

Norfolk County Council

Minutes of the Meeting Held at 10am on Monday 15 April 2019

Present:

Mr A Adams	Mr K Kiddie
Mr T Adams	Mr M Kiddle-Morris
Mr S Aquarone	Mr B Long
Mr S Askew	Mr I Mackie
Ms J Barnard	Mr G Middleton
Mr D Bills	Mr S Morphew
Mr B Borrett	Mr G Nobbs
Mr R Brame	Mrs J Oliver
Mrs J Brociek-Coulton	Mr R Oliver
Mrs S Butikofer	Mr G Peck
Mrs P Carpenter	Mr G Plant
Mr M Castle	Mr R Price
Mr S Clancy	Mr A Proctor
Ms K Clipsham	Mr W Richmond
Mr E Colman	Mr D Roper
Mr E Connolly	Mr D Rowntree
Ms E Corlett	Mr M Sands
Mr S Dark	Mr E Seward
Mrs M Dewsbury	Mr C Smith
Mr N Dixon	Mr T Smith
Mr D Douglas	Mr B Spratt
Mr P Duigan	Ms S Squire
Mr F Eagle	Mr B Stone
Mr J Fisher	Mrs M Stone (Chairman)
Mr T FitzPatrick	Mr M Storey
Mr C Foulger	Dr M Strong
Mr A Grant	Mr H Thirtle
Mrs S Gurney	Mrs A Thomas
Mr R Hanton	Mr V Thomson
Mr D Harrison	Mrs K Vincent
M Chenery of Horsbrugh	Mrs C Walker
Mr H Humphrey	Mr J Ward
Mr B Iles	Mr B Watkins
Mr A Jamieson	Mr A White
Mr T Jermy	Mr F Whymark
Mrs B Jones	Mr M Wilby
Dr C Jones	Mrs S Young
Ms A Kemp	

Present: 75

Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Ms C Bowes; Mr D Collis; Mr T East; Mr J Mooney and Mr M Smith-Clare.

1 Minutes

- 1.1 The minutes of the Council meeting held on Monday 11 February 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2 Chairman's Announcements

- 2.1 The Chairman formally welcomed Mr Fran Whymark to his first Council meeting since being elected as County Councillor for Wroxham Division in the recent by-election.
- 2.2 Following the Chairman's formal announcement about the sad passing of former County Councillor Alec Byrne, Council paid tribute to the work he had carried out and expressed its deepest sympathy to his friends and family. Council stood in a minute's silence as a mark of respect. Mr Byrne had served as Cabinet Member for Education and chaired several important committees including the Norfolk Police and Crime Panel and several Overview and Scrutiny Panels.
- 2.3 The Chairman outlined a few of the many visits she had undertaken since the last meeting, including:
- attending the Tornado Disbandment Parade at RAF Marham and watching the iconic Tornado flypast.
 - Speaking at the Norwich Business Women's Network and also attending the International Women's Day event at The Nest.
 - Attending the ceremonial opening of the King's Lynn Mart.
 - Attending the Justice Service in King's Lynn on 3 March and spending the day in Crown Court with Judge Holt sitting on the bench.
 - Attending the Flight for Youth Launch event organised by The Benjamin Foundation to celebrate their 25th year anniversary.
 - Attending the Opening of the Norfolk Skills and Careers Festival at the Norfolk Showground.
 - Visiting the St Edmunds Society who provided employability skills for young people.
 - Attending the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service Presentation of Awards and the OSCAs to recognise the achievement of staff throughout the year.
 - Attending the British Empire Medal Presentation which had six very worthy recipients.

3 Declarations of Interest

- 3.1 M Chenery of Horsburgh declared an interest in agenda item 8 – Reports of Committees (Museums Committee) as he was a Trustee of the charity NORA (Norfolk Archives and Heritage Development Foundation).
- 3.2 Mr A Jamieson declared an interest as he represented Norfolk County Council as a non-executive Director of the Norse Group.

- 3.3 Mr C Smith declared an interest as he was a non-executive Director of a joint venture company with Norse Group.
- 3.4 Mr T FitzPatrick declared an interest as he was a Director of Norse NEWS.
- 3.5 The following Members declared an interest in agenda item 9 (Notice of Motions – Motion 3):

Ms K Clipsham
Mrs S Gurney
Mrs B Jones
Dr C Jones
Mrs C Walker

4 To receive any items of business which the Chairman decides should be considered as a matter of urgency.

- 4.1 There were no items of urgent business.

5 Questions to Leader of the Council

5.1 Question from Mr S Morpew

- 5.1.1 Mr Morpew said that the Labour Group had considered offering some of its talented women Councillors to address the appalling gender balance in the proposed new Cabinet announced by the Leader, although none were willing or had been asked. He asked the Leader if he had received the same response from his own talented women Group Members, or if he had snubbed them.
- 5.1.2 The Leader replied that it needed to be borne in mind that Cabinet was only one element of how the overall Administration would work and the team he had chosen was the one he wanted to take the Council forward. He added that a better way of judging what was done was by looking at achievements rather than anything else.
- 5.2 Question from D Roper**
- 5.2.1 Mr Roper asked, in advance of the next report of the Independent Remuneration Panel, if the Leader agreed with him that any increase in the size of the Executive should not be borne by the tax payer and if he further agreed that it would be totally unacceptable to the people of Norfolk if the overall budget for Members Allowances was increased.
- 5.2.2 The Leader replied that the key word in the question was the word “independent” and that the Independent Remuneration Panel would need to come up with their views on what relevant allowances they thought were appropriate for the Executive which would then be considered.
- 5.3 Question from Mr B Spratt**
- 5.3.1 Mr Spratt said that the media had recently reported both positively and negatively on the impact of DIY waste charges and fly-tipping. Mr Spratt asked the Leader if he would set the record straight about what the exact impact of fly-tipping had been since the policy had been introduced.
- 5.3.2 The Leader responded that the key point was that there had not been the

significant increase in incidents of fly-tipping that many people feared. He added that the first three months data had shown a 3.5% increase in fly-tipping in Norfolk compared to the previous year, but a 9.9% reduction in incidents compared with the previous year. He continued that Norfolk followed national trends in fly-tipping crime, although as a county Norfolk continued to see a rise below that experienced nationally. He also added that more than 80% of fly-tipped waste were items that could have been taken to a recycling centre which meant education was required to ensure people understood that waste could be taken to recycling centres without charge. The Leader continued that the other aspect of DIY waste was that no increase had been seen in fly-tipping DIY waste following the introduction of the recycling centre charges, so hopefully everyone was getting used to the new way of working and the service could continue on that basis.

5.4 Question from Ms S Squire

5.4.1 Ms Squire said she had been informed by Cllr Brenda Jones that, at a recent Policy & Resources Committee meeting, it had been stated by a Councillor that women had other things to do than to stand for election. She continued by saying, as the only female Group Leader in the Council, she would like to ask the Leader of the Council what he considered those other things were, as she was worried she was missing something. Ms Squire asked the Leader what he felt should be done to address the lack of equality and diversity of Council candidates and therefore Councillors.

5.4.2 The Leader replied that the first aspect of a candidate being selected for election was through their Associations who selected the people they wanted as candidates. He added that in terms of gender balance, it was up to the voting public to select who they wanted to represent them. With regard to the other part of the question about “the other things women were doing”, the Leader said he was not really sure, adding that his wife did a lot of things, although it didn’t mean she did not have time for anything else.

5.5 Question from Ms A Kemp

5.5.1 Ms Kemp asked if the Leader could confirm that in the future, neither Cabinet nor Committees would invest council money, or any other sort of money, in incineration.

5.5.2 The Leader replied that he presumed Cllr Kemp was referring to the Pension Committee saying that how the Pension Committee chose to conduct their business was entirely up to them. He added that Ms Kemp was also aware of the County Council policy, bearing in mind the answer she had received to her question at the Policy & Resources Committee meeting on 25 March 2019.

5.6 Question from Mr T Jermy

5.6.1 Mr Jermy asked if the Leader could confirm, where he had referred to incidents of fly-tipping, if the incidents included those on private land, particularly land owned by farmers, the Forestry Commission and others and also whether or not those incidents were recorded in the answer given in paragraph 5.3.2. above.

5.6.2 The Leader replied “No”.

5.7 Question from Mr S Aquarone

5.7.1 Mr Aquarone asked if the Leader agreed that a Climate Change Emergency was

currently being faced and if not, why not.

5.7.2 The Leader replied "No".

5.8 Question from Mr E Colman

5.8.1 Mr Colman asked if the Leader would comment on the successful bid to the new Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership for £440,000 to roll out the LOWRAN network across Norfolk and Suffolk

5.8.2 The Leader responded that one important thing to mention was that Norfolk had done very well in its bids to improve digital connectivity in the county and congratulations must be given to Geoff Connell, Head of IMT and his team in achieving bid funding. The Leader added that the bid was exciting news for Norfolk and Suffolk and would mean that, within two years, both counties should benefit from a long range wide area network (LOWRAN) enabling individuals, public and private organisations and educational establishments to explore, trial and implement technology. He added that there were also other benefits, allowing rural businesses to design and develop new products; local communities benefitting from low energy technology and schools being supported to encourage and nurture entrepreneurial skills amongst their students. The bid would be an excellent way of taking technology forward in Norfolk.

5.9 Question from Ms E Corlett

5.9.1 Ms Corlett referred to the penultimate Policy & Resources committee meeting where the Leader had committed to update the Committee on Brexit preparations at the final Policy & Resources Committee meeting. She added that the meeting had not been given an update and asked if the Leader would now update Council on Brexit preparations in light of the ongoing uncertainty.

5.9.2 The Leader replied that there were two aspects - the national uncertainty and the second element about whether the County Council was prepared, or as prepared as it could be, working with its partners in Norfolk or further afield, to ensure that any implications of Brexit were properly thought through and worked out.

5.10 Question from Mr E Seward

5.10.1 Mr Seward asked, given Council's concerns about the projected reductions in central government financial support and the fact that the Norfolk MPs meetings with Ministers to discuss these concerns was recently cancelled, what the Leader of the Council was doing to impress on our MPs and Ministers the need for this meeting to take place urgently and not be constantly delayed.

5.10.2 The Leader replied that regular contact was made with Norfolk MPs to ensure that the case for additional funding for Norfolk was heard in the context of the overall national situation. He added that he had attended a meeting with Rishi Sunak MP, the Minister for Local Government in December, who was hearing Norfolk's case and that he was trying to arrange a further meeting with him in the next three-four weeks. The second aspect that the Administration was pushing hard on was the inadequate schools funding, particularly the high needs block which was a well-known issue, both in Norfolk and nationally and work was being undertaken to try to secure additional funding in that area.

5.11 Question from Mr I Mackie

5.11.1 Mr Mackie said that climate emergencies should concern all aspects of human

impact on wildlife and asked if the Leader would join him in condemning the action taken in north Norfolk in hindering migrating birds returning to their nesting sites in Norfolk.

- 5.11.2 The Leader replied that the matter could certainly have been handled better if people listened to the right advice from the right people.
- 5.11.3 Mrs Butikofer raised a point of order/information and advised Council that the Leader's own party had signed up to the netting of the cliffs referred to and that she had received a letter, signed by the RSPB welcoming the approach of North Norfolk District Council for the protection of the birds.

6 Recommendations from Service Committees

6.1 Policy & Resources – Recommendations from the meetings held on 28 January & 25 March 2019.

- 6.1.1 Mr A Proctor, Chairman of Policy & Resources Committee, moved the recommendations in the report and proposed an amendment to the wording of Recommendation 4.2.1, as set out in paragraph 6.1.5 below.

From the meeting held on 28 January 2019.

6.1.2 Finance Monitoring Report Period 8 November 2018.

Council **RESOLVED** to:

- **Approve** the flexible use of £2m capital receipts to fund the Children's Services Demand Management and Prevention Strategy in 2018-19.

6.1.3 Limited Company Consents

Council **RESOLVED** to:

1. **agree** the change of Directors to companies as detailed in Appendix B of the report.
2. **agree** the formation of a new subsidiary company of NPS property Consultants Limited to be called Medway Growth Limited as detailed in Appendix C of the report.

From the meeting held on 25 March 2019:

6.1.4 Independence Matters and Limited Company Consents

Council **RESOLVED** to:

Agree the appointment of Directors to companies as detailed in Appendix D of the report.

6.1.5 Transition from a Committee to an Executive Leader and Cabinet System of Governance.

- 6.1.5.1 In moving the recommendation, the Leader proposed the following amendment to

the recommendations in the report, which was seconded by Mr G Plant:

1. **Section 9.4 and 9.5 of the Council procedure rules on page 116 of the draft Constitution to be replaced with the following wording:**

9.4 Motions must be clear and concise to encourage debate on matters for which the Council has a responsibility, and which affect Norfolk and should not normally relate to matters which are the responsibility of Cabinet, or which the Council has delegated to a committee.

9.5 If the subject-matter of any Motion of which notice has been given comes within the remit of the Cabinet, or relevant Committee, it will be moved or seconded in formal terms only and therefore stand referred without discussion, unless following discussion with the Leader of the Council or the relevant Committee Chair, it is agreed by the Chair of the Council that the subject-matter of the Motion may be discussed by Council to inform the decision maker's deliberations prior to referral.

2. delegate authority to the Chief Legal Officer to make changes to factual references, changes required by a change in the law and consequential changes as well as correct typographical and formatting errors noted between 15 April and 7 May 2019.

3. delegate authority to the Chief Legal Officer to make such changes as necessary to reflect the new form of governance and consequential changes in all Council documents that would otherwise require approval from the Council or any of its Committees.

6.1.5.2 Upon Mr Proctor's amendment being put to a vote, with 48 votes in favour, 23 votes against and 0 abstentions the amendment was **CARRIED**.

6.1.5.3 The following amendment was formally moved by Mr S Morphew and seconded by Mr D Roper:

1. **Section 9.4 and 9.5 of the Council procedure rules on page 116 of the draft Constitution to be replaced with the following wording:**

9.4 Motions must be clear and concise to encourage debate on matters for which the Council has a responsibility, and which affect Norfolk and should not normally relate to matters which are the responsibility of Cabinet, or which the Council has delegated to a committee.

9.5 Any motion that comes before Council of which notice has been given shall be moved and seconded with the right of the proposer and seconder to speak to that motion. Any aspects of motions covering subject matter that is the responsibility of Cabinet and seeks to determine rather than influence decisions of Cabinet will be referred to Cabinet without a vote. ~~If the subject-matter of any Motion of which notice has been given comes within the remit of the Cabinet, or relevant Committee, it will be moved or seconded in formal terms only and therefore stand referred without discussion, unless following discussion with the Leader of the Council or the relevant Committee Chair, it is agreed by the Chair of the Council that the subject-matter of the Motion may be discussed by~~

~~Council to inform the decision maker's deliberations prior to referral.~~

2. delegate authority to the Chief Legal Officer to make changes to factual references, changes required by a change in the law and consequential changes as well as correct typographical and formatting errors noted between 15 April and 7 May 2019.
3. delegate authority to the Chief Legal Officer to make such changes as necessary to reflect the new form of governance and consequential changes in all Council documents that would otherwise require approval from the Council or any of its Committees.

6.1.5.4 As proposer of the original motion Mr Proctor did not accept the amendment which was debated by Council.

6.1.5.5 Upon the amendment being put to a vote, with 24 votes in favour the amendment was **LOST**.

6.1.5.6 Mr Morphew moved an amendment to Article 4.4.1.i to include the following additional paragraph, which was duly seconded by Mr D Roper:

(p) Environment and climate change strategy and policies.

6.1.5.7 As proposer of the original recommendation, Mr A Proctor did not accept the amendment.

6.1.5.8 Upon the amendment in paragraph 6.1.5.6 being put to a vote, with 24 votes in favour the amendment was **LOST**.

6.1.5.9 Council then voted on the substantive recommendation as set out in paragraph 6.1.5.1 above and with 49 votes in favour, 21 votes against and 3 abstentions, Council **RESOLVED** to **agree**:

1. **Section 9.4 and 9.5 of the Council procedure rules on page 116 of the draft Constitution to be replaced with the following wording:**

9.4 Motions must be clear and concise to encourage debate on matters for which the Council has a responsibility, and which affect Norfolk and should not normally relate to matters which are the responsibility of Cabinet, or which the Council has delegated to a committee.

9.5 If the subject-matter of any Motion of which notice has been given comes within the remit of the Cabinet, or relevant Committee, it will be moved or seconded in formal terms only and therefore stand referred without discussion, unless following discussion with the Leader of the Council or the relevant Committee Chair, it is agreed by the Chair of the Council that the subject-matter of the Motion may be discussed by Council to inform the decision maker's deliberations prior to referral.

2. delegate authority to the Chief Legal Officer to make changes to factual references, changes required by a change in the law and consequential changes as well as correct typographical and formatting errors noted between 15 April and 7 May 2019.

3. delegate authority to the Chief Legal Officer to make such changes as necessary to reflect the new form of governance and consequential changes in all Council documents that would otherwise require approval from the Council or any of its Committees.

6.2 **Environment, Development & Transport Committee – Recommendations from the meetings held on 18 January & 8 March 2019.**

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

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

6.2.3 Council **RESOLVED** to **approve**, as part of the capital programme:

- The proposed allocations and programme for 2019/20 and indicative allocations for 2020-21 (as set out in Appendices A, B C and D of the report);
- The adoption of the 2016 Code of Practice ‘Well-Managed Highway Infrastructure’ following the successful implementation of the improvement plan;
- The Transport Asset Management Plan (TAMP) for 2019-20 to 2022-23.
- The proposed road hierarchy changes detailed in Section 5.2 and Appendix F of the report.

6.3.1 **Recommendations of the Single Use Products Member Task and Finish Group**

6.3.2 Council **RESOLVED** to **support**:

- 1
 - a) Adoption of a balloon and lantern free charter;
 - b) Updating the County Council’s Environmental policy and Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service Advice on lanterns;
 - c) Adopting a single use products policy for procurement and facilities management;
 - d) Development of a charter for good practice on single use products as a Norfolk wide voluntary sign up quality scheme and use of County Hall as a demonstration project to establish good practice and principles;
- 2 **Requested** that the Member Task & Finish Group meet in September 2019 and March 2020 to assess progress and make any further recommendations required
3. **Agreed** that the County Council becomes a signatory to the Courtauld Agreement which brings together organisations involved in the food system to make food and drink production and consumption more sustainable and reduce food waste

7 **Recommendations from Other Committees**

7.1 **Personnel Committee – Recommendations from the meeting held on 26 February 2019.**

Mr A Proctor, Chairman of Personnel Committee moved the recommendation in the report.

Pay Policy Statement 2019-20

Council **RESOLVED** to:

- **Approve** the Pay Policy Statement 2019-20 as set out in Appendix A of the report.

7.2 **The following recommendation was withdrawn:**

Standards Committee – Recommendations from the meeting held on 20 March 2019. (Procedure for handling Code of Conduct Complaints).

8 Reports from Committees (Questions to Chairmen)

8.1 **Report of the Policy and Resources Committee meetings held 28 January & 25 March 2019.**

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

8.1.1. **Question from Mr S Morpew**

Mr Morpew said that the Leader, in Leader's questions, hadn't given a comprehensive response to Ms Corlett about the preparations for Brexit. He added given that, and the lack of progress, there probably wasn't much to say at the present time. Mr Morpew invited the Leader to circulate a briefing note so that so all Members had some knowledge of the current position.

The Chairman replied that there had been a vast amount of work carried out by everyone concerned, including businesses and public bodies, on preparing for whatever type of Brexit was decided on. He added that a briefing had been circulated a few weeks ago but he would ask the Director to update the briefing and circulate it to all Members so everyone was aware of the latest position.

8.1.2 **Question from Mr D Roper**

Mr Roper invited the Chairman to answer the second part of Mr Aquarone's earlier question about whether or not there was a Climate Change emergency and if not, why not, as he didn't get the chance to answer.

The Chairman replied that he had answered "no" to the first part of the question and that the other aspect was how much was known fact and how much was unknown and what precautions were being taken to mitigate any aspects of climate change.

8.1.3 **Question from Ms A Kemp**

Ms Kemp referred to the setting up of Norse Medway Growth Ltd. She referred to Page 30 of the report which stated that the loans from Norse would be secured and, above a certain limit would be secured on the land to be built on. She asked how the money would be secured below that limit because it was

quite important to know how loans from Norse were secured and protected, as Norse was a 100% owned subsidiary of Norfolk County Council.

The Chairman responded that this was part of a joint venture (JV) arrangement with Medway Council so as far as he was concerned, the governance would be dealt with by them. Exactly where the County Council stood on that would be bound by the governance arrangements of that JV.

Ms Kemp added that this was money Norse would be providing and the report stated that loan agreements from Norse would be secured against the debt of the project site. She asked what would happen to the money below the project site level and how would it be protected.

The Chairman responded that in the context of any joint venture, parties put in what they needed to put in as part of the governance structure. In this particular case Medway were putting in land with Norse providing cash for the overall venture.

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

8.2 **Report of the Adult Social Care Committee meetings held on 14 January and 4 March 2019.**

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

8.2.1 **Question from Mr M Sands**

Mr Sands asked if the Chairman of Adult Social Care could give Council some feedback on the cross-party motion agreed at the last Adult Social Care Committee meeting and if there had been a response from Westminster as yet?

The Chairman replied that no response had been received.

8.2.2 **Question from Mr B Watkins**

Mr Watkins stated that in the past, there had been significant public scepticism about the Norfolk & Waveney Sustainability Transformation Plan (STP) and people had been concerned that the plan was unlikely to fully reflect the needs of local communities and would be dominated by NHS driven priorities. Mr Watkins asked if the Chairman could give Council an assurance that those fears had now been allayed and also if he would comment on what steps the STP had taken to encourage prevention and promote health and wellbeing across the county.

The Chairman replied that this was a question for the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board rather than Adult Social Care Committee and he would answer the question under that report. He added that had no view at this stage.

8.2.3 **Question from Ms S Squire**

Ms Squire stated that she had spoken to residents recently and met a couple who would have to contribute £500 per month towards the care they received due to changes in care and the loss of income guarantee at a time when their monthly benefit had increased by £10 per month. She added that they were considering whether they could afford to keep the level of care they currently received. Ms Squire asked the Chairman if he could tell Council what was being done to assist residents in this position and how the situation was being monitored to ensure

disabled adults weren't choosing to stop receiving the care they needed because they didn't feel they could afford it.

The Chairman replied that there was an appeal process in place, with help available to those who were dealing with an adjustment as a result of the decision this council had made to bring Norfolk's policy in line with that of Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Lincolnshire, Hertfordshire and other counties across the country, where the government's guidelines had been adopted.

8.2.4 Question from Mrs J Brociek-Coulton

Mrs Brociek-Coulton said she sat on the "Making it Real" Board for people with disabilities and they regularly fed information back to the Council about services. Mrs Brociek-Coulton requested, when the Council became a Cabinet, that the portfolio holder covering Adult Social Services would make it a priority so "Making it Real" and other user groups were still encouraged to feed information back to the Council.

The Chairman replied that he would certainly encourage the work of Member Champions to continue in the new structure.

8.2.5 Question from Ms E Corlett

Ms Corlett said there had recently been severe delays in mental health act assessments due to a lack of beds, both locally and nationally, and also a shortage of Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHPs) to undertake mental health act assessments. Ms Corlett asked if the Chairman could provide a briefing for all members on the timescales between a request for a mental health act assessment being received by Norfolk County Council (NCC) AMHPs and the mental health act assessment actually being undertaken, and whether any incidents of harm had occurred in the intervening period.

The Chairman replied that the question should be referred to the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

8.2.6 Question from Mr D Harrison

Mr Harrison asked when the publication of the Autism Strategy was expected and also asked for assurance that the strategy would receive proper consideration for the autistic community.

The Chairman replied that the subject was mentioned in the report and that Council had seen it. The co-production with Members of the various bodies and representatives of people with autism showed Members had been involved to the highest level.

8.2.7 Ms Corlett raised a point of order in that her question had been asked specifically about the AMHPS service, whose staff were employed by Norfolk County Council and was a Norfolk County Council Service. She added that she did not believe the Chairman of the Health and Wellbeing Board would be able to answer the question.

The Chairman replied that the question wasn't specific, referring to mental health assessments generally. He added that if Ms Corlett wanted to talk about a specific service that was commissioned by Norfolk County Council he would let her have a written response.

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

8.3 **Report of the Business & Property Committee meetings held on 15 January & 5 March 2019.**

Mr B Stone, Chairman of Business & Property Committee moved the report.

8.3.1 **Question from Mr M Castle**

Mr Castle referred to the Council's Vision and Strategy for 2018-21 and the pledge that Norfolk County Council would play a leading role in building new homes to help young people get on to the housing ladder. Mr Castle asked if the Administration still stuck by this pledge and if the Chairman could tell Council how many homes it was anticipated would be completed over the next two years.

The Chairman replied that over the next two years the County Council would not deliver any new homes, simply because it was impossible to do so with a building project which takes two to three years to see the first bricks being laid. He continued by saying that the first development at Acle would be taking shape by 2021 and that there was a strategy going forward to build a minimum of 120 houses per year from then on, some of which would be "affordable"; some of which would be "rentable"; some of which would be for use by housing associations, with a proportion being for sale on the open market.

8.3.2 **Question from Mr S Aquarone**

Mr Aquarone referred to the word "affordable" Mr Stone had used in his response to Mr Castle's question, adding that he had been delighted that North Norfolk Conservatives decided to write - separately - to his wife and himself championing their record of "delivering" 376 affordable homes which didn't sound like very many, especially when the net gain was reduced to fewer than 20 when right to buy, right to acquire and those disposed of by registered housing providers were excluded. Mr Aquarone asked the Chairman when Repton Property was going to start building affordable houses that didn't just get turned over to high income landlords, and were instead affordable to people in Norfolk to buy or rent?

The Chairman replied that Repton would be policy compliant as far as affordable homes was concerned and that the policy included a set figure and a set percentage of the total cost of build. He added that there was a commitment going forward to extend the right to buy scheme for first time buyers to help new home buyers get onto the housing ladder.

8.3.3 **Question from Mr B Spratt**

Mr Spratt stated that affordable housing was very important for our communities and that South Norfolk were the leading authority for affordable housing for which he congratulated them. Mr Spratt suggested that their model could be adopted.

Mr Spratt said he would like to ask the Chairman about self-build as there had been no mention about whether Repton Homes was going to carry out any self-build sites, as that could be another way to help young people get a roof over their head.

The Chairman replied that there was no proposal at the moment for Repton to have self-build sites, however that aspect was dependent upon the various planning authorities at District Councils approving self-build propositions and proposals in

plans that would come forward to them.

8.3.4 Question from Ms A Kemp

Ms Kemp asked of there was an update on the France England Channel Interreg Programme and if the Chairman could state the benefits to Norfolk of what had happened since it had been set up and how this might be continued after Brexit, if Brexit happened.

The Chairman replied that the project had been very successful would continue as there was financing in place until 2021. He added that Brexit, at the moment was a very fluid situation and although it was hoped something would be replacing that project, it was not yet known what that may be.

8.3.5 Question from Mr T Jermy

Mr Jermy expressed disappointment at the answer given to Mr Castle's question, adding that the Business and Property committee had been set up to be the answer to many things, although he was not sure about what it had achieved. He asked if the Chairman could give Council an overview of what the Committee had achieved if we were not delivering houses over the next two years.

The Chairman replied that Mr Jermy was a Member of the Business and Property Committee and therefore would be aware of what Repton had achieved. He continued that it had achieved a business partnership with Lovells and work was continuing closely with them on developing, as fast as they could, to move forward. He continued that a major building project of 120 odd houses could not be started in 5 minutes as there was a lot of preparatory work necessary which was currently taking place. He added that the first development would be ready in 2021 and from 2022, it was hoped that 120 houses per year would be built.

8.3.6 Question from Mrs C Walker

Mrs Walker said that she was surprised at the response given that it was necessary to wait until 2021 for the first development to be ready and she considered that Repton had not achieved anything as yet.

The Chairman replied that Repton was developing as quickly as it could but it had taken time to establish the company and appoint a development partner. This work had now been done and progress was being made.

8.3.2 Council RESOLVED to note the report.

8.4 Report of the Children's Services Committee meetings held on 22 January & 12 March 2019.

Mr S Dark, Chairman of Children's Services Committee moved the report.

8.4.1 Question from Mrs J Brociek-Coulton

Mrs Brociek-Coulton stated that a resident, who worked as a teaching assistant (TA) at one of the schools in her district was very concerned about the cuts being forced on Norfolk's schools. She asked if the impact on children of schools not having TA's had been considered, together with how much damage this would do to children, especially following the loss of many children's centres. Mrs Brociek-Coulton asked if it would be possible for a report to be sent to every Councillor about how the budget was affecting each school in their district.

The Chairman agreed to provide a written response to the question explaining what the current position was and where the investment was being made.

8.4.2 **Question from Ms S Squire**

Ms Squire asked what was being done to monitor the Youth Advisory Boards and if the Chairman felt they were delivering good value for money considering, in some cases, only around one third of their budget was being used for commissioning services.

The Chairman replied that he would provide a written response.

8.4.3 **Question from Ms A Kemp**

Ms Kemp asked how many children with autism were presently excluded from Norfolk schools and what was being done to address the issue.

The Chairman agreed to provide a written response.

8.4.4 **Question from Mr T Jermy**

Mr Jermy asked the Chairman of Children's Services to provide an update on the new money that was coming to Norfolk to support detached youth work and also as a former youth worker, did he agree with Mr Jermy that, with hindsight, it was a mistake for this Council to scrap the youth service in Norfolk many years ago, if it was a potential solution to the issues.

The Chairman responded that the money was very welcome and would be focused on young vulnerable people and county lines but he would provide a more detailed response if required.

8.4.5 **Question from Ms E Corlett**

Ms Corlett referred to the Children's Services Committee meeting on 13 November where it had been agreed to carry out a cross-party piece of scrutiny on the cumulative impact of multiple cuts and changes to services on Norfolk's disabled children and their families. She added that this work had not started before the final Children's Services Committee and asked the outgoing Chair to tell Council what the mechanism would be to ensure the decision would be implemented by the incoming Cabinet Member.

The Chairman replied that, as agreed, any outstanding work from Service Committees would be passed to the relevant Select Committee.

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

8.5 **Report of the Communities Committee meetings held on 16 January & 6 March 2019.**

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

8.5.1 **Question from Mr M Castle**

Mr Castle asked if the Council's Norfolk Futures priority to deliver better utilisation of buildings and front-line resources was seen as key to maintaining local services in

the face of continuing Government reductions in local government finance. Mr Castle also asked if the Chairman of Communities Committee could tell Council whether the Administration was still fully committed to delivering this strategy, and if so, did she think it was being rolled-out quickly enough to protect services.

The Chairman replied that she would speak to Mr Castle to ascertain his exact requirements outside the meeting.

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

8.6 **Report of the Digital Innovation & Efficiency Committee meetings held on 23 January & 13 March 2019.**

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

8.6.1 **Question from Dr M Strong**

Dr Strong asked for a list of topics covered by the Committee to ensure that the good work carried out by the Committee was not lost.

The Chairman agreed that the Committee had made significant achievements and had been a good example of cross-party working. The Chairman also gave an undertaking that sight would not be lost on any of the initiatives started and said that since the last meeting, LOWRAN funding had been secured which was one example of continued delivery. The Chairman agreed to circulate a list of outstanding topics to ensure that those topics on the forward plan were delivered.

8.6.2 **Question from Ms S Squire**

Ms Squire said it had been a year since Council had produced a map and report into the quality of mobile phone coverage in the county. She asked if the Chairman could tell Council when he expected to see improvements in mobile phone coverage as she had needed to buy a satellite phone because of inconsistent coverage around the coast.

The Chairman replied that performance was improving, adding that officers had met with all mobile phone companies in the first two months of this year to emphasise the need to improve their services. The Chairman asked Ms Squire to let him have details of which mobile phone companies she had used and not had any response from and he would ask officers to investigate.

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

8.7 **Report of the Environment, Development and Transport Committee meetings held on 18 January & 8 March 2019.**

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

8.7.1 **Question from Mr D Roper**

Mr Roper asked how long it should take for lines on the Broadland Northway that had been erased to be repainted; how long it should take for damaged signage to be repaired and how long it should take for damage to roundabouts to be repaired. He said that he used the Broadland Northway daily and that essential changes to ensure the safety of the public were being left for weeks, if not months. He asked

the Chairman if there could be some urgent action.

The Chairman replied that this topic had been raised at the last Environment, Transport and Development Committee meeting and had been chased up, working with the highways teams to complete this work as soon as possible.

8.7.2 Question from Mr M Castle

Mr Castle said that the EDT Committee meeting in November 2018 agreed to commission a desktop study in relation to optimum route alignments for the dualling of the A47 Acle Straight. He asked if the Chairman could update Council on the progress with the study and if he could tell Council when the results of the research may be shared with interested Councillors.

The Chairman replied that the Acle Straight was one of the priorities of the A47 Alliance as well as Norfolk County Council. Monitoring work was ongoing on the Acle Straight area and a meeting was due to take place with Norfolk MPs very soon to lobby support dualling and improving the A47.

8.7.3 Question from Mr E Seward

Mr Seward stated that in March of this year the Council provided information to the Archant Newspaper Group in relation to waste and recycling. The information that was provided showed that in the six months in the summer of 2018 the amount of tonnage of waste that went to our recycling centres was down 18% compared to the previous year. It also showed that visitor numbers were down by 16%. We also know that the reduction in fly-tipping had stalled and was going up slightly and our figures showed this didn't include fly-tipping occurring on private land. We also know as indicated earlier, that 80% of the fly-tipping was waste that could have gone to a recycling centre. Mr Seward asked if all this evidence pointed to the fact that this Council had created a climate where, far too many of our residents were not being encouraged to go to our recycling centres to dispose of waste.

The Chairman replied that fly-tipping numbers were down over the last three year period, as heard earlier. He added that work was undertaken with the Norfolk Waste Partnership; the "Lets scrap fly-tipping" campaign had been launched, work was undertaken with the National Farmers Union (NFU), land owners, police, and authorities across the whole Council, with some positive results already being seen. He added that none of us like fly-tipping, and it was something that needed to be addressed.

The Chairman added, with regard to visitors to recycling centres there were several factors which had led to fewer visitor numbers, including a very hot summer in 2018 producing less garden waste; and the removal of the restriction of people only being allowed to dispose of one item per visit.

8.7.4 Question from Mr S Morpew

Mr Morpew asked the Chairman, in the last three years since Mr Wilby had been Chairman of the Environment, Transport and Development Committee, if he could tell Council what work he had led on climate change.

The Chairman replied that one thing was to bring back the funding for roadside nature reserves that had previously been cut.

8.7.5 **Question from Mr B Watkins**

Mr Watkins stated that electric vehicles had become the vehicle of choice for car companies to develop and it was expected that there would be more than 100 new models by 2024. However, there were still barriers to the masses of the option of electric cars, the main one being the availability of charging points and there were compelling reasons why councils should be at the forefront of making this transition happen. He asked if the Chairman supported this view with regard to Norfolk and if any approach had been made to the LGA (Local Government Association) for practical guidance and advice on this matter.

The Chairman replied that he supported the installation of EV charging points and pointed out that in south Norfolk electric charging points had been installed in all car parks, including Long Stratton and Wymondham, and that he supported rolling them out across the whole of the county.

8.7.6 **Question from Ms A Kemp**

Ms Kemp asked if the Chairman could say how he was addressing the issue of the 199,000 tonnes of waste that was being sent outside the county to be incinerated, particularly with regard to large, bulky items of plastic and also what initiatives were being taken to find ways of disposing of this in a better way, for example car manufacturers who had a great need for vast quantities of plastic, had they been approached and what was being done to improve the situation.

The Chairman replied that Norfolk County Council's policies were up for review in 2021 where all options would be considered.

8.7.7 **Question from Mrs A Thomas**

Mrs Thomas said residents in her division were very pleased to see work starting on the Hempnall crossroads in January, which had to start at that time of year in order to get the utilities moved before the nesting season. She added that there had been a long pause and now that notification had been received that the planning conditions had been discharged, could the Chairman give an assurance about when construction would resume so that, at long last, this notorious junction could be improved for the safety of residents travelling up and down and east to west across the A140

The Chairman reassured Council that the work would start as soon as possible with the contractors back on site in early May to complete this much needed roundabout. He added that the preparatory work and ground works had all been completed, so the site was ready to start. He also said he regularly used the A140 and was aware of the dangers of that piece of road.

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

9 Other Committees

9.1 **Report of the Personnel Committee meeting held on 26 February 2019.**

9.1.1 Mr A Proctor, Chairman, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

9.2 **Report of the Standards Committee meeting held on 20 March 2019.**

- 9.2.1 This report was withdrawn.
- 9.3 **Report of the Audit Committee meeting held on 31 January 2019.**
- 9.3.1 Mr I Mackie, Chairman, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.
- 9.4 **Report of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 17 January & 28 February 2019.**
- 9.4.1 M Chenery of Horsbrugh, Chairman, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.
- 9.5 **Report of the Health & Wellbeing Board meeting held on 13 February 2019.**
- 9.5.1 Mr B Borrett, Chairman, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.
- 9.5.2 **Question from Mr B Watkins**
Mr Watkins stated that in the past, there had been significant public scepticism about the Norfolk & Waveney Sustainability Transformation Plan (STP) and people had been concerned that the plan was unlikely to fully reflect the needs of local communities and would be dominated by NHS driven priorities. Mr Watkins asked if the Chairman could give Council an assurance that those fears had now been allayed and also if he would comment on what steps the STP had taken to encourage prevention and promote health and wellbeing across the county.
- The Chairman replied that the engagement with the NHS and the STP with the Health and Wellbeing Board had been very encouraging adding that it was an important process where, in the Chairman's view, there had not been enough democratic accountability within the NHS until now. He added that the fact that the STP included the NHS and the Health and Wellbeing Board that included representatives from all the District Councils, who were all working well together was a very encouraging process. The very fact that members of the public could ask questions of the Managing Director of the STP process at Health and Wellbeing Board meetings meant there was now an opportunity for the public to engage with the health service at the highest level in Norfolk and Suffolk. It was a cultural change for the NHS and progress had been made, although I would like to see more and that was something the Health and Wellbeing Board continued to press for. He added that there had been engagement in good faith between both sides and whilst there were still issues he would like the NHS to address differently they were engaged for which the Chairman thanked them.
- 9.6 **Report of the Museums Committee meeting held on 11 January 2019.**
- 9.6.1 Mr J Ward, Chairman, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.
- 9.7 **Report of the Norfolk Records Committee meeting held on 11 January 2019.**
- 9.7.1 Mr P Duigan, Vice-Chairman, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.
- 9.8 **Report of the Planning (Regulatory) Committee meeting held 15 March 2019**
- 9.8.1 Mr C Foulger, Chairman, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the

report.

9.9 **Report of the Norwich Highways Agency Joint Committee meetings held on 20 December 2018 and 21 March 2019.**

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

10 Notice of Motions

10.1 Council agreed to hear Motions 1, 2 and 5 together and hold a separate vote on each motion following the debate.

10.2 The following motion was proposed by Mr S Morphew and seconded by Ms E Corlett:

Climate change

Council recognises the threats posed by climate change and that it must be treated as an emergency. Council further recognises that the absence of any reference to climate change in 'A Vision For Norfolk', or 'Norfolk Futures' or any climate change policy or strategy means Norfolk County Council is failing to play its part in tackling climate change and giving a lead to others.

Norfolk County Council's meagre Environmental policy makes no mention of climate change and despite including a commitment for regular review it has not been updated since April 2014.

Council therefore resolves to

Strategic policy

1. Develop a Climate Change Policy and implementation strategy to be included as part of the Council's strategic policy framework that recognises that there may be additional costs associated with climate change adaption and mitigation that must take priority when considering best value
2. Recognise the importance of adaption to and mitigation of the results of climate change and develop policies to ensure our communities remain resilient in the face of changes and challenges
3. Commit to a programme for making the entire council directly provided services and buildings carbon neutral by 2030
4. Include within all future procurement environmental and social value commitments with at least equal weighting as financial costs in determining best value
5. Ensure that any future contracts and schemes of all types must be carbon neutral or better, and that where that is not possible there must be a binding offset to achieve a carbon neutral outcome
6. Lobby government for additional resources and powers for innovation and awareness so Norfolk County Council can lead on climate change

Governance

1. Request the Leader to designate a cabinet member with overall responsibility for climate change and include specific responsibility for the climate change impact in the portfolios of every cabinet member
2. Include climate change in the proposed six year business plan and to bring to

full council a Climate change report annually, designated as a key cabinet decision

3. Adopt or commission an internationally recognised tool and process for measuring and auditing council performance
4. Include a climate change impact statement on every report to council and committees including the annual budget report to council alongside equality and rural impact assessments
5. Appoint Climate change champions for the council and to ask cabinet to develop a scheme to recognise and support climate change champions working in communities
6. Establish a specific forum with partner organisations to promote joint targets and closer collaboration that adds value and further reduces emissions to work with the scrutiny and select committees of the council

Operational

1. Adopt a programme to replace council vehicles with electric and low emission alternative and install electric car recharging points at county hall and other significant council buildings that would be available for public use unless other charging facilities were available close by.
2. Commission school transport taxis and otherwise use taxi services that use electric vehicles.
3. Buy power from renewable energy producers
4. Upgrade council buildings' energy efficiency as a first call on capital
5. Continue to pursue installation of solar panels on all council owned buildings and those leased to third parties unless they are deemed unsuitable
6. Ask directors to set targets for reducing emissions in their service area and to cabinet to recommend stretch targets for the whole council beyond the 2030 target for making council carbon neutral
7. Develop a Parish climate partnership scheme that will extend the existing parish partnership schemes by encouraging climate change initiatives and requiring all other partnership projects to lead to an overall reduction in emissions

- 10.3 The following motion was proposed by Mr S Aquarone and seconded by Mr D Roper:

Climate Emergency Declaration

This Council notes that:

- The findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report 'Global warming of 1.5°' published on 8 October 2018, in particular:
 - Human activities are estimated to have already caused approximately 1.0°C of global warming above pre-industrial levels;
 - If we continue at the current rate, we are likely to surpass the Paris Agreement target of 1.5°C as early as 2030;
 - At the current level of commitments, the world is on course for 3°C of warming with irreversible and catastrophic consequences for humans and the natural world.

The Council believes that:

- The impacts of global temperature rise above 1.5°C, are so severe that governments at all levels must work together and make this their top priority.
- As well as large-scale improvements in health and wellbeing around the world, bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities.
- As urban populations increase, greater consideration of how urban systems can develop sustainability will be required.

Therefore, this Council agrees to:

- Declare a 'climate emergency',
- Ensure the right resources are in place within the Council to support this work,
- Establish a new task and finish group, with a remit to:
 - Seek advice from experts to develop 5 Year carbon budgets and set a challenging target date of 2030 for carbon neutrality;
 - Consider systematically the climate change impact of each area of the Council's activities;
 - Make recommendations to Full Council on the actions the Council needs to take to address this emergency and to set an ambitious timescale for reducing these impacts;
 - Assess the feasibility of requiring all risk and procurement assessments to include Carbon Emission Appraisals, including presenting alternative approaches which reduce emissions wherever possible;
 - Launch real two-way engagement with the public to:
 - Improve "carbon literacy" of all citizens;
 - Encourage and support leadership on this issue in all sectors of society;
 - Obtain meaningful public input into how the council could achieve this new carbon reduction target;
 - Facilitate wide community engagement and behavioural change.
- Task a director level officer with responsibility for reducing as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council's activities.
- Equip all our staff, particularly those involved with buildings, energy and transport management and procurement of goods and service, with an awareness of the CO2 costs and impacts of everyday activities, and the ability and motivation to reduce emissions.
- Recognise that the Council has many competing priorities and that any actions arising from this work take account of how they impact from a financial and policy context.
- Request the Leader to write the Prime Minister to inform that this Council has declared a climate emergency and ask for the Government to provide the resources and powers necessary to deal with it

10.4 Mr J Fisher proposed an alteration to the published motion which was accepted by Council. The motion was seconded by Mr A Grant:

Norfolk County Council recognises the serious impact of climate change globally and the need for urgent action.

Looking to the future Norfolk County Council commits to support the delivery of the

Government's 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to improve the Environment' with local targets and priorities for safeguarding Norfolk for future generations.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>
The Government has made a commitment to be the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we inherited it and we welcome the Environment (Principles & Governance) Bill the first in over 20 years.

Norfolk County Council will continue to commit to cutting down unnecessary resource use and waste, reducing our impact on the world and shaping a more efficient, sustainable and competitive economy. We must lead by example and demonstrate to the next generation our action and responsibilities in tackling climate change. (Further addition- and we will work with Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership)

Taking action now can help to achieve long term sustainable economic growth from low carbon and green industries in the County.

This Council agrees to:

- 1) Call on the government to provide additional powers and resources to help deliver on National Targets limiting global warming to 1.5'
- 2) Request the future cabinet to adopt a policy where by all future key decisions are considered and a statement made for their environmental impact and for their alignment to the IPCC guidance.
- 3) Identify a cabinet member to have clear responsibility for the environment and implementation of future environmental policy of the council and to include a Pollinator Action Plan
- 4) Request the relevant select committee to work with officers in the development of further policy and measures for the council to implement to combat climate change to become part of the Council's Policy Framework, and to report back to Council by the meeting of 25th November, ie 6 months from the formation of the committee.

10.5 Following debate on all three motions, each motion was voted on individually as follows:-

10.5.1 Motion 1 Proposed by Mr S Morpew and seconded by Ms E Corlett.
With 22 votes in favour and 4 abstentions, the motion was **LOST**.

10.5.2 Motion 2 – Proposed by S Aquarone and seconded by Mr D Roper.
With 22 votes in favour and 2 abstentions, the motion was **LOST**.

10.5.3 Motion 5 – Proposed by Mr J Fisher and seconded by Mr A Grant.
Upon being put to a vote the motion was unanimously **CARRIED** and Council **RESOLVED**:

Norfolk County Council recognises the serious impact of climate change globally and the need for urgent action.

Looking to the future Norfolk County Council commits to support the delivery of the Government's 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to improve the Environment' with local targets and priorities for safeguarding Norfolk for future generations.
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/25-year-environment-plan>

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Norfolk County Council will continue to commit to cutting down unnecessary resource use and waste, reducing our impact on the world and shaping a more efficient, sustainable and competitive economy. We must lead by example and demonstrate to the next generation our action and responsibilities in tackling climate change. (Further addition- and we will work with Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership)

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- 3) Identify a cabinet member to have clear responsibility for the environment and implementation of future environmental policy of the council and to include a Pollinator Action Plan
- 4) Request the relevant select committee to work with officers in the development of further policy and measures for the council to implement to combat climate change to become part of the Council's Policy Framework, and to report back to Council by the meeting of 25th November, ie 6 months from the formation of the committee.

10.6 The following motion was proposed by Mrs J Oliver and seconded by Mr A Proctor:

This Council believes the Government should make fair and transitional state pension arrangements for the 45,000 Norfolk women born in the 1950's, who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the State Pension Age with lack of appropriate notification.

This Council requests the Leader of the Council write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions calling on the government to reconsider transitional arrangements for women.

Following debate, and upon being put to a vote, with 2 abstentions, the motion was **CARRIED**.

10.7 The following motion was proposed by Ms A Kemp and seconded by Mr G Nobbs:

"Debate in the Council Chamber is the lifeblood of Democracy, a highly cherished right for all Councillors and necessary for the free discussion and proper representation of Norfolk's interests in the public arena of the upper-tier of Local Government.

Under the current Committee and the last Cabinet System, this Council has held debates in full Council on Motions proposed by Members. Administrations have

always respected this. It is the public's expectation. It is Custom and Practice in this Council.

The new draft Constitution is causing alarm, as it brings in a new procedure, the summary referral of a Motion from full Council without debate, "where it is within the remit of the Cabinet, or relevant Committee".

This measure could potentially exclude nearly all Motions from debate.

The general public is now worried that the Administration intends to prevent debates in the new Constitution and wants clarity and reassurance that this is not the intention and will not happen.

The draft new Constitution, taking Norfolk from the Committee System, where all Members make decisions, to a Cabinet System where decisions are taken by 9 or 10 members, repeats the provision from the last Cabinet system Constitution - never enforced during the time I was an Elected Member - and seeks to limit motions to matters that are outside the remit of the Cabinet or relevant Committees.

As an Elected Member during the entirety of the current Committee Constitution, I am aware that paragraph 9.4 of the Council Procedure Rules, seeking to limit the scope of motions to matters which are outside the functions of the Council's Committees, has never been enforced.

The provision in the draft new Constitution was not specifically considered or discussed at the Cabinet Working Group and it escaped the attention its significance deserves.

Council considers it necessary to be able to debate all matters relevant to Norfolk as it sees fit and therefore agrees to delete the following:

Constitution Page 116 Point 9.4

"and are not matters concerning functions which the Council has delegated to a Committee".

Point 9.5 - "If the subject-matter of any Motion of which notice has been given comes within the remit of the Cabinet, or relevant Committee, it will be moved or seconded in formal terms only and therefore stand referred without discussion.

Upon being put to a vote, with 20 votes in favour, the motion was **LOST**.

10.8 The following motion was **WITHDRAWN** by Ms S Squire:

This council recognises that numbers of pollinators are declining across the Country. As a largely rural County with Agriculture forming a large part of our economy it is essential that decline is halted. Therefore, we undertake to further the work of the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership and to produce a 'Pollinator Action Plan'. To include such measures as the creation of wildflower highway verges and roundabouts, to discourage the use of chemicals harmful to bees being used on council owned land and to encourage other landowners to do the same.

- 10.9 The following motion was proposed by Mrs C Walker and seconded by Ms E Corlett:
- Council acknowledges that easy access to sanitary products is a basic right for all citizens.
- Council notes the good work of our libraries in providing sanitary products through a working partnership with “Tricky Period” and other organisations.
- We therefore agree that this Council will:
- provide sanitary products at no charge in toilets of its premises for staff and users to access
 - write to Theresa May MP to lobby the government to remove VAT from sanitary products, as they are not luxury items
- 10.10.1 The following amendment was proposed by Mrs P Carpenter and seconded by Mrs S Young:
- Council acknowledges that easy access to sanitary products is a basic right for all citizens.
- Council notes the good work of our libraries in providing sanitary products through a working partnership with “Tricky Period” and other organisations.
- We therefore agree that this Council ~~will~~ asks:
- **The Equalities & Diversity Manager to produce a report for the relevant Select Committee as to the costs and feasibility of providing** ~~provide~~ sanitary products at no charge in toilets of its premises for staff and users to access
 - ~~write to Theresa May MP to lobby the government to remove VAT from sanitary products, as they are not luxury items~~
- 10.10.2 As proposer of the original motion, Mrs Walker did not accept the amendment which was debated by Council.
- 10.10.3 Following debate, and upon the amendment being put to a vote, with 48 votes in favour, 22 votes against and 0 abstentions, the motion was **CARRIED** and became the substantive motion.
- 10.10.4 The substantive motion was then put to the vote and with 15 abstentions, the substantive motion was **CARRIED**.
- Council acknowledges that easy access to sanitary products is a basic right for all citizens.
- Council notes the good work of our libraries in providing sanitary products through a working partnership with “Tricky Period” and other organisations.
- We therefore agree that this Council asks:
- The Equalities & Diversity Manager to produce a report for the relevant

Select Committee as to the costs and feasibility of providing provide sanitary products at no charge in toilets of its premises for staff and users to access

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

There were none

12 To answer questions under Rule 8.3 of the Council Procedure Rules

There were none.

The meeting concluded at 1.10pm.

Chairman



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Questions requiring written responses from the Council Meeting – Monday 15 April 2019

	Question and response:
Question from Mr S Morpew to the Chairman of Policy & Resources committee	<p>Mr Morpew said that the Leader, in Leader's questions, hadn't given a comprehensive response to Ms Corlett about the preparations for Brexit. He added given that, and the lack of progress, there probably wasn't much to say at the present time. Mr Morpew invited the Leader to circulate a briefing note so that so all Members had some knowledge of the current position.</p> <p>Response: (Copy of email sent to all Councillors on 18 April 2019 from Tom McCabe).</p> <p>Dear Councillor,</p> <p>At Full Council on Monday, it was agreed to provide an update briefing on the Brexit situation as it impacts on the County Council.</p> <p>Last week the European Council agreed to extend Article 50 and therefore extend the UK's membership of the EU until 31 October 2019. This means the new deadline of 31 October averts the immediate prospect of the UK leaving the EU without a deal. Following this announcement, central government no-deal contingency operations have stood down and we have been advised that in the coming weeks contingency plans should be rescoped, revised and mothballed where appropriate.</p> <p>MHCLG has advised that they will be in touch to discuss next steps and the implications for local resilience groups.</p> <p>At this early stage, and in an evolving scenario, it seems as if there are still many Brexit related eventualities that may impact on Norfolk. There is still a need for the County Council, as part of the Norfolk Resilience Forum (NRF) to keep abreast of the National and Norfolk picture. This will be in readiness to quickly stand up our arrangements to prepare and respond whenever the next EU exit date is proposed (between now and the 31st October). The NRF has requested that multi-agency partners continue to feed any incident/intelligence information into the NRF so that this information can be collated to ensure that we remain prepared, focused and ensure that we do not become complacent.</p> <p>We understand that you will be speaking to businesses or members of the public who are worried about Brexit. We feel that the best advice you can give is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Norfolk County Council continues to work closely with our Norfolk partners to make sure we're as prepared as possible for any outcome and that we are aiming for minimal disruption to our front-line services and our communities 2. There shouldn't be any need for people to act any differently or change their consumer habits <p>For all the latest information, advice and guidance on Brexit go to www.gov.uk/prepare-eu-exit</p> <p>For more information you can also visit www.norfolk.gov.uk/Brexit</p>

<p>Question to the Chairman of Adult Social Care Committee from Ms E Corlett</p>	<p>Question and response:</p> <p>Ms Corlett said there had recently been severe delays in mental health act assessments due to a lack of beds, both locally and nationally, and also a shortage of Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHPs) to undertake mental health act assessments. Ms Corlett asked if the Chairman could provide a briefing for all members on the timescales between a request for a mental health act assessment being received by Norfolk County Council (NCC) AMHPs and the mental health act assessment actually being undertaken, and whether any incidents of harm had occurred in the intervening period..</p> <p>Response:</p> <p>The Mental Health Act Code of Practice (14.35) places a responsibility on local authorities to ensure that sufficient AMHPs are available to carry out their roles under the Act, including assessing patients to decide whether an application for detention should be made. To fulfil their statutory duty, local authorities should have arrangements in place to provide a 24-hour service that can respond to patients' needs.</p> <p>Norfolk County Council has a well-established AMHP Service which delivers this duty via a rota system during the day and via our Emergency Duty Team, overnight and during holiday periods.</p> <p>In order to help local authorities calculate how many AMHPs were needed in each authority, in 1991 the Social Care Inspectorate recommended a ratio of between 1:7,600 and 1:11,800 approved staff to population (dependent on locality). The lower ratio was expected to be in inner city areas, where more deprivation was evident, with lower levels of full time equivalent AMHPs being needed in more affluent areas.</p> <p>Whilst ADASS published AMHP practice guidance in 2018, no further guidance has been issued to local authorities regarding the interpretation of 'sufficient' AMHP numbers since 1991.</p> <p>With a population of 898,400 the above calculation suggests that Norfolk should have an AMHP workforce of 76 AMHPs. An AMHP Audit completed in December 2018 captured that Norfolk had 72 AMHPs, with a further 4 undergoing training to become AHMPS in 2019, so bringing the county in line with guidance. Of the current total, 63 were Social Workers and 9 were Nurses. 59 of the AMHPs were primarily working on the daytime AMHP rota, with 13 primarily on the out of hours EDT rota. In addition, NCC is completing an AMHP workforce review in 2019. The work is being coordinated with workstreams within ADASS, NHS Benchmarking, The National AMHP Leads Network and the Regional AMHP Leads Forum.</p> <p>NCC has recently completed two separate two-week audits of MHAA requests; one in December 2018 and one in April 2019. These audits were completed to assist NCC AMHP workforce planning and to assist with understanding and managing current demands and systemwide complexities of MHAA's.</p> <p>For illustration, the two-week 24/7 audit in December captured the following data:</p> <p>Referrals:</p> <p>i) 89 referrals for MHAA's</p>
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	<p>Question and response:</p> <p>ii) 52 of these referrals to daytime AMHP service and 37 to EDT AMHP service iii) 67 referrals were completed/closed by daytime AMHP service and 22 by EDT iv) 68 MHAA's arranged v) 21 requests for MHAA's closed following triage</p> <p>The audit highlighted that whilst historically, AHMPs could complete an assessment in one shift, this is now becoming more challenging. Access to section 12 doctors, to appropriate beds, to transport and other factors mean that it can take several days for AMHPs to co-ordinate all the arrangements and complete the assessment.</p> <p>It is acknowledged that the historical monitoring of MHAA's has not fully captured and reported systemwide delays. However, NCC has been pro-active in developing appropriate reporting tools using data sets being proposed by NHS benchmarking, the National AMHP Network and ADASS.</p> <p>During the two, two week audits, no incidents of harm took place in the time between the request for a Mental Health Act Assessment and the assessment taking place.</p>
<p>Question to the Chairman of Children's Services Committee from Mrs J Brociek- Coulton</p>	<p>Mrs Brociek-Coulton stated that a resident, who worked as a teaching assistant (TA) at one of the schools in her district was very concerned about the cuts being forced on Norfolk's schools. She asked if the impact on children of schools not having TA's had been considered, together with how much damage this would do to children, especially following the loss of many children's centres. Mrs Brociek-Coulton asked if it would be possible for a report to be sent to every Councillor about how the budget was affecting each school in their district.</p> <p>Response from the Chairman:</p> <p>The funding for schools is allocated to the Local Authority based on a National Funding Formula. To date the Schools Forum, which is a group of schools leaders and governors, with union representation and local authority officers has agreed a local formula to distribute funding. The implementation of the National Funding Formula has been signalled by the government as imminent and advises Local authorities to move towards using this formula, and away from local models.</p> <p>In preparation for this, we set up a Task and finish group, made up of representative primary and secondary school headteachers to explore the implications of this. We consulted with all school leaders, online and through face to face meetings to ask their views. As a result, we agreed with Schools Forum to adopt the National Funding Formula for distribution of this year's school budgets. Some Norfolk schools, therefore, received an increase in their overall budget, some saw a reduction. Schools have been able to see both budgets for the last year as we modelled their budgets on both the locally agreed formula and the National Funding Formula.</p> <p>The other element of the schools budget is the High needs Block funding, available to top up schools for individual children with High Needs where and additional contribution to meet needs is required. This funding used to be distributed by clusters, and local agreements for its distribution were in place. The decision to change this system was made a year ago for a number of reasons. For example, the model varied from cluster to cluster, some were very rigorous in using the funding to meet need, other clusters divided the funding by pupil number across their schools and used it to fund a range of staffing and intervention activity</p>

	<p>Question and response:</p> <p>that could not be directly linked to individual children with High Needs. Schools were asked to nominate SENCOs who could work with the LA devise a new system of allocation this top up funding on a child by child basis. The school SENCOs developed a model of banding for High Needs. They also developed the application process and they sit on a panel to agree funding for individual children. This has resulted in some schools receiving less SEND funding than in previous years.</p> <p>Finally, schools are funded by pupil number on roll. In recent years, 10% of children have come out of mainstream schools, either because they need Special or Complex Needs provision, or because they have been permanently excluded by schools. The Local authority then has to fund provision in Special Schools, and this includes the independent, non-maintained sector which can be high cost. For those excluded the local authority funds alternative provision. This results in schools having fewer children and young people on roll, so their per head funding decreases, and the local authority having more children to place and fund, which requires a bigger share of the dedicate Schools Grant funding.</p> <p>Decision on how staffing is organised school be school is a decision taken by school leaders. Some schools employ teaching assistants, others very few. Some have previously used the SEND funding for teaching assistants and if they have fewer High Needs children that attract funding, they will be making staffing adjustments. How this affects the provision the school can make will be a view held by the school leaders and governors, as this will vary enormously school by school.</p> <p>The budgets for schools can be found by following this link. http://efs.norfolk.gov.uk/BudgetShare/. This will give a partial picture as it will only reflect the budget distributed by the Funding Formula, as the SEND top up funding is allocated at different points in the year for individual children.</p> <p>We would be happy to provide a fuller briefing on school funding if that is helpful. If you wish this to happen, please contact Chris Snudden via Alana Flynn, alana.flynn@norfolk.gov.uk</p>
<p>Question to the Chairman of Children's Services Committee from Ms S Squire</p>	<p>Ms Squire asked what was being done to monitor the Youth Advisory Boards and if the Chairman felt they were delivering good value for money considering, in some cases, only around one third of their budget was being used for commissioning services.</p> <p>Response from the Chairman:</p> <p>Norfolk Youth Advisory Boards</p> <p>Background</p> <p>Since being established in 2012, as our response to the Statutory Guidance for Local Authorities on Services and Activities to Improve Young People's Well-being (see Appendix 1), Norfolk Youth Advisory Boards (YAB) have been subject to review in 2016 by members of a CS Committee task and finish group. The group's following recommendations to the Committee were agreed in November 2016:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. YABs should be re-focused as young people led partnerships, ideally chaired by a young person, and be supported and advised by adults representing a range of relevant local agencies and organisations. 2. There should be a more structured approach to how young people are recruited from a variety of backgrounds and life experiences, developed and enabled to operate effectively as Young Commissioners.

	<p>Question and response:</p> <p>3. The current approach to allocating funding to each YAB should be maintained, at the current level, but with a significant proportion ring fenced to support the development and operation of the Young Commissioner Programme and associated youth participation activities across the district. The remaining funding provided by the Council to each YAB should be directed by Young Commissioners on each YAB. The Council should provide clear guidance to Young Commissioners on how this funding can be used.</p> <p>4. The re-commissioning of youth & community work to support YABs should be re-focused to support YABs to operate effectively as young people led partnerships and to enable young people to influence and shape local services in response to their needs.</p> <p>A revised set of Terms of Reference for YABs was also agreed (see Appendix 2) and these helpfully set out the key tasks expected from YABs.</p> <p>The above recommendations are reflected in the current operating arrangements for YABs.</p> <p>Current YAB activity</p> <p>The County Council, via the integrated commissioning team, provides guidance to YABs each year, and in response the YABs produce an annual plan detailing their priority actions for the year ahead. The priorities are based on an assessment of the needs of young people in the local area. This assessment is informed by an analysis of data and by the direct consultation with young people.</p> <p>Each YAB plan is focused on addressing their identified priorities through one or more action by young commissioners:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To campaign on the issue • To commission a service to address the issue • To raise awareness with young people of what is locally available to address the issue • To work with other services/agencies to support their commissioning actions on the issues and potentially align or pool resources. <p>YAB plans are submitted to the Integrated Commissioning Team for evaluation and sign off.</p> <p>£45,000 is allocated to each YAB to facilitate the provision of services identified by the board as priorities within their area and to support the development of Young Commissioners. Of this, £20,000 is allocated to facilitate YAB engagement with other agencies and community groups, and to support the training and development of Young Commissioners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2018-19, Youth Advisory Boards consulted over 15,000 young people (16.6% of the entire population) on which issues they believe need addressing for young people. • In 2018-19, YABs commissioned more than 35 new community-based projects for young people. • YABs have 300 young commissioners in place across the county. Young commissioners give their free time voluntarily to commission services, consult young people, campaign on issues and raise awareness amongst their peers and adults. • All of these young people are enrolled into a Young Commissioner development programme. • Young Commissioners are drawn from across the community and many of the young people have challenging life circumstances and are experts on young people, through their own experience. Their lived life experience includes, bullying, mental health, the care system, LGBTQ issues, racism and discrimination. All this experience makes our Young Commissioners ideal advocates of young people across Norfolk. • Currently, YABs and young commissioners work and collaborate with over 40 High schools across Norfolk.
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	<p>Question and response:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2018, Young commissioners took over the EDP and edited an issue of the paper to raise awareness of issues highlighted in the consultation. Each young person wrote an editorial piece based on something they had experienced within these issues. • Young commissioners are currently involved in joint commissioning with CAMHS, Public Health, District Councils, Momentum, and Norfolk Libraries. • Young commissioners have worked closely with Elected Members and worked with Norfolk's MPs. • YABs have been able to draw in and influence additional funding externally which they have directly commissioned, this amounts to over £300,000 in 2018/19. <p>An impact report was published in 2014 which highlighted the impact that YABs have had on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people • Local communities • Youth organisations • Other agencies working with young people <p>An updated impact report is currently being produced by the YABs and should be available before the summer.</p> <p>Contracted youth & community work supporting YABs In addition to funding each YAB, the County Council has contracted two voluntary sector organisations to provide qualified youth & community work support for each YAB. Six of the YABs are supported by the Mancroft Advice Project (MAP) and one is supported by MTM Youth Services. The contracts have the potential to run until October 2022 and are annually worth £350,000 in total.</p> <p>The performance of the contracted organisations is monitored by the Integrated Commissioning Team through quarterly reports and an annual self-assessment report. The annual report is analysed by the Commissioning Team and a Balanced Score card produced that rates the contract performance.</p> <p>In addition to the reporting process, bi-monthly meetings are held with all the youth workers and provider organisations and a member of the Integrated Commissioning Team attends every Youth Advisory Board meeting.</p>
<p>Question to the Chairman of Children's Services Committee from Ms A Kemp</p>	<p>Ms Kemp asked how many children with autism were presently excluded from Norfolk schools and what was being done to address the issue.</p> <p>Response from the Chairman: The rate of permanent exclusion of children and young people with Autism is very low.</p> <p>Two children have been excluded that have Autistic Spectrum Disorder during the autumn term of 2018. Prior to that two children were excluded in Autumn term 2017.</p>

	Question and response:
	We are working with schools to prevent exclusion wherever possible. The Inclusion helpline is operate daily and schools are making good use of this. Experienced staff from the LA go into schools where children are at risk of exclusion and help to help broker the right kind of support and intervention. This would include autism, however this has not proved to be a significant requirement.