

## **Cabinet**

### **Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 8 June 2020 at 10am**

### **Virtual Teams Meeting**

**Present:**

Cllr Andrew Proctor	Chairman. Leader & Cabinet Member for Strategy & Governance.
Cllr Bill Borrett	Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health & Prevention.
Cllr Margaret Dewsbury	Cabinet Member for Communities & Partnerships.
Cllr John Fisher	Cabinet Member for Children's Services.
Cllr Tom FitzPatrick	Cabinet Member for Innovation, Transformation & Performance.
Cllr Andy Grant	Cabinet Member for Environment & Waste.
Cllr Andrew Jamieson	Cabinet Member for Finance
Cllr Greg Peck	Cabinet Member for Commercial Services & Asset Management.
Cllr Graham Plant	Vice-Chairman and Cabinet Member for Growing the Economy.
Cllr Martin Wilby	Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport.

**Also Present:**

Lorne Green	Police & Crime Commissioner for Norfolk (for item 8).
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**Executive Directors Present:**

Tom McCabe	Executive Director of Community & Environmental Services and Head of Paid Service.
James Bullion	Executive Director of Adult Social Services
Helen Edwards	Chief Legal Officer and Monitoring Officer
Simon George	Executive Director of Finance & Commercial Services
Fiona McDiarmid	Executive Director of Strategy & Governance
Sara Tough	Executive Director of Children's Services

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Cabinet meeting and advised viewers that pursuant to The Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020, the meeting was being held under new Regulations which had been brought in to deal with the restrictions under Covid 19. Decisions made in the meeting would have the same standing and validity as if they had been made in a meeting in County Hall.

Cabinet Members and Executive Directors formally introduced themselves.

There were no apologies for absence.

## **2 Minutes**

The minutes from the Cabinet meeting held on Monday 11 May 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and would be signed by the Chairman as soon as practicably possible.

## **3 Declaration of Interests**

Cllr Greg Peck, Cabinet Member for Commercial Services & Asset Management declared an interest in agenda item 13 (Annual Treasury Management Outturn Report 2019-20) as he was a Director of Hethel Innovation Limited.

## **4 Matters referred to Cabinet by the Scrutiny Committee, Select Committees or by full Council.**

There were no matters referred to Cabinet.

## **5 Items of Urgent Business**

There were no items of urgent business.

## **6 Public Question Time**

No public questions were received.

## **7 Local Member Questions/Issues**

7.1 The list of Local Member questions and the responses is attached at Appendix A.

7.2 As a supplementary question, Cllr Alexandra Kemp said the Council needed to look more carefully about what was beneficial to people and be more empathetic because 350 houses on West Winch Road was far too many. She asked if the Cabinet Member would ensure traffic did not use the bus lane in Hardings Way, King's Lynn, as it would breach the terms of the £5.3m government grant and would cause distress to people, putting traffic on a disabled route and asked the Cabinet Member to rethink the decision.

The Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport thanked Cllr Kemp for the question and replied that a decision had been made and he would stand by it.

7.3 As a supplementary question, Cllr Steve Morphey said that Protect Ourselves and Protect Norfolk was a good headline, but what did it actually mean to the Leader and what were the standards that he thought should be adopted that we could trust given the amount of confusion there had been from the Government's messages nationally.

In reply, the Chairman said that the first element was the very consistent approach across Norfolk in saying what "Protect Ourselves, Protect Norfolk" was, which was essentially about following all the guidelines. He added that the Director of Public Health had appeared on the radio a number of times as the County Council voice

for giving details on the basis that if we followed the guidelines, we would protect ourselves and protect Norfolk. The Chairman also added that he felt the messages had been very clear.

- 7.4 As a supplementary question, Cllr David Rowntree said that the reply to his substantive question contradicted the information he had been given by service providers and asked the Cabinet Member to send him the data his reply was based on.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health & Prevention agreed to provide the information.

- 7.5 As a supplementary question, Cllr Danny Douglas asked for reassurance that sustainable transport options under the Covid-19 highways measures to improve pedestrian access on St Benedict's and Magdalen Street, which Cllr Douglas fully supported, would improve air quality but would also guarantee access for residents.

The Cabinet member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport agreed to provide a written response to the question.

- 7.6 Cllr Sands said that the public had now been told to wear face coverings which would increase the demand for PPE significantly, putting pressure on the supply for care services again and also further profiteering, which would affect small businesses trying to source PPE for their staff. As a supplementary question, Cllr Sands asked what support Norfolk County Council was offering to small businesses to help them, and their customers with face coverings, including action taken against profiteering.

The Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Growing the Economy thanked Cllr Sands for the question and stated that the New Anglia Growth Hub website offered advice for businesses about how to access PPE. He thought there was a list of approximately 900 suppliers which would be able to help small businesses.

Regarding the question about how to stop profiteering, the Cabinet Member for Growing the Economy said Norfolk County Council did not have the capability to do this as it would require Government led initiatives. He added that not everyone would need medical grade PPE and many people could make their own face masks and use those.

- 7.7 Cllr Jermy stated that the Government was funding measures to move towards walking and cycling and the Council had shown increased remote working was viable. As a supplementary question, Cllr Jermy asked if it would make sense to review the spending on schemes such as additional car parking at County Hall; the upgrade to the civic area and the Norwich Western Link so they did not become expensive white elephants by encouraging greater car use and increase carbon emissions.

The Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport replied that the Norwich Western link would provide the right infrastructure to move the economy forward and support jobs and growth in the county. He added, regarding the car park at County Hall, he understood there were more people coming into County Hall from other premises in the county so the car parking would be needed in the future.

7.8 The submitted written supplementary questions and responses are attached at Appendix B.

## **8 Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service, HMICFRS Improvement Plan Update**

8.1 The Chairman welcomed Lorne Green, Police & Crime Commissioner for Norfolk to the meeting.

8.2 Cabinet received the report by the Executive Director of Community & Environmental Services setting out the progress made to deliver the activities set out in the improvement Plan since it was last reviewed by Cabinet in March 2020, and the plans for further improvement activities.

8.3 The Executive Director for Community & Environmental Services advised that all inspections had currently been suspended due to the Covid-19 response and highlighted that the Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service (NFRS) continued to work on its action plan, as well as working in collaboration with other blue light services. NFRS continued to make progress with the action plan and it was expected a revised inspection programme would be announced in due course by HMICFRS.

8.4 The Cabinet Member for Communities & Partnership introduced the report and moved the recommendations, during which the following points were noted:

- The Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service had carried on with business as usual by attending accidents and putting out fires, but had also been responding to the demands caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, such as delivering essential supplies and driving ambulances for the NHS, with 25 staff completing 278 shifts during the first month of the pandemic. Those 25 staff had now been replaced by a second cohort which would be carrying out the same duties for the next month.
- The NFRS had been supporting the Norfolk Police service during peak times when required.
- Although fire service inspections had been suspended for 2020, the NFRS continued to work to improve its performance.
- A Strategic Oversight Group had been established to deliver the outcomes of the Integrated Risk Management Plan. The Group consisted of Fire Service managers, elected Members and representatives from Representative bodies.
- A new cultural statement had been agreed and signed by the Chief Fire Officer and Representative bodies regarding expected values and behaviours to ensure there was no perceived bullying or harassment.
- Collaboration was taking place with Norfolk Constabulary to explore opportunities for a training academy in Hethersett, as well as sharing a headquarters in Wymondham.
- The software system to support the response services had been upgraded.
- New staff were being recruited and trained.
- Staff were working to develop an improved community risk profile and the data would be used to consider the most effective way to allocate services to improve safety in communities.
- Data showing response and performance, prevention and protection and logistics was being analysed.
- Capital investment in the service had enabled data terminals to be upgraded on fire appliances.

- Upgrades to the five new agile multi-purpose vehicles was expected in July 2020. These vehicles would include misting units to allow them to support responses to wild-fires which may occur during the summer months.

8.4 Lorne Green, Police & Crime Commissioner commended the Constabulary and the Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service for the excellent collaborative work which had taken place during the crisis period caused by Covid-19. He added that he was aware they had worked very hard together on driver training support for the East of England Ambulance Service and that Norfolk Constabulary had developed a training plan and provided ambulance driver training assisted by NFRS driver trainers, which was a further example of excellent collaboration.

The Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service had also provided the Constabulary with assistance with forced entry for medical purposes, concerns for welfare, road traffic collisions, road networks where there was public safety concern, all of which had been greatly appreciated.

Norfolk Constabulary had assisted the Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service with community connections, obtaining emergency accommodation for a residential student fire fighters course which had been relocated at short notice and in return the Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service had provided contingencies for accommodation and welfare for police response teams if the need arose.

The PCC added that the Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service had provided the Constabulary with guidance around the correct use of personal protection equipment.

The PCC stated that all of the above work was a fine example of what could be possible when both sides were actively committed to collaboration and that he looked forward to further reports on progress of the Improvement Plan.

8.5 The Chairman stated that lessons had been learned from the Inspection report and the improvement plan had been drawn up to improve services and that he felt, in essence, the Police & Crime Commissioner supported the improvement plan and the way it was being developed. In reply the PCC agreed that this was a work in progress and needed to be closely monitored to ensure the most effective, efficient NFRS for the county of Norfolk. The PCC added that the inspection regime would resume and that it would then assess the effectiveness of the plan as it had been developed and implemented, which he would also monitor closely.

8.6 The Police & Crime Commissioner stated that his aim from the beginning was to get the best value and maximum safety for every man, woman and child in Norfolk and to ensure that Norfolk had the best possible public safety in the country from all emergency services as well as the closest collaboration possible. He added that he had been concerned about reports of bullying on occasions and he was pleased to see this had been addressed. He also added that cost effectiveness was required to ensure tax payers received best value for money.

8.7 The Chairman agreed and stated that the Improvement Plan would develop on that basis.

8.8 The Cabinet Member for Communities & Partnerships reiterated that the Plan was progressing well, she welcomed the comments from the Police & Crime Commissioner and moved the recommendations.

8.9 Cabinet reviewed the report and **RESOLVED** to:

- **note** the progress made in delivering the Improvement Plan as set out in the report and at Appendix A.
- **agree** to receive a further update on progress at the Cabinet meeting in September 2020.

#### 8.10 **Evidence and reasons for Decision**

The Improvement Plan aims to address the areas for improvement identified by the HMICFRS and is focussed on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the service, and how we look after our people. The Improvement Plan sets out the activities the Chief Fire Officer has identified as necessary in order to demonstrate paying due regard to the findings of the HMICFRS Inspection, but also to improve the service for Norfolk communities.

#### 8.11 **Alternative Options**

Cabinet may wish to amend or make additions to the Improvement Plan.

### **9 West Norfolk Transport & Infrastructure Working Group.**

9.1 Cabinet received the report by the Executive Director of Community & Environmental Services setting out the rationale for a West Norfolk Transport and Infrastructure Steering Group and a proposed Terms of Reference for the Group. The Group would oversee key transport and infrastructure projects in the King's Lynn area including the transport strategy and the West Winch growth area.

9.2 The Executive Director of Community & Environmental Services stated that this report followed previous reports to establish working better together with colleagues in west Norfolk.

9.3 The Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport introduced the report and moved the recommendations, during which the following points were noted:

- The report sets out the rationale for a West Norfolk Transport and Infrastructure Steering Group, a proposed terms of reference for the Steering Group which would oversee key transport and infrastructure projects in the King's Lynn area, including the Transport Strategy and the West Winch growth area.
- The recommendations were to approve the Terms of Reference as set out in Appendix A of the report, for a Joint West Norfolk Transport and Infrastructure Steering Group.
- The proposed membership of the Steering Group included 3 Norfolk County Councillors and 3 representatives from the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk.
- The proposed three representatives from Norfolk County Council were to be Cllr Andrew Jamieson; Cllr Graham Middleton and Cllr Martin Wilby.

9.4 The Cabinet Member for Finance said he welcomed the establishment of the Steering Group which would provide a forward looking focus to the King's Lynn Plan and said he hoped it would bring more and clearer initiatives to support the increased use of public transport in the west of the county; the increased use and availability of designated cycling routes and support better rail links for King's Lynn.

9.5 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:

- **approve** the Terms of Reference, as set out in Appendix A of the report, for a joint West Norfolk Transport and Infrastructure Steering Group.

## 9.6 **Evidence and Reasons for Decision**

Refer to Paragraph 4 of the report.

## 9.7 **Alternative Options**

An alternative approach would be to retain the status quo and rely upon the regular but relatively informal Member meetings and ad hoc conversations between senior officers. This is not recommended due to the increasing complexity of the growth agenda and the need for even closer collaboration between the two authorities.

## 10 **Finance Monitoring Report 2019-20 outturn.**

10.1 Cabinet received the report by the Executive Director of Finance & Commercial Services providing a summary of the financial outturn for the 2019-20 Revenue and Capital Budgets, General Balances and the Council's Reserves at 31 March 2020, together with related financial information.

10.2 The Cabinet Member for Finance introduced the report and moved the recommendations, during which the following points were noted:

- The report related to 2019-20 financial year, so the main point was the achievement of a balanced budget in difficult circumstances which had set the Council on a firm financial footing for the current year.
- There had been significant overspends in Children's Services and some overspend in Adult Social Services in 2019-20. These overspends had been balanced by savings in other areas, mainly within Finance general, the details of which were set out on page 97 of the agenda.
- Children's Services had seen, and continued to see, high and increased levels and complexity of need, with particular issues with home to school transport, particularly for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.
- The Council has allocated £120m in the capital programme for new special educational needs (SEND) schools in Great Yarmouth, Fakenham, Swaffham and Easton and also approximately 14 SRB's within existing schools.
- Adult Social Care had seen ongoing pressures on their purchase of care budgets which was an area under stress. It was hoped to ease this pressure with increased paycales and specific Covid related grants this year.
- Additional waste import taxes by the Netherlands in January 2020 had been absorbed, although they would continue to be a concern in the future.

- The details of all over- and underspends by department could be found in Annex 1 of the report.
- General reserves were £19.76m at year end.
- Cash balances remained high at the end of the financial year.
- Norfolk County Council had recently decided to disinvest all longer-term deposits and move funds into instant liquidity accounts by mid-July 2020. Close monitoring was being maintained given the current situation.
- The Capital programme saw expenditure commence on the Great Yarmouth 3<sup>rd</sup> River Crossing as well as ongoing expenditure on schools, Broadband and highway maintenance.

10.3 The Chairman asked Cabinet to note that the first recommendation as published in the agenda should be amended to read:

1. Recommend to County Council additional borrowing of £0.515m to fund in-year Children's Services capital expenditure as set out in Appendix 2 paragraph 4 of the report.

10.4 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health & Prevention congratulated everyone in Adult Social Care as, although the overspend was approximately £1m, it actually reflected an overspend of less than half a percent of the total budget. He added that the increase in demand and the pressures as a result of an ageing population created pressure on the Adult Social Care budget.

He added that because the demographic in Norfolk was considerably older than some other areas, the case needed to continue to be made to central Government for a fairer funding settlement.

The Cabinet Member stated that he supported the strategy going forward and which represented an achievement of the work carried out by the Adult Social Care department in getting so close to a balanced budget given the pressures it faced.

10.5 The Cabinet Member for Children's Services highlighted that early indications showed that the Children's Services Transformation Programme was beginning to show improvement. He also added that it was hoped the SEND investment programme could recommence soon to move projects forward. The Cabinet Member also added that a working group had been established to investigate how money could be saved on all home to school transport, which had only held one meeting before the Covid-19 pandemic had started, and added that this work would continue as soon as possible.

10.6 The Cabinet member for Growing the Economy highlighted the spend on economic development and the need to ensure the economy was able to recover once the effects of Covid-19 had lessened. He added that the money allocated to the Great Yarmouth 3<sup>rd</sup> River Crossing was gratefully received and had received Government funding of approximately £100m, although it was important investment continued in Norfolk, in the infrastructure of Norfolk and the businesses in Norfolk as it was the businesses and the taxes raised from businesses which would pay for many of the services provided by Norfolk County Council.



10.7 The Cabinet Member for Innovation, Transformation and Performance highlighted that the willingness of people to consider new ways of working and how to work more effectively within their resources had helped achieved the result. He added that he welcomed the report, particularly the investing in Norfolk with the £120m spent on SEND provision for the benefit of young people.

10.8 In summing up the Chairman endorsed the achievement of getting the budget to just under the figure required which was an excellent result given the circumstances.

10.9 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:

1. **Recommend** to County Council additional borrowing of £0.515m to fund in-year Children's Services capital expenditure as set out in Appendix 2 paragraph 4 of the report.
2. **Note** the general fund revenue outturn underspend of **£0.083m**;
3. **Note** the savings shortfall of **£4.752m** as described in Appendix 1 paragraph 5 of the report;
4. **Note** the forecast General Balances at 31 March 2020 of £19.706m, after taking into account the outturn underspends;
5. **note** the expenditure and funding of the current and future 2019-22 capital programmes.

10.10 **Evidence and Reasons for Decision:**

Two appendices are attached to the report giving details fo the forecast revenue and capital financial outturn positions:

**Appendix 1** summarises the revenue outturn position, including:

- Forecast over and under-spends
- Changes to the approved budget
- Reserves
- Savings
- Treasury Management

**Appendix 2** summarises the capital outturn position, and includes:

- Current and future capital programmes
- Capital programme funding
- Income from property sales and other capital receipts.

10.10 **Alternative Options**

In order to deliver a balanced budget, no viable alternative options have been identified to the recommendations in this report. In terms of financing the proposed capital expenditure, no grant or revenue funding has been identified to fund the expenditure.

## **11 COVID-19 financial implications for Norfolk County Council**

- 11.1 Cabinet received the regular report by the Executive Director of Finance & Commercial Services updating the position report to Cabinet in May 2020 with the latest details of the Council's forecast use of COVID-19 funding from Government. The report sets out how the Council was proactively responding to the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic to maintain the delivery of vital services across all areas of its operations, support the NHS and health system through enhanced hospital discharge processes to free up capacity, protect vulnerable people, support businesses and ensure the safety of all staff delivering this vital work. In particular, the report detailed the proposed extension of the support packages to the Adult and Children's Social Care markets for Cabinet approval.
- 11.2 The Cabinet Member for Finance introduced the report and moved the recommendations, during which the following points were noted:
- The budget, when it was set in February 2020, had been forecast to be balanced.
  - The County Council continued to deliver services for the people of Norfolk, in addition to the more central role it had undertaken during the current emergency, by coordinating human and financial resources to help manage the crisis.
  - Cabinet received a monthly report giving the latest details of the forecast and how the Covid-19 Government grant was being spent.
  - The current forecast of £63.73m of Covid-19 related pressures was broken down into three areas:
    - Additional cost pressures
    - Lost income
    - Undeliverable savings.
  - Set against the £63.73m was the figure of £43.7m received so far from the Government. The resulting £20m shortfall was approximately the same shortfall being reported by other similar councils.
  - Additional cost pressures of approximately £1m had been seen in Norfolk since last month which were mainly due to the reopening of recycling centres and the increased costs of managing large amounts of household waste.
  - The pandemic had a major impact on vulnerable adults in Norfolk. Norfolk County Council continued to support the care sector and had already paid care providers an additional 6% to cover fees to the end of June 2020. On top of this, an additional cash provision to enable providers to reclaim cash expenses had also been established.
  - Over 1.4m items of personal protective equipment (PPE) had been supplied.
  - Care providers had been assisted in gaining support from Government or from the Local Enterprise Partnership.
  - Additional payments made to providers for services whilst day care centres were not available.
  - The interventions in the Children's Services social care market were set out in section 7 of the report.
  - In addition, on 15 May 2020 an allocation of £12.386m out of a £600m package of support for care homes, called the "Infection Control Fund Allocation" was received. This funding, which was ring-fenced was distributed nationally, based on the number of care beds rather than the number of

general population. Norfolk had received one of the largest allocations in the country with 75% of this funding provided directly to care homes in two equal instalments amounting to £481.34 per bed, per instalment for each of Norfolk's registered care homes. The first instalment had been passed to care homes last week.

- Considerable risks remained to this years budget forecast, particularly in relation to levels of demand and to the nature of the economic recovery and the way economic recovery was supported, as these areas were where the Covid-19 costs would start to impact on the 2021-22 budget setting.
- An impact was expected on the County Council's income through council tax and business rates on 2021-22.
- Whilst recognising the £20m shortfall and continuing to lobby government extensively for future funding, it was proposed to allocate the currently available funds on a pro rata basis, meaning spending departments would be required to manage any shortfall within their own department until further grants were made available.

- 11.3 The Cabinet Member for Growing the Economy said that this was a comprehensive report which outlined the difficulties faced, largely due to the Covid-19 pandemic. He added that he would have liked to see additional money included for economic development included in the report, as it was businesses that would bring in revenue needed to pay for the services.

The Cabinet Member continued that the Government were offering support and help through the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) although the LEP received help from the county and district councils who use their economic development officers to write reports. Therefore he would like to see some information included in the report about how the County Council could help the LEP help businesses in Norfolk.

- 11.4 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention said the report highlighted issues which needed to be faced, adding that one thing that had worked particularly well was how the Adult Social Care Department and the NHS had worked together without arguing about who was going to pay for what. He continued that central Government had been very prompt in awarding the initial grant at the start of the process of approximately £21m which had enabled some initial work to be carried out quickly and also enabled the County Council to source PPE equipment.

The Cabinet Member also reiterated that dialogue needed to continue with Government to highlight the extra pressures that the emergency had created. He also praised the working together of the NHS and Norfolk County Council and the need to continue this work to deliver a world class response to the emergency.

- 11.5 The Chairman highlighted the additional work on the Adult Social Services side which was encapsulated in paragraph 6.5 of the report which was under the remit of the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health & Prevention.

- 11.6 In supporting the recommendations, the Cabinet member for Innovation, Transformation & Performance added that the report sets out in full the key message that funding provided to date was not adequate and puts us in a good position to look for more funds and to plug that gap.

- 11.7 The Cabinet Member for Children's Services drew attention to paragraph 4.3 of the report which identified that referrals to children's social services had dropped at the start of Covid-19. This had allowed the department to catch up on overdue work and he warned that once the schools reopened, a spike in the need for services was expected, although planning was taking place to cover any potential surge in the need for services.
- 11.8 In summing up the Chairman highlighted the comments in paragraph 7.6 on pages 122 and 129 of the report about supporting the market from a children's services point of view, in the same way it was referenced in paragraph 6.5 for Adult Social Care

There were three key elements:

- Additional costs as clearly set out in table 2 of the report.
- Lost income
- Inability to deliver in-year savings which are the three key elements of this.

The three elements above had been put into a table to demonstrate where the focus of cost was for the future so the inability to deliver savings was a key part of this in terms of the current years budget.

Norfolk County Council had supported the County Council Network and the Local Government Association, highlighting that the report from the last Cabinet meeting had been presented to the Secretary of State setting out clearly how Norfolk County Council was monitoring its position.

The Chairman added that he felt it was time to formally notify Government that Norfolk had much more clarity about what was needed, both Covid-19 financial implications and also for Budget planning to assist and back up the lobbying for additional funding.

The Chairman requested Cabinet's backing in ramping up engagement with Ministers where the Council continued supporting the County Council Network (CCN) and the LGA but also made a specific case for Norfolk based on the evidence and the data we had.

- 11.9 Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED** to:
1. **Note** the latest forecast use of the COVID-19 grant to meet expenditure pressures, income reductions, and lost delivery of savings (Table 2), noting that this will continue to be revised as further details become available;
  2. **Note** the proposed approach to allocating grant resources to services (Table 3) and the arrangements for monitoring and potential clawback;
  3. **Note** the summary of the financial impacts of COVID-19 on services (Section 4);
  4. **Endorse** the key messages being communicated to Government as part of regular financial forecasting information (Section 5); and
  5. **Approve** the further package (phase 2) of financial support to Adult Social Care (ASC) providers (Paragraph 6.5), including delegating authority to the Cabinet member for Adult Social Care and Public Health to make a decision, as

appropriate, about the extension of any future offer relating to provider support payments and provider additional cost claims for August and September 2020.

6. **Approve** the proposed approach to provision of ongoing financial support to the Children's Services Social Care Market (Paragraph 7.6)

#### 11.10 **Evidence and Reasons for Decision**

The County Council faces an unprecedented financial and public health crisis which is having significant implications both during 2020-21 and for future budget setting. It is essential to continue to engage with Government, MPs and other stakeholders to campaign for adequate and sustainable funding for Norfolk to continue to deliver vital services to residents, businesses and visitors.

The recently received Infection Control Fund allocations need to be deployed to care providers in line with Government guidelines. It is also necessary for Cabinet to approve the extension of support to Adult Social Care providers beyond the initial 12 week period reported to the previous Cabinet meeting, and to approve the continued support to the Children's care market.

#### 11.11 **Alternative Options**

This report sets out the forecast use of the COVID-19 funding received to date, but this should be seen as indicative only because the Council will need to respond with some flexibility to emerging cost pressures and the rapidly developing situation. No specific alternative options have been identified.

### 12 **Strategic & Financial Planning 2021-22**

- 12.1 Cabinet received the report by the Executive Director of Finance & Commercial Services and the Executive Director of Strategy & Governance setting out a proposed approach to developing the 2021-22 Budget and associated Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).
- 12.2 The Executive Director of Finance & Commercial Services highlighted that the report was the starting point of the annual budget setting process and Cabinet would be updated as work proceeded around council tax setting and the budget setting in February 2021.
- 12.3 In introducing the report and moving the recommendations, the Cabinet Member for Finance highlighted the following:
  - The strategic and financial report was the start of the annual budget setting process.
  - Due to the current ever-changing situation, the County Council was required to take a holistic approach to deal with the financial consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic.
  - Increased costs in the current year may be partially offset by a reduction in spending levels within departments.
  - The pandemic would have a material effect on the 2021-22 budget as well as the four years to 2024-25 budget covered by the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS).

- Future focus would need to be maintained with the care sector, to expand test and trace, to help school children back to school and also to support the re-emergence of Norfolk's economy, particularly in key sectors such as agriculture, leisure and tourism.
- The budget agreed in February 2020 was fundamentally robust as it had been based on sound finances and prudent planning.
- The expected comprehensive spending review, in summer 2020, was likely to be rolled over until 2021.
- The Fair Funding Review had been delayed and it was unlikely that the reforms to Adult Social Care or Business Rates would be announced until 2021.
- The report sets out the basis for how the £39m shortfall would be addressed, acknowledging the exceptional circumstances in which the 2021-22 budget would be prepared.
- The Covid-19 pandemic has enabled the County Council to re-evaluate ways of working, which provided an opportunity for the budget process to refresh the Norfolk County Council services and this concept would be the focus of discussions with departments until September 2020 from both an operational and financial aspect.
- Select Committees would be involved in the budget setting process and the Cabinet Member for Finance said he looked forward to working with them and hearing their recommendations prior to presenting final proposals to Council in February 2021.
- Liaison with Norfolk's MPs, the County Council Network (CCN), the Local Government Association (LGA), MHCLG and other government ministers would continue to ensure Norfolk received a sustainable, long-term funding solution that Norfolk people deserved.

12.4 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention endorsed the report which demonstrated that the County Council was financially literate, that it was aware of the tasks ahead of it, and that it had been, and would continue to be going forward, a financially stable and well-run authority.

He added that it was disappointing that the emergency had put on hold the government decision making process so the longer term decisions, for example the long-term reform of adult social care, had fallen under the need to respond to the Covid-19 emergency which was a shame although quite understandable.

The Cabinet Member continued that some of the things that had emerged over the last few months, as the Cabinet Member for Finance had highlighted, was the progress made in working with partners like the NHS to implement decisions quickly rather than arguing about who was paying and that he looked forward to further opportunities as the financial strategy was considered in the future.

12.5 The Cabinet Member for Growing the Economy advised that recovery planning was taking place from an economic development point of view and a recovery plan for Norfolk would be produced by the end of June 2020 which would underpin the Norfolk Delivery Plan as growth and development continued to develop projects that were relevant and viable for the longer term, for example the offshore wind operations and maintenance campus at Great Yarmouth, One Farm, the potential farm at Scottow, the food innovation centre at the Food Enterprise Park at Honingham and the Digital Hub for the creative industry sector in the city centre.

The Cabinet Member continued that work had been undertaken with the Local Enterprise Partnership and local businesses to source and produce PPE such as hand sanitiser, face visors and masks.

Cabinet was advised that a jointly produced supplier portal, allowing Norfolk and Suffolk public and private organisations to source products, with over 900 products including supplier contacts and details was available on the LEP website.

The following support elements were also noted:

- Work was being undertaken to try to support all elements of the economy with £263k of capital grants being made available to help businesses.
- Tourism - a survey sent to 776 businesses.
- A recovery plan for promoting the sector that it was safe to live, work and visit Norfolk.
- Assistance with digitising services.
- A Webinar would be held on 18 June which would introduce tourism businesses to digital technology which would be followed up by more in-depth sessions on the ever-popular solutions to help purchase and embed the new software in their organisations.
- The Go Digital project would see work commence on a range of actions to support small and medium enterprises (SME's) in all sectors who were not currently using digital technology.
- Work being undertaken to explore adult social service interests in a working group on digital care interventions, supported by skills training and potentially a Trusted Trader link to local ICT companies for support.
- A new Anglia employment opportunity website advertising short-term vacancies set up by the LEP.
- Support programmes for businesses affected by Covid-19, SME's and people.
- 350 young people had been supported towards employment and training.
- 65 apprentices to date had been made redundant but had been captured by the sector, with 541 on a break from learning offering further opportunities in the apprenticeship sector.
- A local incentive project to help local SME's take on newly redundant apprentices.

The Cabinet Member stated that there was a plan in place to try to reinvigorate the economy and that work was being carried out in all sectors of the economy to ensure all areas were covered. He added that if any business needed help, they could visit the LEP website which should be able to provide some information which may help them.

- 12.6 The Chairman agreed it was important to emphasise the relationship with the Local Enterprise Partnership which he felt was a good initiative and was something we needed to keep working on in the same way as Cllr Borrett had mentioned with the partnerships with the NHS.
- 12.7 The Cabinet Member for Children's Services congratulated the Cabinet Member for Finance on his proposal to include the Select Committees in the budget setting process, which he fully supported, and he said he hoped the Select Committees would take the opportunity to invigorate the economy and offer up their opinions and ideas.

12.8 The Chairman summed up the comments as follows:

- The Economic and spending review, which was not going to happen this year, meant planning was taking place on the basis of uncertainty. Plans were in place for a worse case scenario although an assumption had been made that we would receive at least last year's settlement, ideally uplifted for inflation and also uplifted for the extra activities and responsibilities that we had been required to undertake.
- The social care aspect remained unknown and until the Government announced the settlement it would cause all local authorities' issues, not just Norfolk County Council.
- The sheer size of the budget challenge needed to be put into context, which looking at paragraph 7.2 brought home that this was not a small challenge, it's a big, tough job that we need to manage properly to undertake our responsibilities in Norfolk.
- The comments made about the economic recovery were key in moving forward.

12.9 Cabinet considered the report and **RESOLVED** to:

1. **Note** the overall budget gap of £117.852m in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (reflecting the addition of a further year (2024-25)), and including a gap of £38.992m for 2021-22 as set out in the Medium Term Financial Strategy approved in February 2020. (Section 6)
2. **Note** the key budget risks and uncertainties as set out in this report, including the implications of announcements made at the Spring Budget 2020 and subsequently as part of the COVID-19 response. (Section 3 and Section 5)
3. **Acknowledge** that there may be a requirement for flexibility within both the budget setting process, and budget assumptions used, as a result of Government announcements and other developments relating to COVID-19, to agree the principles of the proposed approach to budget setting for 2021-22 (Section 7) including:
  - a. the process and indicative timetable set out in paragraph 7.1 and Table 5.
  - b. the role of Select Committees in the budget setting process.
  - c. the savings targets allocated to each Department to be found (Table 6), and the potential for these to be increased in September 2020.

12.10 **Evidence and Reasons for Decision**

The County Council faces an unprecedented financial and public health crisis which has the potential to have significant implications for future budget setting. It will be essential to continue to engage with Government, MPs and other stakeholders to continue to push for adequate and sustainable funding for Norfolk to continue to deliver vital services to residents, businesses and visitors. It is also important that Government issues guidance on financial planning assumptions, including indicative funding allocations for 2021-22 as soon as possible. Otherwise there is a significant risk that the Council will be obliged to reduce service levels. The Council's planning within the MTFs forecast is based on the position agreed in February 2020 and it is important to note that this will need to



be updated in September when more reliable evidence about the true impact of COVID-19 on the Council's finances will be available, and there may be some further clarity about the Government's planned medium-term response. Nevertheless, it remains prudent to establish a process to begin planning for savings at the level required to close the underlying gap identified in February 2020.

The proposals in the report reflect a prudent response to the challenges and uncertainties present in the 2021-22 planning process and will ultimately support the Council to develop a robust budget for the year.

## **12.11 Alternative Options**

This report sets out a framework for developing detailed saving proposals for 2020-21 and at this stage no proposals have been agreed, meaning that a range of alternative options remain open.

In addition, there are a number of areas where Cabinet could choose to consider different parameters for the budget setting process, such as:

- Adopting an alternative allocation of targets between services, or retaining a higher or lower target corporately.
- Considering an alternative timetable within the time constraints required to develop proposals, undertaken public consultation and meet statutory deadlines for the setting of council tax.
- Changing assumptions within the MTFS (including the level of council tax) and therefore varying the level of savings sought.

The planning context for the Council will be updated in September when further information is expected to be available. Final decisions about the overall shape of the 2021-22 Budget, savings, and council tax will not be made until February 2021.

## **13 Annual Treasury Management Outturn Report 2019-20.**

13.1 Cabinet received the report by the Executive Director of Finance & Commercial Services providing details of the 2019-20 treasury activities and highlighted compliance with policy and strategy previously approved by Members in relation to treasury management and recommending an amendment to the Investment and Treasury Strategy 2020-21.

13.2 The Cabinet Member for Finance, in introducing the report and moving the recommendations, stated that this report tied into the Financial Monitoring Outturn Report at item 10. It provided Cabinet with an overview of the treasury activities over the previous financial year and demonstrated, which we have to do, our compliance with policy and strategy which had been previously approved by Members.

The following points were noted during the introduction of the report by the Cabinet Member:

- The Council's debt at 31 March 2020 was £706m.

- £87m was borrowed in 2019-20. This borrowing was taken to fund capital expenditure and it was £7m higher than planned as advantage was taken of the historically low long-term borrowing rates.
- The average borrowing rate for the year was about 2%, and put into context, the interest rate that was on the debt repaid during the year was over 9%.
- The average level of cash balances in 2019-20 was £162m.
- The average interest rate earned in 2019-20 was 0.89%.
- In March 2020 the Bank of England decreased the base rate from 0.75% to 0.1% which would have a significant impact on available returns in 2020-21.
- Regulations required this report to be considered by full Council and the recommendations ask Cabinet to endorse that report.
- The Annual Investment and Treasury Strategy in 2020-21 was presented to County Council on 17 February 2020 together with its approved short term lending limit of £0.5m to Hethel Innovation Ltd.
- In light of the immediate commercial pressures supported by strong underlying business, Hethel has asked for an increase in their counter-party limit to £1.25m, which required a change in strategy. Cabinet was asked to recommend this increase to County Council.

13.3 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health & Prevention supported the changing of the cap for the borrowing limit for Hethel Innovation Limited which would allow the Board to run the business in an independent and commercial manner. The Cabinet Member stated that he endorsed the comments made by the Cabinet Member for Finance and supported the recommendations.

13.4 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:

1. **Endorse and recommend** to County Council the Annual Treasury Management Outturn Report 2019-20 as set out in Annex 1;
2. **Recommend** to County Council an increase in the 2020-21 short-term borrowing facility available to Hethel Innovation Limited from £0.500m to £1.250m.

13.5 **Evidence and Reasons for Decision**

#### **Annual Treasury Management Outturn Report**

The annex attached to this report sets out details of treasury management activities and outcomes for 2019-20, including:

- Investment activities
- Borrowing strategy and outcomes
- Non-treasury investments
- Prudential indicators.

#### **Hethel Innovation Limited short-term borrowing facility**

The Annual Investment and Treasury Management Strategy 2020-21, approved at [County Council 17 February 2020](#), includes the following limits in respect of short-term treasury investments to Hethel Innovation Limited ("HIL"):

COUNTERPARTY	NCC LENDING LIMIT (£m)	OTHER BODIES LENDING LIMIT (£m)	TIME LIMIT
Hethel Innovation Limited	£0.5m	Nil	1 Year

In light of commercial pressures resulting from the impact of the Covid-19 virus, HIL has re-evaluated its working capital forecasts. These show a likely cash-flow requirement of approximately £1m, and the company has asked for their limit to be increased to £1.25m.

Despite short term cash pressures, the underlying business of HIL remains strong in the medium term, and the company is planning to support all of its customer base to an early recovery position and to support economic growth in Norfolk communities.

This short-term treasury investment is separate from the £5.1m capital loan between NCC and HIL, which HIL has used to develop the Hethel Engineering Centre and is repaying over 30 years.

The Council's Treasury Management Panel has discussed and endorsed the recommendations in this report.

### 13.6 **Alternative Options**

In order to achieve treasury management in accordance with the Council's treasury management strategy, no viable alternative options have been identified to the recommendation in the report.

## 14 **Notification of Exemptions Under Contract Standing Orders**

14.1 Cabinet received the report by the Executive Director of Finance & Commercial Services setting out the exemptions to standing orders granted for the award of contracts valued in excess of £250,000 up to 25 May 2020.

14.2 The Cabinet Member for Finance, in introducing the report and moving the recommendations, highlighted that the report was mainly to inform Cabinet about the provision of PPE and given the controversy over PPE nationally earlier in the year, he congratulated the Director of Procurement for acting so swiftly and thanked both the Director and his Team.

14.3 The Chairman fully endorsed the comments made by the Cabinet Member for Finance in congratulating everyone and which highlighted how the County Council had responded to the crisis.

14.4 The Cabinet Member for Growing the Economy endorsed the comments made, adding that sourcing the PPE had made the County Council the "place of last resort" for the care market to source PPE if they could not obtain it through their own private purchasing arrangements. He added that a disaster had been averted by ordering PPE in a timely manner and the procurement team should be commended and congratulated for the work they had undertaken in this respect when there had been a national struggle to source supplies.

- 14.5 The Chairman agreed that the initiative had given access for Council staff to receive PPE but had also supported others, which was an excellent initiative.
- 14.6 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health & Prevention said it was right that the Council had not waited for national procurement of PPE and to procure our own supplies. He added that this was another example of the “can do” attitude and working with Partners to ascertain key supplies to deal with the emergency. He also congratulated everyone involved and fully supported the decision.
- 14.7 The Cabinet Member for Innovation, Transformation & Performance stated that, regarding PPE, there were a number of good initiatives across Norfolk, with people making hand sanitiser, distilleries switching to making hand sanitiser, changing the focus of their operations in factories, etc. but the County Council did exactly the right thing and showed local government was best at stepping in and doing things when other people weren’t. He added that he fully supported the decision.
- 14.8 The Cabinet Member for Commercial Services and Asset Management endorsed the congratulations to the procurement staff at County Hall adding that he knew how difficult it could be to procure equipment when there was a worldwide shortage and the pressures faced. He added that he felt the calculated risk in taking the decision which could potentially save lives was perfectly legitimate and said he made no apology for congratulating staff when they did a great job as in this case they had.
- 14.9 As required under paragraph 10b of Contract Standing Orders, Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:
1. **note** the exemption over £250,000 that has been granted under paragraph 10.a.ii of those orders by the Director of Procurement and Director of Governance in consultation with the Leader of the Council.
  2. **note** the PPE purchases over £250,000 in respect of the COVID-19 crisis

## **15 Norfolk Armed Forces Covenant Annual Report**

- 15.1 Cabinet received the report by the Executive Director of Community & Environmental Services providing an update with the year-end progress report on Norfolk’s independent Armed Forces Covenant Board’s Strategy and Action Plan 2019-22. The report also set out the Board’s forward strategy for 2020-21 and provided an update on national policy developments.
- 15.2 The Cabinet Member for Communities & Partnerships introduced the report and moved the recommendations, during which the following points were noted:
- This report was an annual report of the Armed Forces Covenant which was set up in 2012.
  - The role of the Covenant was to ensure Norfolk’s armed forces community had fair access to local services.
  - The constant moves and deployment for personnel sometimes made it difficult for families to register for services and one of the Board’s latest achievements had been to ensure there was sufficient dental provision for families of services personnel at Marham.

- The Board's Forward Plan included four objectives:
  - Building forces communities
  - Ensuring availability of health, welfare and housing provision.
  - Encouraging local businesses to employ people leaving the forces, particularly within the renewable energy businesses.
  - Supporting the education of forces children as they moved around.
- The Government intended to incorporate the Armed Forces Covenant into Law during this Parliament to ensure consistency of provision across the country for the Armed Forces personnel and their families. When Norfolk joined it had been a voluntary initiative and not compulsory.
- The work of the Norfolk Board had already been recognised and had received the Community Award from the Royal British Legion and the Silver Award from the Ministry of Defence.
- There were over 90,000 veterans in Norfolk and a sizeable armed forces community stationed at Marham and Swanton Morley. Many of these personnel had supported local people during the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The Armed Forces Commissioner, Kevin Pellatt, the armed Forces Member Champion, Keith Kiddie and the Cabinet Member for Communities & Partnerships formally placed on record their thanks to the armed forces community for helping to look after the people of Norfolk.

- 15.3 The Cabinet Member for Growing the Economy fully endorsed the report and said he was surprised at the amount of work that had gone in to ensure the armed forces in Norfolk as well as the people that had come out of the armed forces were being looked after in the community. The Cabinet Member offered his congratulations to everyone who had worked on the Covenant.

The Cabinet Member also highlighted the work undertaken in the employment and skills workstream to develop employment opportunities for the armed forces community which he felt was an incredible achievement.

- 15.4 The Cabinet Member for Children's Services highlighted the work undertaken by Children's Services to support children and young people as part of the Covenant. Cllr Stuart Dark, as Grants and Trust Manager for Scotty's Little Soldiers, had been working on an initiative with Children's Services to identify extra support for children from service families that had suffered bereavement. It was hoped this initiative would be rolled out nationally and was likely to feature in the next annual report to Cabinet.

- 15.5 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health & Prevention thanked the Armed Forces Commissioner, Kevin Pellatt, for the work he carried out as well as the progress made by the Covenant Team. He added that the Covenant had been set up by Norfolk and that he had been proud to have been a Cabinet Member when the Armed Forces Covenant was originally set up, as Swanton Morley, the base for the Queen's Dragoon Guards, was in his Division. He continued that the focus of the Covenant was to support members of the armed forces and their families as they interacted with services offered by Norfolk County Council, as in the past interaction between social services at the County Council and families had been difficult due to their lifestyle of moving from base to base. He added that Swanton Morley village

school had a very large cohort of children whose parents were based at Swanton Morley Barracks and said he was gratified that the Government had a commitment to make this law. He added that he fully endorsed the report and the recommendations.

15.6 The Cabinet Member for Innovation, Transformation & Performance endorsed the report and supported the recommendations, adding that in the past the armed forces and their families had been taken for granted and that they deserved the recognition.

15.7 Cabinet reviewed the report and **RESOLVED** to:

1. **Note** the local and national developments set out in Section 1 of the report, particularly the Government's intention to introduce some form of duty for local authorities to consider the impact of their policies on the armed forces community.
2. **Note** on the progress made in 2019/2020 to deliver the Norfolk Armed Forces Covenant Action Plan 2019/2022, as summarised in Section 2 of the report.
3. **Endorse** the Armed Forces Covenant Board's forward strategy for 2020/2021, as set out in Section 3 of the report.

15.8 **Evidence and Reasons for Decision.**

The evidence for the proposals is set out in sections 1, 2 and 3 of the report.

15.9 **Alternative Options.**

None.

16 **Reports of the Cabinet Member and Officer Delegated Decisions already made:**

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to **note** the Delegated Decision reports made since the last Cabinet meeting.

**Decisions by the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport.**

- [Proposed waiting restrictions on Aylsham Road – Consultation results](#)
- [Eaton, Norwich – TRO](#)
- [Norwich - Caernarvon Road TRO](#)
- [Downham Market - Hillcrest - TRO](#)

**Decision by the Cabinet Member for Children's Services.**

- [COVID-19 Early Years Provision -Finance Support Package](#)

The meeting ended at 11.42 am.

**Chairman**



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**Cabinet  
8 June 2020  
Public & Local Member Questions**

**Agenda Local Member Issues/Questions  
item 7**

**Question from Cllr Alexandra Kemp.**

Putting West Norfolk Economy's First: – West Winch Bypass

Does Norfolk County Council understand how much damage it risks to the West Norfolk economy, by increasing the severe, continuous congestion on the A10, if it allows a new housing estate of 350 new houses, and 700 extra cars, to decant onto West Winch Road, before West Winch Bypass is built?

NCC's SOBC report acknowledges the current extra operating costs to business with delays. 3-5km tailbacks. Unreliable Journey Times. Longer commutes. Extra operating costs. The impact on productivity. NCC should not make this worse.

NCC's report says the A10 through West Winch, busier than the A47, is not fit for purpose.

**Response:**

Supporting the local economy and delivering much-needed housing often requires a careful consideration of competing and conflicting aspects. Norfolk County Council has prioritised the West Winch Housing Access Road (WWHAR) as essential infrastructure to support the delivery of committed growth and the overall prosperity of the area. The figure of 350 new homes is an indicative one used in the business case to lever in DfT funding for the road. The impact of any new housing before the road is built will need to be demonstrated by the developer and be acceptable to the Local Planning Authority taking account of recommendations from the County Council.

The business case highlights the impact current travel conditions are having on businesses as this is a material consideration in the argument for funding the road. Be assured we are doing all we can to press on with the work to secure planning permission and funding to hopefully open the road before much of the early phase of houses are built.

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**Question 1 from Cllr Mick Castle**

Cllr John Fisher in a reply to my questions at the April 2020 meeting of Cabinet stated that County would invest in the early development of language and communication – and early reading – to better support boys' progress.

Despite the difficulties presented to schools by the Coronavirus epidemic, will the Cabinet member now pledge his support for pilots in selected Norfolk Primary Schools in the 2020-21 and 2021-22 academic years with a view to developing effective new strategies to elicit improved engagement and achievement by Boys?

**Response:**



Engagement and achievement remains high on our agenda, particularly at this time when many pupils are not attending school. We continue to develop our approach to carry out our role in monitoring the effectiveness of local authority maintained schools and multi-academy trusts. We do not lead the system in terms of school improvement as that responsibility is statutorily delegated to Governing bodies of LA maintained schools and Trust Boards for Academies. Our monitoring and evaluation of achievement focuses on all groups of pupils, including gender. We are very keen to continue to engage with schools and trusts to identify common issues (which may locally include gender differences in engagement and achievement) and promote local support mechanisms to raise achievement.

We were in the process of establishing a Norfolk Commissioning Hub that will bring together heads in a district who will take issues from the data and identify the common causes and possible solutions. We will then work with all support providers (such as teaching schools and the English and maths hubs) and our own teams to design local solutions to issues. Unfortunately, the Covid-19 crisis did stall these plans, but we are keen to get this work back on track in the Autumn term with school leaders.

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**Question 2 from Cllr Mick Castle**

Before the Coronavirus “lockdown” the publication of Ofsted’s report on Key Stage 2 results in Norfolk Primary Schools in 2019 revealed that two in five primary school pupils were struggling to meet standards in English and Maths.

Can the Cabinet Member confirm that results also revealed a significant underperformance by Boys in relation to Girls – with a gap which widened by the end of the Primary phase?

**Response:**

In terms of outcomes in primary school, Norfolk girls are now leaving reception classes at age 5 achieving standards 2 percentage points higher than girls nationally, Norfolk boys leave reception achieving standards in line with their peers. By the end of Key Stage 2, we are all well aware that the percentage of primary school pupils in Norfolk, meeting expected standards in reading, writing and maths is lower than the national average. This is the key priority for improvement. There is no difference in attainment in mathematics between boys and girls, by the age of 11. However, we acknowledge that Norfolk boys do achieve less well than Norfolk girls in reading and writing, as they do nationally. The difference in attainment between boys and girls at Key Stage 2 is slightly narrower in Norfolk than nationally which is positive, but not good enough. Schools are challenged by the local authority, the Regional Schools Commissioner and Ofsted to further improve outcomes across Key Stage 2, for all groups of pupils.

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**Question 1. From Councillor David Harrison**

What will be the main contribution of Norfolk County Council in promoting economic development and recovery in the Broadland district in the next two months?

**Response:**

NCC is focused on supporting the re-starting of business across the County and is continually working to provide assistance to business in collaboration with the District Council, New Anglia LEP, The Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Small Business.

The priorities to date have focused on the sourcing a [local supply chain of PPE](#) and other equipment such as screens to enable businesses to equip their premises to comply with Social Distancing requirements. Workforce has also been a priority and a [website](#) has been set up to enable business to secure staff if they need them or swop staff between business where possible. This has proven a popular site. The Council is supporting the local district implement their re-starting high street schemes and looking to introduce measures to cycling and walking

Finally NCC is collaborating with the District Council Recovery Plan under the umbrella of the a New Anglia Recovery Plan and will play a full role in developing effective responses to the emerging issues as the impact of the pandemic on the economy becomes clearer.

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**Question 2 from Cllr David Harrison:**

What specific economic development activities are Norfolk County Council planning to lead in Broadland district and what will be the expected outcomes by Norfolk Day on Monday 27th July?

**Response:**

NCC will respond across its economic development function to the emerging issues in the District as a result of the economic impact of the pandemic and take appropriate action where it can in support of the priorities that come out of the Recovery plans.

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**Question 1 from Councillor John Timewell**

What will be the main contribution of Norfolk County Council in promoting economic development and recovery in the North Norfolk district in the next two months?

**Response:**

NCC is focused on supporting the re-starting of business across the County and is continually working to provide assistance to business in collaboration with the District Council, New Anglia LEP, The Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Small Business.

The priorities to date have focused on the sourcing a [local supply chain of PPE](#) and other equipment such as screens to enable businesses to equip their premises to comply with Social Distancing requirements. Workforce has also been a priority and a [website](#) has been set up to enable business to secure staff if they need them or swop staff between business where possible. This has proven a popular site. The Council is supporting the

local district implement their re-starting high street schemes and looking to introduce measures to cycling and walking

Finally NCC is collaborating with the District Council Recovery Plan under the umbrella of the a New Anglia Recovery Plan and will play a full role in developing effective responses to the emerging issues as the impact of the pandemic on the economy becomes clearer

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**Question 2 from Cllr John Timewell**

What specific economic development activities are Norfolk County Council planning to lead in North Norfolk district and what will be the expected outcomes by Norfolk Day on Monday 27th July?

**Response:**

NCC will respond across its economic development function to the emerging issues in the District as a result of the economic impact of the pandemic and take appropriate action where it can in support of the priorities that come out of the Recovery plans.

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**Question 1 from Cllr Brian Watkins**

What will be the main contribution of Norfolk County Council in promoting economic development and recovery in the Norwich City district in the next two months?

**Response:**

NCC is focused on supporting the re-starting of business across the County and is continually working to provide assistance to business in collaboration with the District Council, New Anglia LEP, The Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Small Business.

The priorities to date have focused on the sourcing a [local supply chain of PPE](#) and other equipment such as screens to enable businesses to equip their premises to comply with Social Distancing requirements. Workforce has also been a priority and a [website](#) has been set up to enable business to secure staff if they need them or swap staff between business where possible. This has proven a popular site. The Council is supporting the local district implement their re-starting high street schemes and looking to introduce measures to cycling and walking

Finally NCC is collaborating with the District Council Recovery Plan under the umbrella of the a New Anglia Recovery Plan and will play a full role in developing effective responses to the emerging issues as the impact of the pandemic on the economy becomes clearer.

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**Question 2 from Cllr Brian Watkins**

What specific economic development activities are Norfolk County Council planning to lead in Norwich City and what will be the expected outcomes by Norfolk Day on Monday 27th July?

**Response:**

NCC will respond across its economic development function to the emerging issues in the District as a result of the economic impact of the pandemic and take appropriate action where it can in support of the priorities that come out of the Recovery plans.

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**Question 1 from Councillor Tim East**

What will be the main contribution of Norfolk County Council in promoting economic development and recovery in the South Norfolk district in the next two months?

**Response:**

NCC is focused on supporting the re-starting of business across the County and is continually working to provide assistance to business in collaboration with the District Council, New Anglia LEP, The Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Small Business.

The priorities to date have focused on the sourcing a [local supply chain of PPE](#) and other equipment such as screens to enable businesses to equip their premises to comply with Social Distancing requirements. Workforce has also been a priority and a [website](#) has been set up to enable business to secure staff if they need them or swap staff between business where possible. This has proven a popular site. The Council is supporting the local district implement their re-starting high street schemes and looking to introduce measures to cycling and walking

Finally NCC is collaborating with the District Council Recovery Plan under the umbrella of the a New Anglia Recovery Plan and will play a full role in developing effective responses to the emerging issues as the impact of the pandemic on the economy becomes clearer

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**Question 2 from Cllr Tim East**

What specific economic development activities are Norfolk County Council planning to lead in South Norfolk district and what will be the expected outcomes by Norfolk Day on Monday 27th July?

**Response:**

NCC will respond across its economic development function to the emerging issues in the District as a result of the economic impact of the pandemic and take appropriate action where it can in support of the priorities that come out of the Recovery plans.

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**Question 1 from Cllr Dan Roper**

What will be the main contribution of Norfolk County Council in promoting economic development and recovery in the districts of Breckland, Kings Lynn & West Norfolk and Great Yarmouth in the next two months?

**Response:**

NCC is focused on supporting the re-starting of business across the County and is continually working to provide assistance to business in collaboration with the District Council, New Anglia LEP, The Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Small Business.

The priorities to date have focused on the sourcing a [local supply chain of PPE](#) and other equipment such as screens to enable businesses to equip their premises to comply with Social Distancing requirements. Workforce has also been a priority and a [website](#) has been set up to enable business to secure staff if they need them or swap staff between business where possible. This has proven a popular site. The Council is supporting the local district implement their re-starting high street schemes and looking to introduce measures to cycling and walking

Finally NCC is collaborating with the District Council Recovery Plan under the umbrella of the a New Anglia Recovery Plan and will play a full role in developing effective responses to the emerging issues as the impact of the pandemic on the economy becomes clearer

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**Question 2 from Cllr Dan Roper**

What specific economic development activities are Norfolk County Council planning to lead in the districts of Breckland, Kings Lynn & West Norfolk and Great Yarmouth and what will be the expected outcomes by Norfolk Day on Monday 27th July?

**Response:**

NCC will respond across its economic development function to the emerging issues in the District as a result of the economic impact of the pandemic and take appropriate action where it can in support of the priorities that come out of the Recovery plans.

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**Question 1 from Cllr Steffan Aquarone:**

Could the cabinet member provide available data on the percentage of children in years one, six and reception who have physically attended school since June 1st.

**Response:**

At the time of writing, no data has been made available by the Department of Education, an assurance has been given that data will be made available by June 9th. In agreement with the Department for Education we collect data on a weekly basis so that schools prioritise the daily return to the DFE.

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**Question 2 from Cllr Steffan Aquarone:**

Could he further highlight whether there are any significant differences in attendance between districts and what levels of attendance does he anticipate achieving by the end of the summer term?

**Response:**

At the time of writing, no data has been made available by the Department of Education, an assurance has been given that data will be made available by June 9th. In agreement with the Department for Education we collect data on a weekly basis so that schools prioritise the daily return to the DFE.

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**Question from Cllr Steve Morpew**

The confusing messages and damaging behaviour of senior government figures has led to growing cynicism and a breakdown in the community spirit that brought so many heroic achievements during the hardship of the lockdown. Despite this the Executive Leader of the council has been virtually silent. A key responsibility of the Leader is to provide leadership to the Norfolk community. Will he now exercise that responsibility and give residents in my division and across Norfolk clear messages we can unite behind, and champion standards we can respect and trust?

**Response:**

As Leader I have spoken regularly, throughout the pandemic, about the county council's leading role in supporting Norfolk to get through Covid 19 and its work with partners to support our communities and now working to restart the economy. This includes interviews with BBC Look East, BBC Radio Norfolk and the EDP and the latest, digital edition of Your Norfolk magazine. That and the report to Cabinet on 11 May showed the exceptional work done by all – a team response and a team effort. The Deputy Leader and I have a daily meeting with the Head of Paid Service and the Executive Director of Strategy and Governance.

I have and continue to have daily meetings with the Communications Team, which sits within my portfolio, to shape and approve messaging to ensure that the residents of Norfolk have up-to date, accessible information from trusted and accurate sources. I have driven the central and consistent message of Protect Ourselves Protect Norfolk, working closely with the District Councils and the Norfolk MPs.

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**Question from Cllr Brenda Jones:**

In response to my question to the last cabinet meeting the cabinet member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention avoided answering what he had done to find out the experiences and needs of adults with disabilities during the lockdown and the experiences of carers, instead referring to the work of officers. Can I give him the opportunity to answer the question I asked last month together with setting out what he has personally engaged in for the other areas of his responsibility in Adult social care, Support for carers, Protection for vulnerable adults, Supporting people, Public Health, including Drug and Alcohol Commissioning, Health and equalities strategies?

**Response:**

I am glad that you have asked this question because I believe that it is a very important part of the role of the Cabinet Member to make sure that the service's the County Council provides keep the service user in the forefront of their mind. This is done through a variety of forums and boards such as the Older People's Strategic Partnership, Carers Voice, the Learning Disability Partnership Board, the Autism Partnership Board, Making it Real

group, Direct Payment user group. On top of this, social care teams feed back experiences from individuals which shapes the direction of services. I have regular meetings with officers monitoring this feedback. Also as I have said in my previous reply to you; over the last few weeks Adult Services have been in regular contact with those individuals or their carers contacted by the initial emergency care planning work for C-19. This identified over 7000 service users and carers who required a range of assistance in developing an emergency plan regarding the loss of care or carer/s and plans to mitigate this loss. From this cohort, a significant number are being called weekly or less regularly depending on their situation. This is based on the initial risk assessment and their own requirements for contact. These calls are both to ascertain current care and support needs/circumstances, wider concerns which includes safeguarding, shopping and financial welfare. It also allows a space for a service user/carers to speak directly to a social worker and to be advised on care and respite services or receive advice. Another cohort of service users and carers are being contacted regularly both by Adult Services and Day Service providers. These service users are those who attended day care which has been suspended. A similar intervention process is in place via weekly calls or less if not required, to these service users and their carer's. This process is assisted by particular Day Care providers via telephone contact. Other interventions are occurring such as planned conversations/meetings with voluntary sector partners and service user representatives via team managers and more senior management staff. This information is being collated to provide background evidence and direction to assist in the consideration of how Adult Services will work within the new C-19 environment or 'new normal' with our service users and carers

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#### **Question from Chrissie Rumsby**

I asked this question last month which was not answered 'Emergency plans included no provisions for either food supply or distribution during a crisis. Can the Leader reassure the residents of my division that plans for food sourcing and distribution will continue until the end of this epidemic and that emergency plans for future crisis of all sorts will include providing and distributing food to those who need it?' The response was that learning would be captured but what I want to know is that Norfolk residents can be sure there will be food for them in this and future emergencies. Can I have that answer now please?

#### **Response:**

As I said previously in response to your question, public authorities, voluntary and community groups in Norfolk have worked together to put arrangements in place to support Norfolk communities, particularly those who are the most vulnerable. The County Council has also contributed £100,000 to the Community Response Fund to support local charities working hard on the ground to keep vulnerable people safe.

This support for communities will continue as part of our emergency response for as long as it is needed.

For future emergencies, we will continue to put in place emergency arrangements to ensure communities can access the support they need. If there is a need in any future emergency to source and distribute food supplies, we will of course do so. The multi-agency response to Covid-19 demonstrates that we are able to put arrangements like this in place when they are needed.

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**Question from Cllr George Nobbs**

In response to my question last month it was confirmed cabinet members have no role in the work of the NRF. I note and welcome that the government has provided a role for elected members in the oversight of the track, trace and isolate scheme. Does the Leader share my view it is time elected councillors took steps to exercise their responsibility as community leaders supported by the best professional advice so they can be accountable to Norfolk for actions taken in our name?

**Response:**

To confirm what I said in my previous response, Norfolk Resilience Forum (NRF) is a multi-agency group made up of senior officers from Norfolk local authorities, emergency services, NHS and other agencies. The NRF brings together all relevant bodies in one place to enable Norfolk's approach and response to be jointly planned, co-ordinated and any risks managed. The NRF is not a legal entity. Any decisions are for individual authorities/agencies to make. It does not replace existing decision making or accountability.

During Covid-19, all decisions have been and will continue to be made within the provision set out in the County Council's Constitution. Details of all decisions continue to be published on the County Council's website in the usual way.

I agree that elected councillors have a role in community leadership. This was the case prior to Covid-19 and has not changed. I know of many councillors who are practicing this leadership on the ground and are working hard to continue to support communities in their division..

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**Question from Cllr Emma Corlett**

The Care Homes plan required by the government is a classic example of acting after the horse has bolted. It exemplifies the vacuum in social care policy and inadequacy of funding. Without a single point of responsibility, the transaction costs and lack of a comprehensive strategy, the care homes plan is another short term distraction from underlying structural incapacity. Given we own NorseCare that is the country's leading care provider, how can the Leader justify putting the quality and reliability of the care so many rely on at risk when an expansion of NorseCare could provide the standards and direct accountability urgently needed while the long term solution is awaited?

**Response:**

Norfolk County Council will continue to work with the care market as a whole to develop and deliver the services that the people of Norfolk need now and in the future. Norse care is an important part of that market and we already work with them to identify opportunities for growth linked to joint priorities. As an example Norse are involved in a new Extra care development in Acle and I'm sure there will be other developments in the future

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**Question from Cllr Mike Smith-Clare**

The vouchers scheme for children has been a mess. What steps has the cabinet member for Children's services taken to ensure that children whose families have decided they should not return when schools open more places and all children during the summer



holiday, have enough to eat? Parents are confused and need clear and explicit information.

**Response:**

The voucher system has been led nationally and initially there were some frustrations in terms of delays as the whole country worked with the national provider. Since then it has been our experience that most vouchers have made their way to families in a timely way. Schools have worked hard at ensuring that they order in good time and have supported families in accessing them. As more supermarkets have been added to the national scheme in the last few weeks the process has been ever more smoothly for families. Schools had the option to continue with their own schemes, and about a quarter of Norfolk schools did so, and they are being reimbursed nationally at the same rate as the national scheme.

The vouchers are for children not attending school, and continue, whilst not all year groups have returned and whilst attendance remains voluntary. The DfE have so far advised that the National Voucher Scheme is not available during the school summer holiday, and the current national guidance refers only to the Easter Break and May Half Term. It is therefore the position currently that schools cannot order vouchers from the end of the school term to cover the holiday period, and this will not change unless the government guidance does so.

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**Question from Cllr Chris Jones**

I am unclear which cabinet member was answering my question last month but it was responded to, not clearly answered. Here it is again 'Will the cabinet ensure proper advice is available to those volunteer groups that continue their work once the emergency passes and will they ensure future emergency planning includes advice that can be issued to volunteers setting up groups to help their community?' The previous response was about advice during the emergency but the question is what happens afterwards.

**Response:**

To reiterate from my previous response, Officers have been working closely with Voluntary Norfolk to co-ordinate the formal volunteering effort, which extends across the whole county and includes various roles. Officers have also sought to provide the best advice possible to voluntary and community groups.

Outside emergencies, we will continue to work with Voluntary Norfolk, and other community groups. Part of Voluntary Norfolk's core purpose is to work with other organisations and promote the work of the voluntary and community sector, and therefore they are well placed to provide this type of advice.

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**Question from Cllr Julie Brociek-Coulton**

Further to my question last month which was only answered by reference to government definition of key workers which I assume is those here

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining->

[educational-provision](#) what steps does the Leader of the council intend to take and promote to ensure those recognised as critical workers continue to be valued for their work for our community and as part of the economic wellbeing of our county outside the emergency in order that they should not be forgotten and allowed to become overlooked until they are next deemed vital to us?

**Response:**

Throughout this pandemic, which is still going on, all key workers have played a crucial and incredible role across the whole of Norfolk and will, especially in the care sector, play a vital role in helping us through transition into the next stage of economic recovery.

As we move forward we will continue to support key workers throughout all of Norfolk's communities by providing the employment and training opportunities and infrastructure, whilst encouraging people who want to live and work in Norfolk to be able to. We know there is a lot of work to do, particularly with the care industry, and we will work with our partners to make that happen.

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**Question from Cllr Colleen Walker**

Last month I asked this question which was responded to but not answered 'Will the Cabinet member for Economic growth insist this changes and the care sector now gets the recognition in Norfolk that it deserves as a crucial part of the Norfolk economy?' Has he taken any steps to get the care sector accepted as a key economic driver in the LEP strategy where it is singularly and inexplicably not recognised?

**Response:**

The impact of the coronavirus on the Care Sector has been significant and I can assure Cllr Walker that the Care Sector will be a key sector focus of the emerging Economic Recovery Plan due to be produced by the end of June.

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**Question from Cllr Mike Sands**

In responding to but not answering my question last month about small shops and small businesses that have supported communities like mine and many other divisions, the cabinet member failed to respond to the invitation to join me in congratulating and thanking them. Would he care to rectify that and instead of rehearsing the general help for available for small business tell me what specific support is being planned for those businesses that have proved to be crucial to communities in Norfolk during the lockdown?

**Response:**

I would wholeheartedly support Cllr Sands in his praise of the many small and micro businesses that have been a lifeline to local communities across the County. Various of them, because of the excellent response they have made, have seen their business grow and taken on new staff which is encouraging.

NCC is working alongside its partners, which include the Federation of Small Business, to support the emerging needs not only of those business who have provided great service during the Pandemic but those who are looking to restart in the short term. This includes supporting their needs for safe operation due to Social Distancing, any workforce needs they may have and any general business advice they need. We are also working on an

Economic Recovery Plan that supports short to medium term needs and looking at what we can do in the longer term to help as many business service this crisis as possible.

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**Question from Cllr Jess Barnard.**

In his response to my question about support for charities last month the cabinet member for adult services referred me to a council web page that only refers to the Norfolk Community Foundation links for help. Given the damage the pandemic has done to the voluntary and community sector on which we have been shown to rely so heavily is the £100k contribution and referring organisations elsewhere the best we can manage to help keep them going?

**Response:**

The Council's contribution to Norfolk Community Foundation's emergency fund forms part of an impressive £1.2 million received in wider donations, which have been quickly distributed to both grassroots community organisations as well as larger strategic initiatives by some of the larger organisations.

We have engaged with the Voluntary Sector throughout this pandemic and we aim to continue to do so through the Working Together Partnership, which we remain committed to. At the beginning of the pandemic, Norfolk County Council confirmed that organisations working under existing contracts who adapted their delivery and utilised their resources to support our local resilience approach would continue to be paid as if they had continued service delivery as normal. Norfolk County Council value the efforts of all our local VCSE partners in responding to the pandemic challenge.

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**Question from Cllr Terry Jermy**

What work has been commissioned to establish how the long term impact this emergency can be used to influence modal shift away from cars and does he intend to use this opportunity to divert funds from schemes that encourage car use to those that encourage the use of public transport, cycling and walking?

**Response:**

Work is already underway to promote proposals such as cycle lanes or footway widening. Some measures have already been implemented and we will continue to implement measures over the coming weeks.

It is important to gather an understanding of how people have changed their transport habits through the Covid19 pandemic, and how this can be used as basis to develop an informed future strategy. As such a travel survey was launched in early May and promoted through social media and other outlets. This is due to conclude on 7 June. We are also gathering evidence on changes in people's travel patterns more widely and working with businesses and business representatives to understand their needs.

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**Question from Cllr Danny Douglas.**

In response to a question on returning to school last month I was told 'we are working closely with Children's Services and transport operators to ensure the necessary transport can be delivered safely when and where it is needed'. Will the cabinet member give an update and publish the results?

**Response:**

We continue to support all our school transport operators and we are currently delivering all required school transport within government guidelines for safe transport operation. As numbers of students increase, we have been assured by transport operators that they can respond within the resources that were previously contracted with them."

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**Question from Cllr David Rowntree**

Drug and Alcohol service providers across the UK have reported soaring demand for support and treatment since lockdown began, but in Norfolk frontline workers being expected to do more for less. Does the cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Protection agree that investing properly in drugs and alcohol services now will mean lower costs in the longer term, fewer people being left to live chaotic lives and less impact on other residents from ASB and drug dealing on their streets?

**Response:**

Here in Norfolk we have not seen an increase in the number of referrals received in the months of March through to May 2020 when compared to the same period last year. Even in lockdown, the service has been able to support new clients needing help and the provider has been working with us to ensure robust plans are in place to best assist those who need help as lockdown eases.

I believe that drug and alcohol treatment and support services have benefits for both individuals struggling with addiction and for our communities as a whole, which is why we continue to invest in these services.

**Cabinet  
8 June 2020  
Written Supplementary Questions and Responses**

**Supplementary question from Cllr Brenda Jones** - Once again, I pose the question, what has the Cabinet Member for Adult Services been doing during the emergency?

**Reply from Cllr Bill Borrett:**

Thank you for your supplementary question I am very pleased that you have asked this as I am sure you will appreciate it has been a very busy time in Adult Social Care and Public Health. I have been working with the Director of Adult Social Care and the Director of Public Health and their officers to agree the strategy and to co ordinate the Department's response to the emergency. I have made a number of delegated Cabinet Member decisions which are a matter of public record. We have been able to establish a new way of working together using Microsoft Teams so that we do not have to meet face to face this has enabled us to Continue with business as usual and implement the Covid-19 actions outlined in the reports of both the departments which were included in the papers of the last Cabinet meeting.

**Supplementary question from Cllr George Nobbs** - Does the Leader believe there should be Member involvement in the Norfolk Resilience Forum?

**Reply from the Leader:**

The Norfolk Resilience Forum brings together all the agencies and expertise needed in dealing with emergencies and the NRF has acquitted itself well in the current Covid 19 situation. I am satisfied it has done what it was set up to do and for the moment continues to do. Where there are local authority officers on the NRF they are in regular contact with their lead members to ensure they are well briefed and, where appropriate, able to take decisions reserved to that authority.

**Supplementary question from Cllr Mike Smith-Clare –**

Will the Cabinet member therefore confirm he has taken no steps to make sure that children in Norfolk are fed during the Summer School holidays?

**Reply from the Cabinet Member for Children's Services:**

It is not the role of Children's Services to feed children during the school summer holidays. We will, as ever, ensure that all of our teams who are working with children and families who are in need of additional support to feed themselves during the summer are signposted to local provision to support this. We will ensure that schools are made aware of local provision that can be a source of support for families within their districts.

## Questions requiring written responses from the Cabinet Meeting held on Monday 8 June 2020

	<b>Question and response:</b>																								
Agenda item 7 Local Member Supplementary Question from Cllr Danny Douglas	<p>As a supplementary question, Cllr Danny Douglas asked for reassurance that sustainable transport options under the Covid-19 highways measures to improve pedestrian access on St Benedict's and Magdalen Street, which Cllr Douglas fully supported, would improve air quality but would also guarantee access for residents.</p> <p><b>Response from the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure &amp; Transport:</b></p> <p>Thank you for your supplementary question at Cabinet earlier today.</p> <p>A range of measures are being proposed and implemented across the county to improve sustainability and safety, including enabling improved social distancing. This is not only in Norwich, but also 23 other town centres across Norfolk.</p> <p>In terms of St Benedict's and Magdalen Street, we are very aware of the local support for measures and we are keen to support this, but as you highlight, there are a number of complex issues to overcome, including the impact on the surrounding highway network, access for residents, business deliveries, buses and pedestrian safety. Officers from both the City and County Councils are currently working through these challenges and are looking to develop proposals which balance these requirements, whilst also improving the ability for the public to social distance.</p>																								
Agenda item 7 Local Member Supplementary Question from Cllr David Rowntree.	<p>As a supplementary question, Cllr David Rowntree said that the reply to his substantive question contradicted the information he had been given by service providers and asked the Cabinet Member to send him the data his reply was based on.</p> <p><b>Response from the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health &amp; Prevention:</b></p> <p>I understand that Councillor Rowntree spoke with the service some time ago, however my response to his question was based on the up-to-date data.</p> <table><tr><th>New Clients 2019</th><th>March</th><th>April</th><th>Total</th></tr><tr><td>Alcohol</td><td>66</td><td>61</td><td>127</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Opiate</td><td>21</td><td>19</td><td>40</td></tr><tr><td>Non-Opiate And Alcohol</td><td>23</td><td>12</td><td>35</td></tr><tr><td>Opiate</td><td>39</td><td>34</td><td>73</td></tr><tr><td>Month Total</td><td>149</td><td>126</td><td>275</td></tr></table>	New Clients 2019	March	April	Total	Alcohol	66	61	127	Non-Opiate	21	19	40	Non-Opiate And Alcohol	23	12	35	Opiate	39	34	73	Month Total	149	126	275
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**Question and response:**

New Clients 2020	March	April	Total
Alcohol	41	26	67
Non-Opiate	18	7	25
Non-Opiate And Alcohol	15	6	21
Opiate	65	50	115
Month Total	139	89	228

During the lockdown the provider has not discharged clients that have completed their course of treatment to ensure they have ongoing support during this unprecedented time.

The numbers of total patients registered with the provider can be seen in the tables here:

All Clients 2019	March	April	Total
Alcohol	612	619	1213
Non-Opiate	133	133	266
Non-Opiate And Alcohol	178	169	347
Opiate	1635	1616	3251
Month Total	2558	2537	5095

All Clients 2020	March	April	Total
Alcohol	594	594	1188
Non-Opiate	126	120	246
Non-Opiate And Alcohol	195	183	378
Opiate	1699	1712	3411
Month Total	2614	2609	5223