

Cabinet

Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 10 June 2019 at 10am in the Edwards Room, County Hall, Norwich

Present:

Cllr Andrew Proctor	Chairman. Leader & Cabinet Member for Strategy & Governance.
Cllr Graham Plant	Vice-Chairman. Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Growing the Economy.
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 Martin Wilby	Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport.

Local Members Present:

Cllr Danny Douglas
Cllr Alexandra Kemp
Cllr Brian Watkins

Other Members Present:

Cllr Bev Spratt

Officers/ Others Present:

Tom McCabe	Executive Director of Community & Environmental Services and Head of Paid Service.
Suzanne Baldwin	Finance Business Partner (Adult Social Services) for Executive Director Adult Social Care
Simon George	Executive Director of Finance & Commercial Services
Fiona McDiarmid	Executive Director of Strategy & Governance
Sara Tough	Executive Director of Children's Services

1 Apologies for Absence

No apologies were received.

2 Minutes

The minutes from the Cabinet meeting held on Monday 20 May 2019 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 Declaration of Interests

No declarations were made.

4 Items of Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

5 Public Question Time

No public questions were received.

6 Local Member Questions/Issues

6.1 The list of Local Member questions and their responses are attached at Appendix A to these minutes.

6.2 As a supplementary question, Cllr Brian Watkins referred to the fact that Disability Network Norfolk had made 7 requests to meet with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health & Prevention all of which had been refused. Cllr Watkins asked why the Cabinet Member was not prepared to meet with them to explain the decisions which had been made to those most affected and what message did the Cabinet Member think this sent to vulnerable and less abled residents in Norfolk. Cllr Watkins felt it was at best indifferent and at worst callous and uncaring.

The Chairman deferred the question to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention who replied that Disability Network Norfolk had met with the Leader of the Council before any decisions had been made and he felt he couldn't add anything that hadn't already been covered in their meeting with the Leader.

6.3 Cllr Alexandra Kemp asked a supplementary question, referring to the Office of the Children's Commissioner who had said there was a lack of evidence-based policy at the Treasury and that if investment was made early, savings would be made later and with 41% cuts to Surestart in the last 10 years, the spend on children's social care had gone up. Therefore as Norfolk scored highest on measures of deprivation, rurality, sparseness of population and ageing, Cllr Kemp asked that the message to Government in the Comprehensive Spending Review should be to invest in Norfolk and completely compensate Norfolk County Council for the £39m loss of the Revenue Support Grant next year.

The Chairman deferred the question to the Cabinet Member for Children's Services, who responded that Councillors continued to press the Government for additional funding all the time and the situation was well known with Members aware of what needed to be done.

6.4 As a supplementary question, Cllr Danny Douglas asked if it could be confirmed that a generalised cost model of Norwich would be built to allow for effective transport decision making; if non-profit operators would be worked

with as well as private operators and if a target of the transforming cities bid would cause modal shift to other forms of transport which would have less impact on the environment.

The Chairman deferred the question to the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport who responded that all topics would be considered for discussion at the first meeting of the Transforming Cities Joint Committee on 1 July 2019.

- 7 The Chairman advised that Nick Tupper, Assistant Director Highways & Waste, Community & Environmental Services, would be retiring from the Council soon and this would be the last Cabinet meeting he would be attending. Cabinet placed on record its thanks for the work he had carried out for Norfolk County Council and wished him well for the future.

8 **Norwich Castle: Gateway to Medieval England project – procurement of construction contract.**

- 8.1 Cabinet received the report by the Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services setting out the details of the procurement of the construction contract for Norwich Castle: Gateway to Medieval England project.

- 8.2 In introducing the report, the Executive Director of Community & Environmental Services advised that £8.7m from the National Lottery Heritage Fund had been secured to fund the project, together with funding from other organisations. He added that if Cabinet approved the recommendations, the publication of the contract notice would be during week commencing 17 June 2019.

- 8.3 The Cabinet Member for Communities & Partnerships spoke in support of the project, highlighting the National Lottery Heritage Fund funding, together with various other donations and grants to fund the works. She added that the aims of the project were to create a British Museum Gallery of the Medieval Period, create a dedicated Early Years learning facility, create a rooftop viewing platform, transform the Medieval Keep and recreate the 12th century Norman Royal Palace. The aim was to complete the first elements of the project in 2020 and be fully completed and ready for visitors in 2021, adding that in 1121 King Henry I had stayed in the Castle for Christmas and it was hoped the project would be finished by that key anniversary, which would help to attract more visitors to Norwich and help Norfolk's economy.

- 8.4 The Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport felt it was an exciting project and asked for clarification on the expected visitor numbers both during the works and once the project was completed.

In reply, the Cabinet Member for Communities & Partnership stated that as much of the Museum and Castle would remain open during the works as possible, with only the parts being worked on being closed to visitors. She added that once the work was completed, it was anticipated that approximately 300,000 visitors per year would visit Norwich Castle Museum & Art Gallery, attracting many more additional visitors to Norwich and Norfolk.

- 8.5 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention fully supported this major piece of work and with nearly £9m investment said he

looked forward to seeing what the Castle looked like 900 years ago when King Henry I stayed there.

- 8.6 The Cabinet Member for Innovation, Transformation & Performance agreed with the comments from other Cabinet Members', saying this was a great project, not just for Norwich but for the whole of the county and that he was particularly excited by the prospect of seeing a British Museum collection permanently displayed in the East of England for the first time.
- 8.7 The Cabinet Member for Communities & Partnerships advised that Norfolk County Council had an excellent working relationship and reputation with the British Museum, who had agreed to hold an exhibition in the Millennium Library in Norwich, one of only four venues in the country to host this important British Museum exhibition.
- 8.8 The Chairman, endorsed the excellent project and on behalf of Cabinet, thanked Steve Miller, Assistant Director Culture & Heritage and his team for the excellent work they had carried out in securing the funding for one of the largest heritage projects currently live in the UK.

8.9 **Decision**

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:

1. **Approve** the tender evaluation criteria to assess bids to be the construction contractor for the Norwich Castle: Gateway to Medieval England project, as set out in Appendix A of the report.
2. **Delegate** responsibility for the award of the contract for the Norwich Castle: Gateway to Medieval England Project to the Executive Director of Community & Environmental Services and the Executive Director of Finance & Commercial Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities & Partnerships and the Chair of the Joint Museums Committee.

8.10 **Alternative Options**

Refer to Cabinet report.

8.11 **Reason for Decision**

The Norwich Castle Gateway to Medieval England project is a major national project which strongly supports Norfolk County Council's wider vision for Norfolk in terms of the visitor economy, skills, learning and access. Cabinet are asked to make this decision based on the financial scale of the contract and the strategic importance of this project.

The construction contract is the largest single contract within the overall project, at an estimated value of £8.5m

9 Transforming Cities – Developing Bids for Tranche 2 Funding.

- 9.1 Cabinet received the report by the Executive Director, Community & Environmental Services setting out the details for the development of the

Strategic Outline Business Case (SOBC) to be submitted to the Department for Transport (DfT) for Tranche 2 funding from the Transforming Cities Fund by 20 June 2019. The development of the SOBC would be submitted to Cabinet in November prior to its formal submission to the DfT.

- 9.2 The Executive Director of Community & Environmental Services introduced the report highlighting the successful Tranche 1 bid and the plans to secure Tranche 2 funding which could be upwards of £100m. He added that the Department for Transport had given some positive feedback and that the project would help to move transport in Norwich into the 21st century and maintain accessibility in the future, delivering an integrated transport network.
- 9.3 The Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport said that the Transforming Cities Joint Committee included representatives from Norwich, Broadland and South Norfolk Councils in the Greater Norwich area to develop bids from the Transforming Cities Fund. He added that Norwich was one of 12 cities in the UK eligible to bid for a share of the £1.2bn Transforming Cities Fund, the allocation of which had been detailed in the report considered by Cabinet on 20 May 2019.
- 9.4 The Cabinet Member for Finance congratulated the team on the successful bid in Tranche 1 of £6.1m and added that, as cycling Member Champion he had already seen the benefits both in Norwich and the county, particularly with the Wymondham and Hethersett walking and cycling link. The Cabinet Member took the opportunity to highlight the Great British Cycling Festival which would be coming to Norwich from 27-30 June which would showcase cycling in the county and would include a closed-road event in Norwich.
- 9.5 The Cabinet Member for Growing the Economy was pleased to see one of the proposed outcomes was about bus operators investing in cleaner vehicles and technology to reduce emissions and urged the Joint Committee to consider how to encourage the use of electric buses in the scheme to try to totally remove the use of high carbon emission vehicles.

The Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport agreed with the suggestion and would feed it into the emerging business case.

- 9.6 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health & Prevention highlighted that one of the key deliverables of the project should be about delivering prosperity and jobs for growth.

In reply, the Executive Director of Community & Environmental Services agreed that one aim was to join together areas of employment and housing with the transport, enabling people to access employment and ensuring there was public transport available to get people to work and home again in the early mornings and evenings. This would help to grow the economy of Norwich and Norfolk.

- 9.7 The Cabinet Member for Children's Services felt that the statement about the need for efficient transport and carbon-free transport should be strengthened in the bid as this may help to attract more funding for public transport. The Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport agreed to follow up the suggestion.

9.8 The Chairman stated that the quoted figure of seeking more than £100m of funding was an excellent suggestion and highlighted the strong history of the Greater Norwich area working together to deliver growth as part of their joint core strategy.

9.9 **Decision**

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to

- **Approve** the strategic objectives set out in Appendix A of the report to form the basis of the Strategic Outline Business Case for Tranche 2 funding from the Transforming Cities Fund.

9.10 **Alternative Options**

Refer to Cabinet Report.

9.11 **Reason for Decision**

Securing additional funding is a real opportunity to strengthen the position of Norwich as our regional capital and to enable people to get to their destinations with reduced congestion and more reliable journeys.

10 Local Carbon Innovation Fund 2 (LCIF2)

10.1 Cabinet received the report by the Executive Director, Community & Environmental Services seeking its approval to implement the Low Carbon Innovation Fund (LCIF), as envisaged under the terms of the Grant Funding Agreement (GFA), including the setting up of the Management Company.

10.2 In introducing the report the Executive Director of Community & Environmental Services highlighted that the Fund was an excellent opportunity for Norfolk and that Norfolk County Council had been approached by the Government to enter into an agreement to run the fund which would see over £10.9m of European Regional Development Funding (ERDF) coming to the area.

10.3 The Cabinet Member for Growing the Economy highlighted that the Fund would invest £10.9m in equity and convertible loans to support around 48 growing technology companies across the three LEP areas of New Anglia, Hertfordshire and the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority and highlighted that the LCIF included opportunities to benefit from the fund.

10.4 Following a request by Norfolk County Council that the UEA and the 3 LEPs/Combined Authority underwrite the risk of claw-back of the first year operational costs of £61,446, the Assistant Director for Growth and Development confirmed that both New Anglia LEP and Cambridge & Peterborough Combined Authority had now agreed to underwrite 1/3 each. Hertfordshire LEP had already agreed to underwrite 1/3 of the balance and the UEA had also confirmed they would underwrite 50% of the amount.

10.5 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention considered this was an exciting project, with £10.9m available to support

companies in the three LEP areas. He felt that Norfolk County Council and the UEA, both of which were based in Norwich, were best placed to run the Management Company and have a regional role in the project. The Cabinet Member asked when companies would be able to apply for a share of the fund, if Cabinet approved the recommendations.

In response, the Assistant Director Growth and Development advised that the intention was to finalise the grant, enter into contract period with MCHLG and then advertise the funding opportunities as soon as possible after that, hopefully by the autumn.

- 10.6 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention was pleased that the profits would be reinvested into other businesses that had a low carbon agenda and thought this was an excellent project.
- 10.7 The Cabinet Member for Innovation, Transformation & Performance also felt this was an excellent opportunity and was pleased that Norfolk County Council was involved and also to hear how quickly the company could be up and running once the contract had been signed.
- 10.8 The Chairman expressed his pleasure at the significant amounts of money coming into Norfolk as a result of the Low Carbon Innovation Fund and the successful bid for the Norwich Castle Project.

10.9 **Decision**

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:

1. **Approve** the implementation of the Fund, as envisaged under the terms of the Grant Funding Agreement (GFA), including the setting up of the Management Company.
2. **Agree** the Cabinet Member for Growing the Economy and the Assistant Director, Growth & Development to be Directors of the Low Carbon Innovation Fund 2 Management Company (LCIFMC)
3. **Agree** the Cabinet Member for Growing the Economy would Chair the Board.

10.10 **Alternative Options**

Refer to Cabinet Report.

10.11 **Reason for Decision**

LCIF2 unlocks over £30m of innovative funding for early stage businesses operating in the field of low carbon development in the NALEP and Hertfordshire LEP and Cambridge & Peterborough Combined Authority areas. The benefits to Norfolk of NCC entering into the LCIF2 include the opportunity for Norfolk businesses to benefit from the fund; the opportunity to impact on climate change in Norfolk; and the opportunity for NCC to influence long term investment in economic development as returns are re-invested.

NCC has been asked to participate in the project as there is considered not to be any other suitable body with the expertise to undertake the essential

Entrusted Entity (EE) role. NCC will staff the project with a 0.5fte Programme Manager funded 50% by ERDF and 50% by UEA from returns from LCIF1. There will be no staffing cost for NCC.

11 Annual Treasury Management Outturn Report 2018-19.

11.1 Cabinet received the report by the Executive Director of Finance & Commercial Services providing details of the 2018-19 treasury activities and highlighting compliance with policy and strategy previously approved by Members in relation to treasury management.

11.2 The Cabinet Member for Finance introduced the report highlighting the activities carried out in accordance with Treasury Management best practice as set out in Appendix A of the report.

11.3 Decision

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:

- **Endorse and recommend to County Council** the Annual Treasury Management Outturn Report 2018-19.

11.4 Alternative Options

Refer to Cabinet Report.

11.5 Reason for Decision

One annex is attached to the report, giving details of treasury management activities and outcomes, including:

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

12 Adult Alcohol and Drug Service Performance

12.1 Cabinet received the report by the Director of Public Health setting out proposals to continue a contract management approach which was focused on continuous improvement, identifying opportunities to help Change, Grow Live (CGL) meet the specified outcomes, implement the service across Norfolk and innovation opportunities.

12.2 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention advised that the report was being brought before Cabinet, following a request from the Communities Committee for an annual review following the letting of the contract for the new service in April 2018, looking at the performance of the new provider over the previous 12 months. He added that the previous provider of the service had not run the service to a satisfactory standard and the service had been recommissioned in April 2018.

12.3 Decision

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to

- **Agree** that Public Health should continue to monitor and manage the service contract focused on continuous improvement, including better treatment experiences for clients, supporting more clients to recover and successfully complete alcohol and drug treatment.

12.4 **Alternative Options**

Refer to Cabinet Report

12.5 **Reason for Decision**

Refer to paragraphs 4.1 to 4.13 of the Cabinet Report.

13 **Anti-Money Laundering Policy**

13.1 Cabinet received the report by the Chief Legal Officer and Executive Director of Finance & Commercial Services introducing the Council's refreshed Anti-Money Laundering Policy, to meet the current 2017 Regulations. The previous 2007 Money Laundering Regulation and associated policy had been superseded by this new Regulation.

13.2 The Chairman highlighted that money laundering was a crime and Regulations required that an Anti-Money Laundering Policy was put in place as part of ensuring good corporate governance. The Chief Legal Officer had been appointed as the Money Laundering Reporting Officer (MLRO), as set out in the County Council's Financial Regulations within the Constitution.

13.3 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health & Prevention agreed that the report, if agreed by Cabinet, would send a clear message, not only to staff but also suppliers and other organisations the Council conducted business with.

13.4 **Decision**

Cabinet considered the Anti-Money Laundering Policy and **RESOLVED** to:

- **Agree** that it met the relevant 2017 Regulation and best practice.
- **Agree** that the Policy sets out the requirements, responsibilities, training, consideration, and if appropriate reporting of any suspicions by the nominated officer.
- **Agree** to adopt and promote the Policy.

13.5 **Alternative Options**

Refer to Cabinet Report.

13.6 **Reason for Decision**

The 2017 Money Laundering Regulations sets out the expectations of the Council.

14 Consultation on draft Environment Agency National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management strategy.

- 14.1 Cabinet received the report by the Executive Director of Community & Environmental Services setting out the draft strategy consultation by the Environment Agency.
- 14.2 Cabinet was asked to consider Norfolk County Council's response to the consultation of the national flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy and to delegate the submission of the final response to the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport.
- 14.3 In introducing the report, the Executive Director of Community & Environmental Services highlighted the following:

Evidence and Reasons for Decision:

The consultation on the draft Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England started on 10 May 2019 and runs to 4 July 2019. Delegating the submission of the final response to the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport, allows for sufficient time for the relevant NCC service areas to coordinate their responses after discussion with Members.

Alternative Options

Cabinet Members can decide its final response to the consultation on the draft Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England in the 10 June 2019 meeting.

- 14.4 The Chairman highlighted the importance of Norfolk County Council providing a response to the consultation.
- 14.5 The Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport advised that Norfolk was currently ranked the 10th area most likely to flood in the UK, as well as being one of the driest counties in the UK. He highlighted that the risk of flooding was of great concern, both coastal and inland, as well as the need to protect residents and businesses both now and in the long-term future.
- 14.6 The Cabinet Member for Growing the Economy highlighted that the majority of the draft responses included a sentence "subject to getting funding from central Government" and asked the lead local flood authority to find additional finances. He felt the Environment Agency was pushing its responsibility onto Norfolk County Council without providing any funding to carry out the works.

The Cabinet Member added that approximately 200 years ago, the Dutch had dug dykes and installed pumps to alleviate flooding in East Anglia, which in recent years should have been maintained by the Environment Agency (EA). He asked if checks could be undertaken to find out if the EA had any responsibility to maintain those flood alleviation measures as he could not see any details included in the consultation. The Cabinet Member felt that more pressure should be put onto the Government or the EA to fund the protection of the Norfolk Coast as the report had identified the issues, but had not made any

provision for the financial pressures faced, one example being managed retreat.

The Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport agreed and said he shared the concerns raised, stating that the Environment Agency had attended a meeting of the Environment, Transport and Development Committee and had heard Members' concerns, although nothing had changed and the issues remained of great concern, together with the financial pressures.

The Cabinet Member for Growing the Economy also added that the EA did fund flood and coastal mitigation schemes in Norfolk although he was not sure how they had maintained existing assets.

14.7 The Cabinet Member for Finance also agreed that funding was a major issue and highlighted that the report did not appear to include any information about existing assets and how these were protected. He felt there was an inference that Norfolk County Council would fund the objectives. The Cabinet Member for Finance also felt that there was insufficient detail about managed retreat proposals and how this would be managed and funded if required.

14.8 The Cabinet Member for Innovation, Transformation & Performance mentioned that there had been managed retreat schemes at Happisburgh, but now there was an innovative scheme at Bacton using sand pumped from the sea to protect the gas terminal and local communities. Lessons should be learned from this scheme to see if national funding could be used to protect other communities in the county in this manner instead of managed retreat.

14.9 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health & Prevention said that Norfolk County Council had been appointed as the lead local flood authority by the Government following an inadequate response to flooding by the EA several years ago and felt that the document was an attempt by the EA to get out of its future responsibilities and that he was unhappy with the tone of the EA future proposals.

The Cabinet Member highlighted his view that the EA were no longer properly maintaining rivers, which was one of their statutory responsibilities, which could then lead to the Internal Drainage Boards being unable to drain into rivers, leaving people and property at risk of flooding as a result of the EA current policy of not maintaining rivers.

14.10 The Cabinet Member for Communities and Partnerships agreed that inland flooding was causing concern, particularly surface water from new housing developments and requested regular maintenance of inland rivers to ensure water could flow adequately.

14.11 The Cabinet Member for Growing the Economy highlighted that Strategic Objective 2.4 included no mention of local communities, or people. The responses should reflect the people affected and asked if the response could include information to stop flooding happening in the future.

The Executive Director of Community & Environmental Services explained that where houses had been flooded in the past, in some instances the threat of

flooding could be moved but in other instances, Norfolk County Council had provided grants to householders that had suffered flooding to help them make their houses as resilient as possible by installing flood doors and raising electrics. Although this was not an ideal solution, it was described as living with reality and building resilience.

- 14.12 Cabinet made the following additions/comments on the draft consultation response and asked for them to be incorporated into the final response, delegated to the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport.

- 14.12.1 Under Strategic Objective 1.2, add additional sentence after measure 1.2.5.

Request details of the lessons learned from the projects carried out at Happisburgh and Bacton to protect Bacton gas terminal and local communities by dredging material from the North Sea to reinstate beach defences and seek national funding to protect other communities from the risk of flooding.

- 14.12.2 Under Strategic Objective 2.2 – add a strong objection and additional sentence to ensure that the Environment Agency maintained existing defences and had plans in place to add new defences to its maintenance plans when necessary.

- 14.12.3 Under Strategic Objective 1.1. Add additional sentence.
“Norfolk is extremely vulnerable to flooding and Norfolk County Council wants to protect the county, ensuring financial support is made available”.

- 14.12.4 Strategic Objective 1.5. Include additional sentence.

“Joint activities of the RMA’s should be considered, particularly in the context of how funding issues will be resolved in the future and the serious concerns that this had been pushed back to local flood agencies”.

- 14.12.5 Strategic Objective 2.6 –Add the following wording to the NCC response.

..... core local sources, given local government is already under significant financial pressures.

- 14.12.6 Add a paragraph about how the EA’s existing assets were protected and include more details about Managed Retreat.

14.13 **Decision**

Cabinet considered Norfolk County Council’s response to the consultation of the national flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy and **RESOLVED** to

- **Amend** the draft response to reflect the comments made by Cabinet Members.
- **Delegate** the final submission of the final response to the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport.

14.14 **Alternative Options**

Cabinet Members can decide its final response to the consultation on the draft Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England in the 10th of June 2019 meeting

14.15 **Reason for Decision**

The consultation on the draft Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy for England started on the 10th of May 2019 and runs to the 4th of July 2019. Delegating the submission of the final response to the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport, allows for sufficient time for the relevant NCC service areas to co-ordinate their responses after discussion with Members.

15 **Disposal, Acquisition and Exploitation of Property.**

15.1 Cabinet received the report by the Executive Director of Finance & Commercial Services setting out proposals which were aimed at supporting Norfolk County Council priorities by exploiting properties surplus to operational requirements, pro-actively releasing property assets with latent value where the operational needs can be met from elsewhere and strategically acquiring property to drive economic growth and wellbeing in the county.

15.2 In introducing the report, the Executive Director of Finance & Commercial Services highlighted that the proposal was a very positive outcome from the One Public Estate initiative.

15.3 The Cabinet Member for Commercial Services and Asset Management said that one of the Key Strategic Actions of the Executive was to maintain income from adopting a one public estate and reducing Norfolk County Council's property expenditure over the next five years. The proposal before Cabinet related to renting part of Holt and Reepham Fire Stations to the Police providing a small income to Norfolk County Council and posed no service risk to the operation of the Norfolk Fire & Rescue Service. The Cabinet Member advised that this was a good example of the Police and Fire Service working together and had enabled the Police & Crime Commissioner to dispose of some of its properties to raise income.

15.4 The Cabinet Member for Communities & Partnerships said she was aware the Police & Crime Commissioner for Norfolk had been selling off assets to reduce costs and that Norfolk County Council was content to collaborate with the Police which would also bring in additional income from the rent. She added that facilities were already shared at King's Lynn and Sheringham, as well as other sites being shared with the Ambulance Service.

15.5 The Chairman agreed that collaboration was an excellent idea and welcomed the initiative.

15.6 **Decision**

Cabinet **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** to the:

- i. Leasing of parts of the Holt Fire Station site and building for 125 years at a rent of £2,500 per annum on the terms agreed.

- ii. Leasing of parts of the Reepham Fire Station site and building for 125 years at a rent of £1,500 per annum on the terms agreed.

15.7 **Alternative Options**

Refer to Cabinet report.

15.8 **Reason for Decision**

These proposals support the ongoing “blue light” services collaboration in Norfolk.

16 **Delegated Decisions Reports.**

- 16.1 Cabinet **noted** the decision made by the Cabinet Member for Commercial Services and Asset Management regarding the Fakenham Library lease to Fakenham Town Council. The Cabinet Member confirmed the land which had been leased had no commercial value.
- 16.2 The Cabinet Member for Innovation, Transformation & Performance, as the Local Member, thanked the Cabinet Member for leasing the land which highlighted the excellent collaboration between authorities.

The meeting ended at 11am

Chairman



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**Cabinet
10 June 2019**

**Agenda Local Member Issues/Questions
item 6**

Question from Cllr Brian Watkins

What do you think the effect will be on the quality of life of those people who receive the minimum income guarantee when the level of income they receive is cut to the bare minimum?

Response from the Chairman

The minimum income guarantee is an amount which the Government has advised is needed to fund people's weekly living costs; it is not expected to cover housing costs, or proven disability-related costs. If people work, or claim some benefits, their income will be higher than the minimum income guarantee amount.

Any changes to the amount individuals have to pay towards their care will be different, depending on their circumstances, and the impact on their quality of life will vary. As part of the consultation, we gathered feedback from people about how they felt they would be affected. As a result of this we have phased the introduction, so they have additional time to adjust, and we have set up a new Money Support Service, responding to the feedback people gave about wanting more help and support in budgeting and managing money.

A second new support service to help people find work will be starting in new advice services. These services responded to the feedback we got that people wanted more advice about managing money, and about getting into work (for those who wanted to, and were able to work.)

We have ensured that everyone who is facing changes will have the chance of a one-to-one conversation with specialists from our finance teams so they can talk through the changes, and discuss the impact. Social care teams will be able to follow up any issues or concerns about people's care and support.

Question from Cllr Alexandra Kemp

Early Intervention and Closing the Health Inequality Gap

Nuffield Foundation research, published on 4 June, showed that Surestart Children's Centres, with their core set of services provided on an open access basis, brought about a statistically significant decrease in the hospitalisation of children from poor families; a net decrease in costs to the NHS; and an indirect reduction in Child Poverty.

Other research found Surestart improved the home learning environment, decreasing anti-social behaviour and ADHD at age 3.

What will be the core offer of services open to every family, including in South Lynn, following Norfolk's transition to the new Early Childhood and Family Service?

Response from the Chairman

We welcome this report, as it echoes previous research highlighting the benefits of early, targeted help for those families that need it the most. That's why a key aim of our new service is to provide more of this targeted support and take support out to communities and into families homes, so that we can make the biggest difference for those that will really benefit from our support.

We've recently commissioned the national charity Action for Children to provide the service and we are working together on the detailed offer for each community.

Their work will include: one-to-one support in families' homes, or in safe and accessible community venues; group support, such as parenting programmes; supporting other professionals, such as health visitors and social workers, as part of a team around the family; providing information, advice and guidance when families ask for help; attending local groups, such as health clinics and library sessions, to help identify and address families' needs and delivering regular drop-in sessions.

We are also improving the digital offer to families, so that they can quickly find information about activities and events in their community, in addition to the health advice and support available on the Just One Norfolk website.

Question from Cllr Sandra Squire

With so many Councils across the County all looking to save money and fill large budget gaps, is it not a good time to start investigating properly the cost saving possibilities of Norfolk being run by one or more unitary councils instead.

Response from the Chairman.

With so many Councils across the County all looking to save money and fill large budget gaps, is it not a good time to start investigating properly the cost saving possibilities of Norfolk being run by one or more unitary councils instead.

In 2010 the Norfolk Unitary proposal was stopped by the Secretary of State. During this process little or no consensus was found between the Local Authorities in Norfolk. I personally have nothing against Unitary structures, however I feel that the vast majority of the financial benefits realised by moving to this model can be achieved by working better together. For example as a single waste authority, one public estate and sharing back office functions. All of these can be achieved in the spirit of cooperation without legislation and retaining local democratic accountability. We will also avoid the large set up costs and disruption that would follow a move to single tier.

The other factor to consider is that Devolution has also come to the fore since the last Unitary bid. Although we didn't quite reach an agreed way forward in the last round I would prefer that this was pursued afresh as opposed to opening up the Unitary debate.

Question from Cllr D Douglas about transforming cities bid

I welcome the initiative of the County Council and the City Council to increase accessibility by bus, walking and cycling through the progress and achievement of the Transforming Cities Bid.

Can you assure us that you will review accessibility within the city as part of the Bid and look at specific measures to bring back a turn up and go services to Heigham Street and to the Rouen Road area through capital expenditure? These measures should provide attractive opportunities for bus operators to provide commercial direct services to Anglia Square and the City Centre to replace the infrequent council supported services of 30 and 32.

Response by the Chairman:

The Transforming Cities programme is a great example of collaboration between the County Council, Norwich City, Broadland and South Norfolk Councils. I can confirm that transport operators are working closely with us on developing our Transforming Cities application, and discussions are ongoing as to how capital investment through the Transforming Cities Fund can support the delivery of public transport services by operators.

Members have already approved a number of guiding principles and delivery themes that will support the delivery of our Transforming Cities programme. Of particular relevance to accessibility within the city and provision of new bus services are the following:

- 'Access for all', reflecting a transport system that gets people where they need to go
- 'Collaborating to provide cost-effective and efficient transport', reflecting the building of strong partnerships with transport service providers and developing opportunities for private sector investment.

As Councillor Douglas appreciates, the final work programme will emerge from detailed analysis of which proposals will deliver the best outcomes.