

**Cabinet**  
**Minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 4 October 2021**  
**in the Council Chamber, County Hall, at 10am**

**Present:**

Cllr Andrew Proctor	Chairman. Leader & Cabinet Member for Strategy & Governance.
Cllr Graham Plant	Vice-Chairman 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 Tom FitzPatrick	Cabinet Member for Innovation, Transformation & Performance.
Cllr Andy Grant	Cabinet Member for Environment and 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.

**Executive Directors Present:**

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

Cabinet Members and Executive Directors formally introduced themselves.

**1 Apologies for Absence**

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr John Fisher, the Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Cllr Daniel Elmer, the Deputy Cabinet Member for Children's Services.

**2 Minutes from the meeting held on Monday 6 September 2021.**

- 2.1 Cabinet agreed the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 6 September 2021 as an accurate record of the meeting.

**3 Declaration of Interests**

- 3.1 The Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport declared an interest related to item 8 as he was Chairman of Norfolk Windmills Trust.

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

4.1 No matters were referred to Cabinet.

#### **5 Items of Urgent Business**

5.1 The Chairman made an announcement about the Norfolk Social Infrastructure Fund:

- This was the second year of the annual £1m fund available for voluntary and community groups to apply for, to support capital projects and improvements to facilities
- Successful projects needed to contribute to the Council's Together for Norfolk priorities and help strengthen communities particularly in relation to impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- In 2020-21, the fund had helped 10 projects across the County, including an interactive science hub in Thetford and the Norwich City NEST project.
- This year, 2021-22, recognising that small projects could make a big difference, the scheme had been widened to include smaller projects. As such, £250,000 of the funding had been available for grants of between £5,000 and £50,000 and £750,000 had been available for grants of between £50,000 and £750,000.
- A total of £4.8m had been requested across a range of different projects.
- The decisions on who to award funding to had been made and successful projects would be contacted later that week
- Funding would support vulnerable people and communities, increase independence through training and routes into employment and allow communities to come together and enjoy activities and improved facilities

#### **6 Public Question Time**

6.1 No public questions were received.

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

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

7.2.1 Cllr Brenda Jones asked a supplementary question:

- What consultation with families and carers has there been about the commitment for minimal reliance on independent hospital provision? If private hospitals are to be used less, where will people who need care and protection of the mental health act go?

7.2.2 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention replied that private hospitals were an NHS matter. The Council liaised closely with the Clinical Commissioning Group and if they required any help from the Council in shaping their policy and with consultation, the Council would support this.

#### **8. Crowdfund Norfolk**

8.1.1 Cabinet received the report outlining the proposal for Growth and Development to

launch a crowdfunding platform.

8.1.2 The Vice-Chairman introduced the report to Cabinet:

- This report introduced the launch of Crowdfund Norfolk, a new funding mechanism which would bring together individual and Norfolk County Council funding to support community-led projects which matched Norfolk County Council objectives
- Paragraph 2.1 of the report discussed the first phase of funding where donations would be raised; this funding would be matched by the Council.
- Successful projects would be required to crowdfund at least 50% of the total project fund.
- The Evidence and Reasons for the decision were set out in paragraph 4 of the report. Data indicated that a return on the investment from the Council would be between 200 and 800% with an average of 300% showing that this would provide both benefits for the Council as well as communities.

8.1.3 The Cabinet Member for Communities and Partnerships also introduced the report to Cabinet:

- This scheme followed a similar approach to the parish partnership fund and once established would be able to support a variety of groups with projects.
- This approach was shown to be working well in other counties and it would be interesting to see how it developed as an opportunity to provide funding for local groups.

8.2 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention spoke in support of the proposals set out in the report which provided an opportunity for integration with public need and responding to grass roots desires and projects. The people of Norfolk were innovative and keen to develop their communities, and this would support this.

8.3 The Chairman agreed that this project was similar to the parish partnership scheme and was also similar to the social infrastructure fund.

8.4 Cabinet **RESOLVED**

1. To approve the development and launch of Crowdfund Norfolk.
2. To approve the focus on environmental projects for the initial launch of the platform followed by additional policy areas if successful.

8.5 **Evidence and reasons for Decision**

There is clear evidence of demand for crowdfunding in Norfolk: data provided by Crowdfunder.co.uk indicates that in 2019-2020, the platform hosted 168 Norfolk-based projects that raised £378,000 in donations. However, while there is clear appetite for the platform, Norfolk does not currently have a local authority offering a crowdfunding platform with the opportunity for match funding. We can use our profile and communications presence as well as our elected members' own contacts, to drive awareness of Crowdfund Norfolk and the funding available. Crowdfund Norfolk will provide a new platform to enable NCC to leverage community funds to meet our priorities and support eligible projects to access our funding.

Data from existing platforms demonstrates we can expect a return on investment of between 200 – 800%, with an average of 300%. These estimates are based on similar local authority schemes already in operation. One particularly impressive example is a UK-based City Council. They pledged £38,230 to projects across a 6-month period. This leveraged £50,586 worth of funding from Crowdfunder.co.uk partners and £239,636 in donations from the general public. This City Council therefore managed to support £321,452 worth of project by pledging £38,230.

## 8.6 Alternative Options

**Do nothing:** the opportunity to engage with the community and leverage alternative funding for projects meeting NCC priorities would be lost.

### **Set up a new bespoke platform specifically for Norfolk County**

**Council:** In this scenario we would miss out on the established brand awareness of existing third-party providers. Our access to the established community of donors and partners which already operate on the existing providers' platforms would be limited and we would therefore reduce the amount of funding we can realistically expect to crowdfund.

## 9 Strategic Property Asset Management Framework 2021/22 – 2026/27

- 9.1.1 Cabinet received the report outlining the new Strategic Property Asset Management framework required to replace the Asset Management Plan; its adoption would meet the needs and requirements of the County Council by helping to establish the rules, culture, behaviours and key principles for the management and exploitation of the property portfolio.
- 9.1.2 The Cabinet Member for Commercial Services and Asset Management introduced the report to Cabinet:
- This framework had been developed to provide direction for the Council's land and property management portfolio, working with partners to focus on inclusive growth and social mobility, encouraging housing infrastructure and jobs, developing the workforce and working to reduce the impact on the environment.
  - The framework set out how the Council would manage all its resources including land and property; Norfolk County Council owned and occupied a diverse property portfolio, with property acquired or disposed of based on changing requirements and policies.
  - Most land and buildings in the portfolio were operational sites and detailed in the report.
  - For capital accounting purposes, the value of the portfolio was £650m including assets under construction and in surplus based on their current use and value for accounting purposes.
  - In January 2020, Corporate Select Committee agreed to form a small task and finish Member working group to assist officers in developing the Strategic Property Asset Management Framework; several workshops were held supported by The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) in 2020 to look at best practice and explore themes to include in the framework.
  - The framework set out clear priorities to ensure the Council would act as a responsible property owner, landlord and with partners to deliver efficient services.

- The Cabinet Member for Commercial Services and Asset Management moved the recommendations as set out in the report.

- 9.2 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention highlighted the definition of strategic asset management set out in paragraph 3.4 of the report. He noted that the two joint outcomes of CIPFA could only be achieved if resources were used efficiently and this was demonstrated through this strategy.
- 9.3 The Cabinet Member for Finance noted that the strategy's aims and objectives covered responsibilities effectively and enforced thinking so that the best possible delivery of services could be provided from the properties in the portfolio, creating a wider opportunity to look at return efficiencies.
- 9.4 The Chairman noted the single estate approach of the property portfolio which linked to the one public estate programme.
- 9.5 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to recommend to Full Council the adoption of the Strategic Property Asset Management Framework as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.

9.6 **Evidence and Reasons for Decision**

The County Council's current constitution recognises the value of an asset management plan and notes it is part of the council's policy framework (Constitution Article 4).

The current asset management plan is now out of date and the Council requires a new framework.

9.7 **Alternative Options**

An asset management plan is a requirement of the County Council's current constitution.

An alternative option course would be to ask officers and Members of the Corporate Select Committee to produce an alternative draft asset management framework.

**10 Electric Vehicle Strategy**

- 10.1.1 Cabinet received the report outlining proposals for the Council to adopt a formal process to issue highway licences upon request, giving permission to applicants to place a suitably protected cable across the public footway following an assessment to determine both suitability and need. It is envisaged that this new process would be a temporary solution that would promote earlier uptake of electric vehicles until a time when alternative nearby public electric vehicle charging infrastructure is available.
- 10.1.2 The Executive Director for Community and Environmental Services noted that this strategy was part of the Council's work on the journey to net zero carbon.
- 10.1.3 The Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport introduced the report to Cabinet:

- Switching to electric vehicles was identified in the latest draft Local Transport Plan as one of the most effective policies to reduce carbon emissions from transport; the council could accelerate uptake by supporting greater availability of charging points.
- To assist with delivery and in line with Government initiatives an electric vehicle strategy was being developed by the council, as shown in appendix A of the report, based on a review of the situation in Norfolk. Work had begun to look at how the council could promote more public electric vehicle charging points across Norfolk through a collaborative pilot project with the regional electricity distribution network operator
- A proposal to install on-street charging points in residential streets in Norwich was in the final stages of development. The council would facilitate installation, with Government grant funding subsidising private investment.
- Proposals to enable the council to seek Government grant funding to subsidise the cost of installing charge points through The Local Highway Member Fund would reduce the cost payable from the member fund to 25% to encourage more investment in electric vehicle infrastructure.
- Demand for electric vehicle charging was expected to be higher at home however 25% of vehicles parked on public streets nationally creating a challenge due to lack of on-street charging points on public roads.
- The council, as highway authority, was increasingly receiving requests for advice and permission to place charging cables across public footways between electric vehicles and properties. It was proposed that the council adopt a formal process to grant highway licences for applicants to place suitably protected cable across public footways following assessment of need and suitability. This would be a temporary solution to promote earlier uptake of electric vehicles until other infrastructure was available
- The Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport moved the recommendations with an amendment to recommendation 2 to add “subject to the legal and safety issues being satisfactorily resolved”.

- 10.2 The Vice-Chairman pointed out that in residential permit parking areas, some people were unable to park outside their house each day; this was an issue which would need taking into consideration moving forward with highway charging licences.
- 10.3 The Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste saw Norfolk as a pioneer for electric vehicles, noting that Norfolk County Council was upfront in doing trials, working with electric companies, and working with partners to make progress in this area.
- 10.4 The Cabinet Member for Finance referred to recommendation 4 that he would like to see the process in place to allow groups to put funded charging points in place as soon as possible, particularly in rural areas.
- 10.5 The Chairman noted that this was the start of work in this area, with work also being undertaken by the commercial sector.
- 10.6 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to:
1. Agree the Electric Vehicle strategy provided in Appendix A of the report.
  2. Agree to the introduction of a process for eligible residents to apply for a highway licence to place cables across public footways in order to charge

Electric Vehicles on street as detailed in Appendix B of the report subject to the legal safety issues being satisfactorily resolved

3. Agree to proposals to secure funding to enable public Electric Vehicle charge points to be installed on public streets in Norwich.
4. Agree to proposals to alter the process to install Electric Vehicle charge points in community hubs funded via the local highway member fund to help maximise the number of schemes that can be brought forward.

## **10.7 Evidence and Reasons for Decision**

The proposed electric vehicle strategy detailed in appendix a sets out ways that the uptake of electric vehicles can be supported through our role as the local highway authority. It is proposed that this strategy is agreed by the Council in line with our NCC Corporate Environmental Policy.

In line with some of the recommendations in the electric vehicle strategy, further proposals have been developed to:

- Provide highway licences to eligible residents which, following an assessment process, will permit applicants to place cables across public footways in order to enable the electric vehicle charging on public streets;
- Facilitate the installation of public electric vehicle charge points on residential streets in Norwich where there is a high proportion of on-street parking;
- Maximise the number of charge points installed in community hubs via the local highway member fund by implementing alterations to the process in order that subsidies from external funding sources can be maximised.

These proposals have been put forward in response to findings from several studies, both locally and nationally, that the lack of suitable electric vehicle charging infrastructure is cited as the main concern by prospective electric vehicle owners. 59% of respondents to a local survey said that they would be more likely to switch to an electric vehicle if there was more public charging infrastructure available, and around 80% of charging demand is expected to be home-based.

## **10.8 Alternative Options**

The council could own and operate public charge points on the highway instead of seeking private investment. This would require a funding source to be identified and staffing resources would be required to maintain equipment. This option was ruled out since the council does not have the specialist knowledge that exists in the private sector in terms of installing, maintaining and operating electric vehicle charge points.

## **11 Annual Review of Norfolk Adoption Service 2020- 2021**

- 11.1.1 Cabinet received the report updating Cabinet Members on the performance of and outcomes achieved by Norfolk's Adoption Service.
- 11.1.2 The Executive Director for Children's Services reported that it was a statutory requirement for Cabinet to consider, endorse and recommend this report to full Council. The adoption service was rated outstanding by Ofsted in 2018 and strived to deliver excellent services.

- 11.1.3 The Chairman introduced the report to Cabinet:
- The Chairman noted the outstanding judgement by Ofsted which was an achievement to be proud of.
  - The service approved prospective adopters, prepared children for adoption, and provided post adoption support, ensuring children were brought up in secure homes.
  - 2020-21 had been a challenging period for the service because of the Covid-19 pandemic
  - Part of the work of the adoption service had been carried out in partnership with Adopt East, with regional sharing of best practice, pooling of resources and development of a strategic approach to commissioning of post adoption support services.
  - Page 98 of the report detailed recruitment approval which had been refreshed to increase and maintain the number of adopters to meet local and national need. The number of approved adopters had decreased to 39 during the year 2020-21 due to a smaller number of suitable applicants although this was now increasing. There was a need to recruit more adopters, especially those looking adopt harder to place children including older children, children from black, minority and ethnic groups and sibling groups. Marketing to recruit adopters had been increased particularly on social media and targeted advertising.
  - There were 52 children with an adoption plan in the reported period; this was a decrease due to fewer children becoming looked after and a decrease in special guardianships.
  - Early permanence, placing children with foster carers who wanted to adopt, allowed children to make attachments and reduced the need to change placements. This was a successful area of work and early permanence placements continued to increase.
  - 57 looked after children were placed with prospective adopters in 2020-21 compared with 53 in 2019-20; 48 children were subject to adoption orders in 2020-21, compared to 63 in 2019-20
  - Adoption support was a successful area of work of the service and was critical to avoiding placement breakdown
  - There was uncertainty around continuation of the adoption support fund; in response the team had upskilled social workers to deliver support if this ceased
  - The Chairman moved the recommendations as set out in the report
- 11.2 The Cabinet Member for Finance congratulated the Executive Director for Children's Services for the quality of the service and noted the success seen in recruitment and enhanced fostering. He noted the slowing of adoption during the pandemic however that the preventative work undertaken by children's services was shown to be working by data presented in the report.
- 11.3 The Cabinet Member for Communities and Partnerships thanked staff for their work supporting children and helping them find permanent families. The Cabinet Member for Innovation, Transformation and Performance also thanked staff for their work.
- 11.4 The Chairman asked The Executive Director for Children's Services to pass on thanks and congratulations from Cabinet Members to staff in the adoption, residential and fostering services.



- 11.5 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to endorse the Statement of Purpose for the Norfolk Adoption Service for year 2020/21 and recommend it to Full Council for adoption as part of the Council's Policy Framework.
- 11.6 **Evidence and Reasons for Decision**
- N/A
- 11.7 **Alternative Options**
- N/A
- 12 Annual Review of Norfolk Fostering Service**
- 12.1.1 Cabinet received the report updating Cabinet Members on the performance of and outcomes achieved by Norfolk Fostering Service.
- 12.1.2 The Executive Director for Children's Services reported that the fostering service annual report was a statutory requirement for Cabinet to consider and recommend to Council. It included information reflecting the work of the fostering service over the past couple of years as part of the transformation agenda and showed strengthening of practice and improvements seen during this time.
- 12.1.3 The Chairman introduced the report to Cabinet:
- 2020-21 had been a challenging year but the service had supported foster carers and placements through the pandemic, improved capacity and quality.
  - The fostering service had grown its cohort of foster carers, with carers continuing to support young people in Norfolk.
  - The report set out key strengths, performance outcomes and challenges looking forward.
  - The enhanced fostering team was now embedded in the fostering service and focussed on matching children from residential placements with families.
  - An increase in inquiries from foster carers from independent agencies had been seen in the reported period.
  - The service required visits to carers to take place within 10 days and a response to enquiries to be made in 24 hrs or 72 hrs if over a weekend. The average amount of time for foster carer households to receive approval was 6 months.
  - The number of foster carers available to foster teenagers was low, so the recruitment strategy would focus on recruiting carers to take children aged 8 plus; the Chairman encouraged anyone interested in fostering children in this age group to apply.
  - The Chairman moved the recommendations as set out in the report.
- 12.2 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention noted the impact of foster parents on the outcomes of vulnerable children as they provided a safe and caring environment for children. He thanked foster carers for their commitment throughout the pandemic and endorsed the Chairman's words encouraging carers willing to foster children aged over 8 to come forward; being a foster carer was a challenging but rewarding and important role.
- 12.3 The Vice-Chairman noted the future challenges for the foster service including recruitment of 54 carers alongside 10 enhanced and new roads foster carers and

increasing diversity in foster carers but felt that, overall, this was a positive report

12.4 The Chairman noted the importance of the work to promote recruitment of foster carer recruitment.

12.5 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to endorse the Statements of Purpose for Norfolk Fostering Service and recommend it to Full Council for adoption as part of the Council's Policy Framework and to comply with the Care Standards Act 2000 and Fostering Regulations 2011.

12.6 **Evidence and Reasons for Decision**

N/A

12.7 **Alternative Options**

N/A

### 13 **Annual Review of NCC Residential Children's Homes**

13.1.1 Cabinet received the report providing an update on the performance of and outcomes achieved by Norfolk's Residential Children's Homes Service.

13.1.2 The Executive Director for Children's Services reported that Norfolk County Council's in-house residential care provision was high quality with long standing, dedicated and experienced staff. Work had expanded so that staff worked with families and foster carers to allow children to experience family based care. The Executive Director for Children's Services updated Cabinet that the recommendation should state that "the Statements of Purpose and Functions be recommended to Council" *\*The Monitoring Officer clarified after the meeting that these do not need to be recommended to Full Council.*

13.1.3 The Chairman introduced the report to Cabinet:

- The New Roads Service had been launched, with hubs in Dereham and Norwich and a new children with disabilities residential provision had recently received Ofsted approval.
- Four homes had been renovated and there were plans to renovate others
- The needs of families and children had changed and therefore the market needed to change in response.
- The New Roads Service was a newly launched service for children to get help through an integrated team. £5m funding had been received from the Department for Education to embed this service.
- The majority of new placements were now in-house. The enhanced fostering service was aiming to reduce reliance on agency care and keep children in Norfolk.
- Skilled and committed staff and tailored support were important to support children. The cost of a placement in an in-house residential home was £3000 per week compared to £4000 per week, showing that, as well as providing benefits to children, in-house placements also provided a financial advantage to the Council.
- The Chairman moved the recommendations as discussed. *\*The Monitoring Officer clarified after the meeting that the report did not need to be recommended to Full Council.*

- 13.2 The Cabinet Member for Finance agreed that a continued effort should be made to place as many children in Norfolk as possible.
- 13.3 The Cabinet Member for Innovation, Transformation and Performance felt that the money spent on refurbishing residential homes was positive, and ensuring children were housed in Norfolk was important to ensure children remained near their families.
- 13.4 The Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste felt it was important to be proud of the county's care homes and invest in them and experienced staff.
- 13.5 The Chairman asked the Executive Director for Children's Services to take the positive comments back made by Cabinet Members to staff in the adoption, fostering and residential home services.
- 13.6 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to note and approve this annual report.

*\*The Monitoring Officer clarified after the meeting that this report does not need to be recommended to Full Council.*

13.7 **Evidence and Reasons for Decision**

See report

13.8 **Alternative Options**

N/A

**14 Modern Slavery Statement**

- 14.1.1 Cabinet received the report setting out how the council supports the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and otherwise mitigates modern slavery risks.

The Chairman introduced the report to Cabinet

- The Government had made its intention clear to require Local Authorities to adopt a Modern Slavery Statement, but in the meantime the Council had set out how it supported the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and mitigated the risks of modern slavery.
- The County Council had recognised the risks of all forms of modern slavery and committed to identifying and disrupting it using statutory powers, roles as a public procurer, in partnership with the police, NHS and other organisations and through awareness raising
- The council would take a zero-tolerance approach to modern slavery and act in transparency in all its business dealings
- Appendix A of the report showed the steps taken to ensure there was no slavery or trafficking in the Council's business dealings or partners it worked with and plans for improvement. This document would be reviewed annually to ensure it was fit for purpose
- The statement focussed on high-risk areas, procurement and staff training to identify the correct approach
- The council was compliant with the Modern Slavery act 2015.
- Planned actions for 2021-22 included an audit of supply chain compliance,

promoting the slavery act statement to staff and providers, training, reviewing related policies, registering the statement when required by Government, and requiring Executive Directors to confirm the policies are complied with to support the annual governance statements.

- The Chairman moved the recommendations as set out in the report.

14.2 The Cabinet Member for Finance discussed that modern slavery was a danger to the most vulnerable in society, and highlighted paragraph 3.6 of the equality impact assessment which showed the most likely sectors to see modern slavery. These included farming and construction, which were key employment areas in Norfolk. He hoped that the statement would be backed up with the vigilance of people in Norfolk and Government empowering the Council to deal with the issue.

14.3 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to agree:

1. To Adopt the Modern Slavery Statement, in Appendix A of the report, including the plan for improvements, which will be reviewed by the Director of Governance and reported annually to the Cabinet
2. That the Director of Governance has a general dispensation to amend this statement in light of future legislative developments.

#### 14.4 **Evidence and Reasons for Decision**

The Council wishes to demonstrate how it supports the Modern Slavery Act 2015, by producing and publishing an annual statement on this. All departments have been consulted in its preparation, and the proposed statement is considered to properly identify the Council's commitment and approach.

#### 14.5 **Alternative Options**

Although the content of the Statement could differ, the Council is expecting a requirement to produce and publish a Statement, so no alternative option has been considered.

### 15 **Norfolk County Community Safety Partnership – Safer Norfolk Plan 2021-2024**

15.1.1 Cabinet received the report setting out the Norfolk County Community Safety Partnership, a partnership plan between the Community Safety Partnership and statutory partners, Police, Fire, Probation, Clinical Commissioning Groups, District Councils and County Councils. The plan brought together an evidence led and locality focussed Norfolk-wide approach to deliver a strategic approach to Norfolk-wide concerns, such as County Lines and domestic violence, ensuring a local, nuanced approach when required in areas of concentration or concern.

15.1.2 The Cabinet Member for Communities and Partnerships introduced the report to Cabinet

- A memorandum of understanding was in place between the Council and partners to create the community safety team to ensure resilient communities and tackle crime
- The Safer Norfolk plan enabled partners to support and protect local people to work together and to avoid duplication and share knowledge
- The Cabinet Member for Communities and Partnerships moved the recommendations as set out in the report

- 15.2 The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention noted that the plan had been presented to other groups and partners before being brought to Cabinet. This was an important plan for the council to adopt, enabling work in partnership with other authorities.
- 15.3 The Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste noted the positive work of the early help hub in his district which had been successful due to joint working between partnership agencies. The plan would work due to partnership working bringing about change.
- 15.4 The Chairman drew attention to the priorities of the plan set out on page 233 of the report and the fact that this plan had been subject to consultation.
- 15.5 The Vice-Chairman noted the narrative in paragraph 2.1.2 of the Plan, which discussed the challenging period for delivery following Brexit, recognising that partners were working together to ensure good outcomes.
- 15.6 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to agree Norfolk County Council's support for the endorsement of the Safer Norfolk Plan 2021-2024 and its community approach to community safety.

15.7 **Evidence and Reasons for Decision**

The Safer Norfolk Plan 2021-2024 requires Cabinet approval given the requirements to work with NCCSP (Norfolk County Community Safety Partnership).

15.8 **Alternative Options**

Officers have considered all the implications which members should be aware of. Apart from those listed in this report, there are no other implications to take into account.

**16 Notifications of Exemptions Under Contract Standing Orders**

- 16.1 Cabinet received the report setting out exemptions to standing orders granted for the award of contracts valued in excess of £250,000 and purchases up to 10 September 2021.
- 16.2 The Cabinet Member for Finance moved the recommendation as set out in the report.
- 16.3 Cabinet **RESOLVED**, as required by paragraph 10.b of Contract Standing Orders, to note the exemptions over £250,000 that have been granted under paragraph 10.a.ii of those orders by the Director of Procurement and Director of Governance in consultation with the Leader of the Council.

16.4 **Evidence and Reasons for Decision:**

N/A

16.5 **Alternative Options**

## **17 Finance Monitoring Report 2021-22 P5: August 2021**

- 17.1.1 Cabinet received the report giving a summary of the forecast financial position for the 2021-22 Revenue and Capital Budgets, General Balances, and the Council's Reserves at 31 March 2022, together with related financial information.
- 17.1.2 The Cabinet Member for Finance introduced the report to Cabinet:
- At the end of August 2021, taking into account the bringing forward of £19.274 million against ongoing Covid pressures, the Council remained confident in forecasting a balanced position for the end of the financial year.
  - The Cabinet Member for Finance noted the latest forecast increase in the Dedicated Schools Grant Reserve to £49.9 million due to the forecast overspend in the High Needs Block. Although this was not currently impacting the balance sheet of Local Authorities, it was one of a number of key reforms where the Council sought urgent Government action to resolve increasing deficits in this area.
  - The Cabinet Member for Finance highlighted Table 5 in the report, showing a reduction of £2 million in the amount of savings deemed deliverable by the Executive Director for Adult Social Services. This was due to the high demand for short term residential care following hospital discharge while pandemic pressure persisted. The Council provided a significant increase to departmental reserves to cover this type of risk.
  - There were 8 recommendations set out in the report and the Cabinet Member for Finance gave detail on some of these:
    - Recommendation 1 asked for an addition of nearly £4 million to the capital programme funded by the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, to fund the Council's ongoing Local Fibre Network programme.
    - Recommendation 7 noted that a 95% not 100% savings delivery was now being forecast for the reasons and mitigations already stated.
    - Recommendation 4 suggested that Cabinet agree in principal to submit a request to form a Business Rates Pool for Norfolk with District Councils. This was generally a positive initiative, providing readily accessible funds to boost economic growth across the County. It was decided in 2021/22 not to proceed given the uncertainty of the impact of the pandemic on business rates income. Subject to firmer confirmation of District Council forecasts, and willingness of District Councils to participate, a final decision would be made prior to the deadline in January 2022. This decision would be delegated to the Leader in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance and the Cabinet Member for Finance.
  - A key part of the Budget Planning Process was to consult the people of Norfolk on any savings that would mean a change to the nature of their services and on the level of Council Tax. In light of the timing of the 2021 Spending Review, due on 27 October alongside the Autumn Budget, there was currently too much ambiguity, too many variables to consider, and not enough clarity around social care reforms to make a sensible case for the level of Council Tax in the 2022/23 financial year.
  - At the Spending Review, the Government would provide clarity and there would be a major opportunity to definitively address the critical, long standing funding issues facing Local Government in order to set local

authorities on a stable long-term financial foundation by providing the resources to deliver a multi-year local government finance settlement, whilst increasing the envelope of funding for local authorities.

- The report highlighted the following key areas of immediate concern:
  - A multiyear local government finance settlement;
  - An overall increase in the level of funding for local authorities;
  - Historic Rural/metropolitan funding gap issues to be addressed;
  - All unfunded new and existing burdens to be provided for;
  - A meaningful immediate reform of Adult Social Care funding for Local Authorities;
  - A resolution to the High Needs Block funding deficit;
  - The adequate funding of Public Health locally;
- Answers to these questions would enable the Council to consult on the level of any Council Tax increase, which was set for policy development purposes at 1.99% General Council Tax increase plus a 1% Adult Social Care precept. The level and nature of any savings would be predicated on the level and nature of short and long term Government support.
- The speed with which the Council could roll out our preventative programmes in Adults and Childrens' services; or the development of our Active Travel programme in conjunction with a strong integrated Public Health message; or the scale of our Mainstream economic post-covid recovery programme, or improving the quality of employment and delivering the strong infrastructure that supports it; or the speed and quantum with which we can move forward with flooding and coastline management or environmental programmes, such as our Protected Landscapes initiatives; were all contingent on adequately funding local government to do its job.
- In the longer term, we are lobbying that Government should:
  - Provide sustainable and fair funding, including updating the relative needs formula and addressing historic funding gaps.
  - Adequately fund Local Government to enable us to support the achievement of national carbon reduction aims.
  - Take forward council tax reform to address inequalities.
  - Deliver business rates reform.
- Local government was uniquely placed to support people to thrive and make a major contribution to the Government's "levelling up" agenda. Evidence suggested that past investments in prevention have had a significant long-term social return on investment. Therefore, by adequately funding local authorities, Government could support people in all areas of the country to live healthier, independent lives for longer while saving money in the future

17.2 The Cabinet Member for Innovation, Transformation and Performance noted that Full Fibre for Norfolk was one of the best run of these types of programmes in the UK. Norfolk had worked in collaboration with internet providers with positive outcomes, achieving 96% uptake of high-speed broadband. 13.7% of the income was given back to the County in rebates when uptake exceeded targets.

17.3 The Chairman noted that funding for local government was a national issue; long-term funding was required for the Council to deliver services. The recent social care funding announcement was a partial fix with initial funding going to the NHS. The Chairman therefore supported work done by the Local Government Association and County Council Network in lobbying the Government in this area. Consistently raising Council Tax was not an acceptable solution for the Council or for residents.

17.4

Cabinet **RESOLVED:**

1. To recommend to County Council the addition of £3.952m to the capital programme to address the capital funding requirements as set out in detail in Capital Appendix 3, paragraph 4.2 in the report, as follows;
  - £3.952m for the 2021-22 Local Full Fibre Network funded by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)
2. Subject to County Council approval of recommendation 1 above, to delegate:
  - 2.1) To the Director of Procurement authority to undertake the necessary procurement processes including the determination of the minimum standards and selection criteria (if any) and the award criteria; to shortlist bidders; to make provisional award decisions (in consultation with the Chief Officer responsible for each scheme); to award contracts; to negotiate where the procurement procedure so permits; and to terminate award procedures if necessary;
  - 2.2) To the Director of Property authority (notwithstanding the limits set out at 5.13.6 and 5.13.7 of Financial Regulations) to negotiate or tender for or otherwise acquire the required land to deliver the schemes (including temporary land required for delivery of the works) and to dispose of land so acquired that is no longer required upon completion of the scheme;
  - 2.3) To each responsible chief officer authority to:
    - (in the case of two-stage design and build contracts) agree the price for the works upon completion of the design stage and direct that the works proceed; or alternatively direct that the works be recompeted
    - approve purchase orders, employer's instructions, compensation events or other contractual instructions necessary to effect changes in contracts that are necessitated by discoveries, unexpected ground conditions, planning conditions, requirements arising from detailed design or minor changes in scope
    - subject always to the forecast cost including works, land, fees and disbursements remaining within the agreed scheme or programme budget.
    - That the officers exercising the delegated authorities set out above shall do so in accordance with the council's Policy Framework, with the approach to Social Value in Procurement endorsed by Cabinet at its meeting of 6 July 2020, and with the approach set out in the paper entitled "Sourcing strategy for council services" approved by Policy & Resources Committee at its meeting of 16 July 2018.
3. To note the update on the budget setting process for 2022-23 as set out in Appendix 4 of the report
4. To agree in principle to submit a request to form a Business Rates Pool with Norfolk District Councils for 2022-23 as set out in Appendix 4 section 2.3 in the report, and delegate a final decision on pooling for 2022-23 to



the Leader in consultation with the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services.

5. To note the period 5 general fund forecast revenue **balanced position**, noting also that Executive Directors will continue to take measures to reduce or eliminate potential over-spends where these occur within services;
6. To note the COVID-19 funding available of **£72.466m**, including £19.274m brought forward from 2020-21;
7. To note the period 5 forecast 95% savings delivery in 2021-22, noting also that Executive Directors will continue to take measures to mitigate potential savings shortfalls through alternative savings or underspends;
8. To note the forecast General Balances as at 31 March 2022 of **£23.763m**.
9. To note the expenditure and funding of the revised current and future 2021-25 capital programmes, including the update from the Better Broadband project in Appendix 3, section 1.11 in the report; highlighting the receipt of rebates to date which will effectively remove the need for the £11m external borrowing earmarked to fund this project. Next month's report will reflect this reduction in external borrowing requirement in Appendix 3 of the report.

**18 Reports of the Cabinet Member and Officer Delegated Decisions made since the last Cabinet meeting:**

- 18.1 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to **note** the Delegated Decisions made since the last Cabinet meeting.

The meeting ended at 11.27

**The Chairman**

**Cabinet  
4 October 2021  
Local Member Questions**

<b>Agenda item 7</b>	<b>Local Member Issues/Questions</b>
7.1	<p><b>Question from Cllr Paul Neale</b> National Highway's figures show the three A47 schemes around Norwich would release a combined total of 140,000 tonnes of CO2 from construction before 2025. If built, they would then release around 12,500 tonnes of CO2 each year in addition to Norfolk's already increasing transport emissions. This is before other schemes such as the Norwich Western link. Why is the Council only making minor changes to the Local Transport Plan (LTP4), rushing it back to November Full Council, and not revising the Strategic Environmental Assessment to assess the cumulative carbon impacts of these schemes which lie in the plan's period.</p> <p><b>Response from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste / Highways, Infrastructure and Transport</b> NCC considers that cumulative impact has been reasonably and proportionately addressed in the development, assessment and appraisal of the LTP, but does not recognise the figures to which you refer. The county council is now taking into consideration government guidance published during LTP4 adoption process and is allowing sufficient time to enable it to do this prior to bringing forward the LTP for adoption.</p> <p><b>Supplementary Question from Cllr Paul Neale</b> The United Nations advises a 45% carbon emissions cut this decade, the UK has committed to a 68% emissions reduction by 2030 under the Paris Agreement, and hosting COP 26 this month. With the Transport Decarbonisation Plan mandating local transport carbon targets, will the Leader suspend the "Just Dual It/Just Fund It" campaign and review whether supporting the A47 schemes is consistent with local and national policy, and international efforts to tackle climate change?</p> <p><b>Response from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste / Highways, Infrastructure and Transport</b> There is an overwhelming case for A47 improvements. The A47 does not perform its role as the strategic road into the county in its current state. Dualling the road would spread prosperity throughout the region by ensuring that vital journeys are quicker and more reliable, reducing uncertainty and costs to businesses. Investment would help unlock much needed housing and jobs growth including investment into the nationally important energy sector sited off the eastern energy coast. Dualling would help level-up and tackle deprivation felt in communities by building back better following the disproportionate impacts of Covid-19 on tourism and hospitality in the region. Moreover, dualling would make the road safer and reduce impacts on communities through which the unimproved stretches pass.</p> <p>Bringing forward improvement schemes will also enable much-needed measures to enhance travel choice through multi-modal solutions (such as active travel and public transport) to ensure that building back better addresses the range of challenges faced.</p>

7.2	<p><b>Question from Cllr Maxine Webb</b> Can the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention confirm how many adults have had their respite cancelled in the last six months?</p> <p><b>Response from the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention</b> Thank you for your question.</p> <p>All respite services for people with learning disabilities have now reopened as a result of the success of the wider vaccination programme, as you will be aware they are provided by a number of different organisations. Adult Social Services has asked learning disability respite providers to collate information about cancelled stays but the results are not in yet.</p> <p>For older people and people with physical disabilities, when we paused planned respite as a result of lockdown originally from April 2020, we cancelled all planned bookings. This affected around 9 clients. All clients were contacted directly by NCC to explain the situation and ensure there was no risk of carer breakdown/safeguarding issues and suitable provision would have been arranged should these needs have been identified. Planned respite was reinstated from late May 2021 on a phased and limited approach, with the dedicated planned respite beds made fully available from July 21st 2021. As the planned respite offer has only recently been made fully available, we would expect the number of cancelled bookings to be very low (or nil).</p> <p><b>Supplementary question from Cllr Maxine Webb</b> How many adults have not had their respite or day care reinstated since the easing of lockdown restrictions on 19th July 2021?</p> <p><b>Response from the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention</b> Thank you for your question.</p> <p>All residential respite services for people with Learning Difficulties have now reopened. There is nobody unable to attend because day care services are closed, but there are 383 less people using the service and there are several reasons why the figure is lower. There are people who are choosing not to attend because they are clinically extremely vulnerable and many people have chosen to have their needs met in other ways through direct payments. Transport is currently also a limiting factor because of the risk of infection.</p> <p>For older people and people with physical disabilities we know of nine people who have been affected by their day centres not re-opening. These people are being supported to ensure their needs continue to be met. The dedicated planned respite beds were made fully available for older people and people with physical disabilities from July 21 2021, with 11 beds that could be accessed for this purpose. These can be booked to support any planned respite required.</p>
7.3	<p><b>Question from Cllr Alison Birmingham</b> Can the Cabinet Member for Adults Social Care, Public Health and Prevention confirm what information and guidance has been produced for people who employ</p>

	<p>Personal Assistants to help them understand their rights as employers when considering testing regimes, PPE and vaccination statuses for their employees?</p> <p><b>Response from the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention</b> Thank you for your question.</p> <p>As you would expect, regular communications have continued to be issued to all adults and parents/carers of individuals receiving a direct payment (DP) in Norfolk. Currently twelve separate communications (letter, email and telephone call) have been shared since April 2020. They were issued directly to all adults and parents/carer of individuals, shared on NCC Direct Payments Facebook page and are available on the NCC website - Direct Payment: Coronavirus updates and advice - Norfolk County Council.</p> <p>The communications have included FAQs, weblinks to NHS England and Gov.uk guidance, and contact details for the local Direct Payments Support Service. Information and guidance provided has been across a range of topics, including:</p> <p>Legal employment law changes for employers, including rates of pay, contracts, holiday Accessing Covid-19 tests, including information on how to access test kits and when to test Accessing Flu injections Co-ordinated support with NCC Covid-19 response team to book vaccination appointments for all DP personal assistants PA's sick pay and paid leave Guidance around shielding and self-isolating How to access PPE for PAs/carers – with a dedicated email mailbox to request delivery of PPE Letters for PAs to evidence that they are key workers to support priority access to shops and fuel</p>
7.4	<p><b>Question from Cllr Terry Jermy</b> The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention advised Council on 27th September that he thought “there might be around a few hundred people who haven't had their vaccinations in time” in response to my question about the vaccination deadline and the impact on social care staffing levels. As a lead commissioner of social care in Norfolk I assume data on known issues is collected to prepare contingency plans to mitigate risks. Can he therefore confirm how many social care staff in Norfolk have missed the vaccination deadline?</p> <p><b>Response from the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention</b> Thank you for your question.</p> <p>Data is collected from care providers through the National Capacity Tracker, this provides us with a daily view of the vaccination progress across Norfolk care homes. The latest position is that 96% of staff have received at least one vaccination and 90% are fully vaccinated. This is across a workforce of 11,000 staff in care homes in Norfolk giving the figure that 450 staff remain to have their</p>

	<p>first vaccination, however this will include people who are medically exempt. We want people who work in the sector to be vaccinated and clearly are continuing to work with providers and health colleagues to support as many people as possible to receive the vaccination. Vaccination rates continue to increase day by day, however, we know that some people will choose to leave the care home sector when the deadline is reached on 11th November 2021. (The government has issued a temporary self-certification process for medical exemptions, which will be in place until 12 weeks after the launch of the NHS COVID Pass system).</p> <p><b>Supplementary Question from Cllr Terry Jermy</b> What is the anticipated impact this will have on care provision and the mitigating actions that are being taken?</p> <p><b>Response from the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention</b> As you are aware care homes are private businesses, there are 342 registered in Norfolk. 102 homes have 100% of their workforce fully vaccinated. A further 168 care homes have between 90-99% of staff fully vaccinated. For many homes this amounts to one or two people and we know that some will be under 18 or have exemptions. We are currently working with the remaining homes that are under 90% to ensure that any operational impact is understood. Many are confident that remaining staff will meet the deadline for vaccination and care providers are confirming that business continuity plans are in place. However, alongside current staff shortages this is likely to mean that some homes will limit new admissions.</p> <p>Norfolk County Council is encouraging wider measures to support the overall care sector including the launch of the new staff recruitment campaign.</p>
7.5	<p><b>Question from Cllr Brenda Jones</b> At the Norfolk and Waveney CCG's AGM on 28th September 2021, chief nurse Cath Byford said that the CCG is creating "a pooled budget with the adult social care team at Norfolk County Council and a commitment across the whole system to a minimal reliance on independent hospital provision for people with learning disabilities and autistic people". Will the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention tell me how many people are currently in private hospitals?</p> <p><b>Response from the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention</b> Thank you for your question.</p> <p>I understand that there are a total of 14 hospital placements for people funded by the NHS through the Norfolk and Waveney CCG. 3 of these individuals are on extended leave from their placement (so are living in the community, not in the hospital). 7 of these 14 are non-NHS hospital placements.</p> <p>There are a further 17 people in very specialist hospital placements, where the placement is funded and coordinated by NHS England. Of these, 6 people are in non-NHS hospital placements</p>

7.6	<p><b>Question from Cllr Emma Corlett</b></p> <p>The Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman's Annual Review of Adult Social Care Complaints 2020-2021, released on 29th September 2021, shows that 68% of complaints against Norfolk County Council to the Ombudsman in the last year were upheld. It also shows Norfolk County Council had the joint 9th highest number of complaints and enquiries submitted to the Ombudsman about Adult Social Care out of the 350 authorities listed. How will the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention ensure learning from this is enacted so that Norfolk residents can see tangible improvements to services?</p> <p><b>Response from the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention</b></p> <p>Thank you for your question.</p> <p>The Norfolk figure of Adult Social Services complaints to the Ombudsman is 68%, against the national average of 72%. As you would expect the year was an extremely testing one given the pandemic and I would like to give credit to the staff who work in the sector for their hard work and commitment. Complaints are treated as a critical part of Adult Social Service's improvement and learning. We invited the Ombudsman to Norfolk in 2019 to talk to us and for the last two years we have had dedicated work to improve how we respond to complaints, and learn from them so that people's experience of our services is improved. We monitor all complaints for themes and encourage teams to take a restorative approach. The complaints service meets regularly with senior managers and directors from ASSD to ensure the valuable insight and learning provided by complaints is used to inform and support service improvement. Learning from complaints is also shared with all staff in the department through training and guidance.</p> <p>The Ombudsman has confirmed that in 100% of the cases considered by his office during the period considered in the review, he was satisfied the Council had successfully implemented his recommendations and made the required service improvements.</p>
7.7	<p><b>Question from Cllr Mike Sands</b></p> <p>On 24th September 2021, local press reported that bus services were being cut or reduced due to a shortage of bus drivers. A resident in my Division has contacted me, who applied to renew their licence but advised there is a backlog of renewals for Bus and HGV licences dating back to June 2021. Until this driver receives their renewed licence they are unable to drive a bus, depriving Norfolk of at least one bus driver and certainly affecting others.</p> <p>Would the Leader join me in writing to the Secretary of State concerned asking for renewals of licences (Bus and HGV) to be rapidly expedited?</p> <p><b>Response from the Leader and Cabinet Member for Governance and Strategy</b></p> <p>As publicised in both the national and local press, the industry is in a challenging situation and any measures to help increase and fast-track the numbers of HGV and bus drivers is to be welcomed. The Government has recently announced further measures to this effect, which I warmly welcome, so writing to the Secretary of State at this time is not required.</p>

	<p><b>Supplementary Question from Cllr Mike Sands</b> Since the 7th September First Bus has dropped between 10 and 12 buses a day from the greater Norwich area preventing people from getting to work, college and medical appointments. In the new national bus strategy, the Government has instructed local authorities to play a greater role in bus provision through a legally binding contract called an "Enhanced Partnership". What action will the local authority take after the 1st April if a similar situation occurs?</p> <p><b>Response from the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport</b> I am aware that First have had to reduce frequencies on some bus routes due to driver shortages, but they have maintained a level of service in all areas so that people can still travel. After the 1st April, when we have an Enhanced Partnership, we will have more of a say as to where services should potentially be reduced in this type of situation, but we would not be able to stop operators reducing service frequencies if they cannot comply with health and safety requirements and driver's hours regulations.</p>
7.8	<p><b>Question from Cllr Steve Morphew</b> Will the cabinet member join me in urging First Bus to reinstate the 21/22 route in Norwich to go through the Fiddlewood Estate in my division?</p> <p><b>Response from the Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport</b> As part of the future Enhanced Partnership with all bus operators, we will be reviewing all bus service provision, looking at what alternatives are available for people and taking into account the fact that we need to keep services commercially sustainable if they are to continue. At the moment, passenger revenue is still not up to pre-Covid levels and so operators are having to make difficult decisions to ensure services remain at least in part commercially sustainable.</p>
7.9	<p><b>Question from Cllr Alexandra Kemp</b> The Imperial College Report showed an increase in health risks, congenital heart defects and reproductive issues for children living near incinerators. Regulation of incinerator waste fails. In 2017, ash from MVV's Plymouth Incinerator blew up a ship and injured the Chief Engineer. Norfolk County Council is responsible for Public Health. The risks are clear. What further facts does the Administration need, to rethink its decision to vote against my Motion on 27 September asking NCC to tell Govt not to allow a 625,000- tonne capacity incinerator on the Norfolk border, upwind of King's Lynn, Clenchwarton and the Fens?</p> <p><b>Response from the Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste</b> The decision on whether to build a large plant such as an incinerator is subject to a detailed application process that specifies who should be consulted. At the appropriate stage, this includes the Local Authority. Should specialist technical public health evidence be required as part of a Norfolk County Council response, this will be sought from an appropriate national expert in the new UK Health Security Agency (previously Public Health England).</p> <p><b>Second Question from Cllr Alexandra Kemp</b> Three young adults with Learning Disabilities sadly died after neglect, distress and</p>

abuse in privately-run Cawston Park Hospital. The Winterborne Report said that people with Learning Disabilities should have been moved out of residential mental Hospitals by 2014. Does the Cabinet Member agree that Norfolk County Council should set targets to help all adults with Learning Disabilities live in the community, like everyone else, and introduce new structures, as a matter of urgency, with Member Oversight, to monitor well-being and health for all residents remaining in private Hospital settings?

**Response from the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention**

Thank you for your question.

Norfolk County Council is supporting the NHS to achieve the nationally set target to reduce the number of people in specialist hospitals. There are currently 14 people with hospital placements funded by the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group, against a national target of 13. Whilst this is above the national figure, 3 of the individuals are on extended long term leave from hospital and are living in the community. The hospital placement is counted as it is being kept available, should they need to return before their formal discharge from hospital is confirmed.

NHS and NCC partners work together to plan each individual's discharge. I am very pleased that earlier this year, Cabinet agreed to invest millions of pounds of capital to develop new supported living homes in a radical change of policy. We are working with registered social landlords, district councils and developers to build these new homes over the next three years. It is worth noting that this will include homes designed specifically to meet the needs of those who have needed a period of mental health assessment and treatment in hospital, to support timely discharge.

The Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee oversee the performance of NHS services, but the main responsibility is discharged through the shared Learning Disability and Autism Programme Board.