member for Children's

Services.

Cllr Maxine Webb said that the County Council had an Inclusion and SEND Team which mainstream schools could use for SEND support. This team was not available to families needing advice, who instead had to make a telephone appointment with the council's statutory SENDIASS service. When a parent tried to book an appointment with SENDIASS yesterday, the earliest slot for a phone call back was 15 November - 36 days away. Was the Cabinet Member aware that families were having to wait this long for support, and did he think this okay?

In reply, Cllr John Fisher said that he was aware of the situation and would investigate the matter and provide Cllr Webb with an answer.

8.8 Cllr Saul Penfold to Cllr Andrew Jamieson, Cabinet Member for Finance.

Cllr Saul Penfold asked if Liz Truss had got her economic approach from the Cabinet Member to just borrow, borrow, borrow and not worry about the consequences of having a high level of debt?

In reply, Cllr Andrew Jamieson said the answer was no.

8.9 Cllr Jamie Osborn to Cllr Martin Wilby Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport.

Cllr Jamie Osborn said that Norfolk's transport strategy was predicated on building roads, roads, roads. Yet the last few months had seen a series of legal challenges to major road-building projects in Norfolk, including the A47 and the Thickthorn roundabout. These and other transport plans were being challenged as they were incompatible with net zero legislation. What steps was the County Council taking to develop a Plan B for transport in Norfolk if road-building plans were deemed illegal?

In reply, Cllr Martin Wilby said that Norfolk deserved better quality roads and the road safety improvement measures planned for the A47 were long overdue.

8.10 Cllr Barry Duffin to Cllr Martin Wilby Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport.

Cllr Barry Duffin asked if the Cabinet Member would join with him and Cllr Alison Thomas in welcoming both the Norwich Western Link Road and the Long Stratton bypass, both crucial projects to boost the local economy and air quality for residents.

In reply, Cllr Martin Wilby said that these were important road improvements and that he was pleased the Government recognised both schemes were priorities and that the Long Stratton bypass was going to happen. He thanked Cllr Duffin, Cllr Thomas, and Cllr Peck for their continuing support on these matters.

8.11 Cllr Emma Corlett to Cllr Martin Wilby Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport.

Cllr Emma Corlett said that passengers faced the whole winter having to wait for buses with no shelter on St Stephen's in Norwich. Where were the perfectly good bus shelters that were removed and why had they not been re-used while awaiting delayed delivery of the new ones?

In reply, Cllr Martin Wilby said that there were delivery issues and the new bus shelters would be put in place as soon as possible.

8.12 Cllr Steffan Aquarone to Cllr Eric Vardy, Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste

Cllr Steffan Aquarone asked if he thought the Bishop of Norwich was correct when he said that the plans to loosen planning rules were "an assault on nature" and demonstrated "a disdain for the planet"?

In reply, Cllr Eric Vardy said the answer to the question was no.

8.13 Cllr Jamie Osborn to Cllr Graham Plant, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Growing the Economy.

Cllr Jamie Osborn said that the "fiscal event" that marked the direction of the new Government omitted any mention of home insulation. Insulation was the most cost-effective and fastest way of reducing energy bills. Green councillors had repeatedly called for Norfolk County Council to work with districts to establish a retrofitting training programme for a home-retrofitting workforce. In the absence of Government policy on insulation, would NorfolkCC finally step up to fill the policy vacuum?

In reply, Cllr Graham Plant said that while the County Council would do all that it could to assist people with retrofitting their homes this was more of an issue for District Councils and homeowners themselves to address.

8.14 Cllr Penny Carpenter to Cllr Bill Borrett, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention.

Cllr Penny Carpenter asked if the Cabinet Member would join with her in welcoming the £500m adult social grant announced by the Government?

In reply, Cllr Bill Borrett said that he welcomed the announcement. While it was not yet clear how much of the grant would be made available to Norfolk, the announcement showed that the Government was listening to what Norfolk County Council and other top tier authorities had to say on this important issue.

8.15 Cllr Jim Moriarty to Cllr Martin Wilby Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport.

Cllr Jim Moriarty asked if the County Council had a Plan B transport

strategy as an alternative to more road building if this was deemed to be against the law?

In reply, Cllr Martin Wilby said that there were many reasons why Norfolk needed an improved road infrastructure without delay.

8.16 Cllr Chrissie Rumsby to Cllr Martin Wilby Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport.

Cllr Chrissie Rumsby asked if the Cabinet Member could provide an explanation of what had happened to the bus shelters at St Stephens in Norwich?

Cllr Martin Wilby said that he would provide Cllr Chrissie Rumsby with an answer outside of the meeting.

8.17 Cllr Sharon Blundell to Cllr Martin Wilby Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport.

Cllr Sharon Blundell said that she welcomed £50m of government money to help Norfolk with bus improvements but wanted to know when we would see the things that the public had asked for from the bus service, namely connectivity between travel hubs, better passenger comfort, improved ticketing, and the availability of bus drivers, so services were not cancelled at short notice or just did not show up?

In reply, Cllr Martin Wilby said that the County Council was working closely with bus operators to make sure that this significant level of investment was used to improve bus services throughout the county.

8.18 Cllr Ian Mackie to Cllr Bill Borrett, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health, and Prevention.

Cllr Ian Mackie asked if the Cabinet Member could confirm the excellent service that was provided in Norfolk by Norse Care?

In reply, Cllr Bill Borrett said that while Norse Care was an independent business the shareholder was Norfolk County Council: Norse Care was a key provider of social care, and he would like to join Cllr Mackie in congratulating all those associated with the running of this successful business.

9.1 On a point of order, after taking legal advice, the Chair confirmed that it was correct for round four of questions to Cabinet Members to have started with a question from the Conservative Group.

9.2 On a matter of accuracy that arose in relation to a question asked earlier by Cllr Birmingham, (see minute 7.6), Cllr Peck said that an answer to this was given at Corporate Select Committee.

10. At this point in the proceedings, the Chair asked the Council to take item 8 on the agenda next starting with the report from the Scrutiny Committee.

- 11 **Reports and Recommendations to Council from the Scrutiny Committee and Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
- 11.1 **Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 18 May 2022, 23 June 2022, 20 July 2022, and 22 September 2022.**
- 11.1.1 Cllr Steve Morpew, Chair, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.
- 11.2 **Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 12 May 2022, 28 June 2022, 14 July 2022, and 8 September 2022.**
- 11.2.1 Cllr Alison Thomas, Chair, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.
- 11.2.2 In reply to questions, Cllr Alison Thomas confirmed that the Committee would be given a further opportunity to consider the situation at the QEH at its next meeting.
- 11.2.3 Cllr Emma Corlett placed on record thanks to Cllr Thomas and the officers for the work they had done around issues facing the Norfolk and Suffolk Health Foundation Trust and the Committee not receiving the information that it needed. Cllr Thomas confirmed that she would write to the Secretary of State about another inpatient death.
- 12 **Select Committee Reports**
- 12.1 **Corporate Select Committee meetings held on 23 May 2022 and 11 July 2022**
- 12.1.1 The Chair moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.
- 12.2 **Infrastructure & Development Select Committee meetings held on 25 May 2022 and 13 July 2022 and 26 September 2022**
- 12.2.1 The Chair moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.
- 12.3 **People and Communities Select Committee meetings held on 27 May 2022 and 12 July 2022**
- 12.3.1 The Chair moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.
- 13 **Reports about the business of Joint Arrangements and External Organisations**
- 13.1 **Norfolk Joint Museums Committee meeting held on 22 July 2022**
Cllr John Ward moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.
- 13.2 **Norfolk Records Committee**

Noted that no meetings were held since the previous meeting of Council.

14 **Reports and Recommendations to Council from other Committees**

14.1 The Chair moved the following reports from other Committees listed below:

- **Audit Committee meeting held on 28 July 2022.**
- **Health and Wellbeing Board meetings held on 8 June 2022, 21 July 2022, and 21 September 2022.**
- **Pensions Committee meeting held on 27 September 2022.**
- **Planning (Regulatory) Committee meetings held on 20 May 2022 and 23 September 2022.**

Council **RESOLVED** to note the reports.

14.2 Cllr Bill Borrett reminded Members that an important on-line health briefing would be held the following day.

15 **Specific Business Items**

15.1 **Minerals and Waste Development Scheme and Norfolk Statement of Community Involvement**

15.1.1 Cllr Eric Vardy, seconded by Cllr Andrew Proctor, moved the recommendations contained in the report.

15.1.2 Following debate, Council **RESOLVED** (on a show of hands with 1 vote against and 1 abstention)

1. **That the 2022 Minerals and Waste Development Scheme (Appendix A to the report) shall have effect from 11 October 2022 and that this replaces the current MWDS (2019)**
2. **To formally adopt the 2022 Norfolk Statement of Community Involvement (appendix B to the report) and that this replaces the current SCI.**

15.2 **Norfolk Youth Justice Plan**

15.2.1 Cllr John Fisher, seconded by Cllr Andrew Proctor, moved the recommendations contained in the report.

15.2.2 Following debate, Council **RESOLVED** (on a show of hands)

1. **That Council adopts the updated Norfolk Youth Justice Strategic Plan as part of the policy framework**
2. **That Council endorses the Youth Justice Board's vision for a child first youth justice system as follows:**
 - **Prioritise the best interests of children, recognising their particular needs, capacities, rights and potential and ensure all work is child focused, developmentally informed, acknowledges structural barriers, and meets**

responsibilities towards children.

- Promote children's individual strengths and capacities to develop their prosocial identity for sustainable desistance, leading to safer communities and fewer victims. All work is constructive and future focused, built on supportive relationships that empower children to fulfil their potential and make positive contributions to society.
- Encourage children's active participation, engagement and wider social inclusion, making sure meaningful collaboration with children and their carers is at the heart of our work with them.
- Promote a childhood that avoids coming into contact with the criminal justice system, using pre-emptive prevention, diversion and minimal proportionate intervention, minimising criminogenic stigma.

15.3 **Accepting the delegation of a statutory function to determine an application to register a public right of way across county boundary**

15.3.1 Cllr Andrew Proctor, seconded by Cllr Graham Plant, moved the recommendations contained in the report.

15.3.2 Council **RESOLVED** (on a show of hands)

1. To accept the discharge of Cambridgeshire County Council's function with respect to the Definitive Map Modification Application; and
2. share the administrative costs of publicising any Order and of a venue for holding any potential public enquiry.

15.4 **Appointment of Members of the Independent Remuneration Panel**

15.4.1 Cllr Andrew Proctor, seconded by Cllr Steve Morpew, moved the recommendations contained in the report.

15.4.2 Council **RESOLVED** (on a show of hands)

To approve the appointment of the following to the County Council's Independent Remuneration Panel for a five-year period to October 2027:

- Gillian Bannister
- Mark Stanton
- Nicki Bramford
- Clare Whelan OBE DL FRSA

Council took a break at this point in the proceedings of 40 minutes.

When Council reconvened, the Chair, seconded by the Vice-Chair, moved that the meeting be extended by 30 minutes to allow time for the motions to be considered.

On being put to the vote (on a show of hands) the motion was **LOST**

16 Notice of Motions

16.1 Supporting People

16.1.1 The following motion was proposed by Cllr Lana Hemsall and seconded by Cllr Stuart Clancy

Norfolk County Council is determined to work as hard as it can to help the residents of Norfolk in the cost-of-living challenge driven by Covid and Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine. This is what has led to rising energy and food prices.

This Council thanks the Government for the significant work it has done to support the residents of Norfolk and across the Country, through the two-year energy price guarantee and the certainty it'll give residents across Norfolk, as well as the significant help that the £400 energy bill discount will provide to every household. This is in addition to the £650 cost of living payment for those in receipt of means-tested benefits, £300 for pensioner households and £150 for recipients of disability benefits in Norfolk and the £150 Council tax rebate.

Norfolk County Council thanks Officers who have delivered the Norfolk Household Support fund, totalling two allocations of £6.7m, providing valuable help to families, older people, and those with disabilities. Alongside, the Norfolk Assistance Scheme has provided both immediate and longer-term social and financial support.

The third allocation of £6.7m, between October 2022 and March 2023, is supplemented by an additional County Council fund of £1.2m.

Norfolk County Council has done, and is doing, all it can to provide help to our residents, especially for energy costs.

We applaud the actions Government is taking to help businesses with their energy costs, which in turn protects jobs in Norfolk. The offshore industry is an important part of Norfolk's economy and is well placed to further the Government's aim of domestic energy security and create local jobs.

This Council resolves to:

1. Work with the Government to ensure that it delivers beyond the much-appreciated support to the residents of Norfolk as quickly as possible.
2. Continue to identify, with partners, those most in need of support in Norfolk and ensure that they access all the help they are eligible for.
3. Promote local opportunities in Norfolk for energy generation to help increase the supply of energy to further aid the long-term lowering of prices.

Cllr Jamie Osborn moved as an amendment seconded by Cllr Ben Price to read:

This Council resolves to:

1. Work with the Government to ensure that it delivers beyond the much-appreciated support to the residents of Norfolk as quickly as possible.
2. Continue to identify, with partners, those most in need of support in Norfolk and ensure that they access all the help they are eligible for.
3. Promote local opportunities in Norfolk for **renewable** energy generation ~~to help increase the supply of energy and energy efficiency measures such as insulating houses~~ to further aid the long-term lowering of prices.

16.1.2 Following debate and upon being put to a recorded vote (Appendix A), with 23 votes in favour, 36 votes against and 1 abstention the amendment was **LOST**.

16.1.3 Following further debate on the substantive motion, Cllr Terry Jermy moved as an amendment seconded by Cllr Emma Corlett to read:

Norfolk County Council is determined to work as hard as it can to help the residents of Norfolk in the cost-of-living ~~challenge driven by Covid and Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine. This is what has led to rising energy and food prices.~~ crisis driven by twelve years of austerity, bad economic management, Covid-19, and Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine. This is what has led to rising energy and food prices.

This Council thanks the Government for the significant work it has done to support the residents of Norfolk and across the Country, through the two-year energy price guarantee and the certainty it'll give residents across Norfolk, as well as the significant help that the £400 energy bill discount will provide to every household. This is in addition to the £650 cost of living payment for those in receipt of means-tested benefits, £300 for pensioner households and £150 for recipients of disability benefits in Norfolk and the £150 Council tax rebate.

However, council recognises that for many, domestic fuel bills will still increase beyond their means, and uncertainty created by the government's mini budget is increasing borrowing rates and driving up the cost of mortgage payments. Council is also concerned that funding support from borrowing has undermined the confidence of the market and as a result the pension pots of many have been significantly diminished. Council is very concerned at the suggestion the pledge to increase state pensions in line with the triple lock and benefits in line with inflation may not be honoured.

Norfolk County Council thanks Officers who have delivered the Norfolk Household Support fund, totalling two allocations of £6.7m, providing valuable help to families, older people, and those with disabilities. Alongside, the Norfolk Assistance Scheme has provided both immediate and longer-term social and financial support. The third allocation of £6.7m, between October 2022 and March 2023, is supplemented by an additional County Council fund of £1.2m.

Norfolk County Council has done, and is doing, all it can to provide help to our residents, especially for energy costs. However, council is concerned at

the statement by the chancellor that Spending Review allocations to local government may not increase to cover demand and inflationary pressures and would therefore mean a further real term cut in our budget that could wipe out the impact of the Household Support Fund and add further pressure to services already facing a huge budget challenge.

We applaud the actions Government is taking to help businesses with their energy costs, which in turn protects jobs in Norfolk. However, Council is concerned at reports that the limited period of that support, the increase in the cost of borrowing, inflation and economic uncertainty will force many businesses to close. The offshore industry is an important part of Norfolk's economy and is well placed to further the Government's aim of domestic energy security and create local jobs.

This Council resolves to:

1. Work with the Government to ensure that it delivers beyond the much-appreciated support to the residents of Norfolk as quickly as possible.
2. Continue to identify, with partners, those most in need of support in Norfolk and ensure that they access all the help they are eligible for.
3. Promote local opportunities in Norfolk for renewable energy generation to help increase the supply of energy to further aid the long-term lowering of prices while sticking to commitments to decarbonise our economy
4. Call on the Government to increase council funding to cover the costs of increased demand and inflationary pressures
5. Call on the Government honour the pledge to uprate pensions in accordance with the triple lock and other benefits in line with inflation.
6. Call on the Government to urgently review their policy of meeting costs of the protection measures through borrowing and extend the windfall tax so energy companies that are already supporting an increase in their tax in the name of fairness shoulder more of the burden.
7. Ask the Head of Paid Service to evaluate the impact of the Household Support fund and report his findings to the next round of cabinet and appropriate committees to identify gaps and areas for improvement, and to allow local members to influence how future support can best be targeted.

16.1.4 Following debate and upon being put to a recorded vote (Appendix B), with 23 votes in favour, 36 votes against and 1 abstention the amendment was **LOST**.

16.1.5 At this point in the proceedings the Chair moved, duly seconded by the Vice Chair, that the meeting be extended to allow for all amendments and other business of motion 1 (supporting people) to be heard, and on a show of hands this was **LOST**.

17 **Chair concluding remarks**

17.1 At this point in the proceedings, given that the time available for the meeting had come to an end and that several procedural issues raised by Members

during consideration of motion 1 had yet to be addressed, the Chair took legal advice on how to proceed.

17.2 The Chair said that the legal advice was that she had twice offered to extend the meeting, and, on both occasions, this was lost, therefore the meeting was now at an end.

17.3 It was noted that some of the business that was due to have been considered at this meeting was not dealt with in the time available. This business can be seen as an addendum to these minutes.

18 **Addendum to the minutes**

18.1 The following were not considered at this meeting:

ITEM 13

Motion 1 Supporting People (this was not moved to a vote)

Motion 2 Supporting opportunities for physical activity for children and young people living with a disability in Norfolk

Motion 3 Helping Rural Norfolk with the Cost-of-Living Crisis

Motion 4 A say for Norfolk residents on the County Deal

Motion 5 West Winch Bypass

Motion 6 Winter emergency planning

Motion 7 Public Ownership of energy

Item 14

To answer Questions under Rule 9.3 of the Council Procedure Rules

There was one question under Rule 9.3 of the Procedural rules that Cllr Brociek-Coulton submitted to the Leader of the Council:

Member Champions have a duty to keep Members informed of relevant issues but there is no obligation on them to do so regularly under the Constitution. Can the Leader please assure me that he will work with the Member Champions on plans to provide regular communications to all Councillors and provide an approximate date when we can expect to see a report back from the twelve Councillors about their engagement activities and the work they are doing to encourage people to play a fuller role in their particular subject areas?

Following the meeting the leader provided the following response:

Thank you for your question. Member Champions have been working to support Cabinet Members in Key areas of the Council's work. It is my intention for them to report back to Members about the work they are doing and share information via the Members weekly briefing note. Though this is not in place yet you will start to see reports appearing soon highlighting the work they are doing.

Item 15

Appointments to Committees, Sub-Committees and Joint Committees –there were none

The meeting ended at 1.43 pm

Chair



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Norfolk County Council
Date 11 October 2022 Appendix A
RECORDED VOTE A (Supporting People) AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:
13.1

	For	Against	Abstain
ADAMS Timothy	x		
ADAMS Tony		x	
ANNISON Carl		x	
AQUARONE Steffan	x		
ASKEW Stephen	Absent		
BAMBRIDGE Lesley		x	
BENSLY James	Absent		
BILLS David	Absent		
BIRMINGHAM Alison	x		
BLUNDELL Sharon	x		
BORRETT Bill		x	
BOWES Claire	Absent		
BROCIK-COULTON Julie	x		
CARPENTER Graham	Absent		
CARPENTER Penny		x	
CLANCY Stuart		x	
COLMAN Ed	Absent		
COLWELL Robert	x		
CONNOLLY Ed	Absent		
CORLETT Emma	x		
DALBY Michael		x	
DARK Stuart		x	
DAUBNEY Nick		x	
DAWSON Christopher	Absent		
DEWSBURY Margaret	Absent		
DIXON Nigel	Absent		
DUFFIN Barry		x	
DUIGAN Phillip		x	
EAGLE Fabian	Absent		
ELMER Daniel		x	
FISHER John		x	
FITZPATRICK Tom		x	
GRANT Andy		x	
GURNEY Shelagh		x	
HEMPSALL Lana		x	
HORSBRUGH Michael Chenery of		x	
JAMES Jane	Absent		
JAMIESON Andrew		x	
JERMY Terry	x		
JONES Brenda	Absent		
KEMP Alexandra	x		
KIDDIE Keith		x	

	For	Against	Abstain
KIDDLE-MORRIS Mark	Absent		
KIRK Julian	Absent		
LONG Brian		x	
MACKIE Ian		x	
MASON BILLIG Kay		x	
MAXFIELD Ed	Absent		
MORIARTY Jim	Absent		
MORPHEW Steve	x		
NEALE Paul	Absent		
OLIVER Judy	Absent		
OLIVER Rhodri	Absent		
OSBORN Jamie	x		
PECK Greg		x	
PENFOLD Saul	x		
PLANT Graham		x	
PRICE Ben	x		
PRICE Richard		x	
PROCTOR Andrew		x	
RICHMOND Will		x	
Reilly Matthew	x		
RILEY Steve	x		
ROPER Dan	x		
Rumsby Chrissie	x		
SANDS Mike	x		
SAVAGE Robert		x	
SHIRES Lucy	x		
SMITH Carl		x	
SMITH-CLARE Mike	x		
STONE Barry		x	
STOREY Martin	Absent		
THOMAS Alison		x	
THOMSON Vic	Absent		
VARDY Eric		x	
VINCENT Karen			x
WALKER Colleen	x		
WARD John		x	
WATKINS Brian	x		
WEBB Maxine	x		
WHITE Tony	Absent		
WHYMARK Fran		x	
WILBY Martin		x	

For	23
Against	36
Abstentions	1

Norfolk County Council
Date 11 October 2022 Appendix B
RECORDED VOTE B (Supporting People) AGENDA ITEM NUMBER:
13.1

	For	Against	Abstain
ADAMS Timothy	X		
ADAMS Tony	Absent		
ANNISON Carl		X	
AQUARONE Steffan	X		
ASKEW Stephen	Absent		
BAMBRIDGE Lesley		X	
BENSLY James		X	
BILLS David	Absent		
BIRMINGHAM Alison	x		
BLUNDELL Sharon	X		
BORRETT Bill	Absent		
BOWES Claire		X	
BROCIK-COULTON Julie	x		
CARPENTER Graham	Absent		
CARPENTER Penny		X	
CLANCY Stuart		X	
COLMAN Ed	Absent		
COLWELL Robert	X		
CONNOLLY Ed	Absent		
CORLETT Emma	X		
DALBY Michael		X	
DARK Stuart		X	
DAUBNEY Nick		X	
DAWSON Christopher	Absent		
DEWSBURY Margaret		X	
DIXON Nigel	Absent		
DUFFIN Barry		X	
DUIGAN Phillip		X	
EAGLE Fabian	Absent		
ELMER Daniel		X	
FISHER John		X	
FITZPATRICK Tom		X	
GRANT Andy		X	
GURNEY Shelagh	Absent		
HEMPSALL Lana		X	
HORSBRUGH Michael Chenery of		X	
JAMES Jane		X	
JAMIESON Andrew	Absent		
JERMY Terry	X		
JONES Brenda	Absent		
KEMP Alexandra	X		
KIDDIE Keith		X	

	For	Against	Abstain
KIDDLE-MORRIS Mark	Absent		
KIRK Julian	Absent		
LONG Brian		X	
MACKIE Ian		X	
MASON BILLIG Kay		x	
MAXFIELD Ed	Absent		
MORIARTY Jim	Absent		
MORPHEW Steve	X		
NEALE Paul	Absent		
OLIVER Judy	Absent		
OLIVER Rhodri	Absent		
OSBORN Jamie	X		
PECK Greg		X	
PENFOLD Saul	X		
PLANT Graham		X	
PRICE Ben	X		
PRICE Richard		X	
PROCTOR Andrew		X	
RICHMOND Will		X	
Reilly Matthew	X		
RILEY Steve	X		
ROPER Dan	X		
Rumsby Chrissie	X		
SANDS Mike	X		
SAVAGE Robert		X	
SHIRES Lucy	X		
SMITH Carl	Absent		
SMITH-CLARE Mike	X		
STONE Barry		X	
STOREY Martin	Absent		
THOMAS Alison		X	
THOMSON Vic		X	
VARDY Eric		X	
VINCENT Karen			x
WALKER Colleen	x		
WARD John		X	
WATKINS Brian	X		
WEBB Maxine	X		
WHITE Tony	Absent		
WHYMARK Fran		X	
WILBY Martin		X	

For	23
Against	36
Abstentions	1