

Norfolk County Council**Minutes of the Meeting Held on Monday 17 October 2016****Present:**

Mr A Adams	Ms A Kemp
Mr S Agnew	Mr J Law
Mr S Askew	Mrs J Leggett
Mr R Bearman	Mr B Long
Mr R Bird	Mr I Mackie
Mr B Borrett	Mr I Monson
Dr A Boswell	Mr J Mooney
Ms C Bowes	Ms E Morgan
Mrs A Bradnock	Mr S Morphew
Mr B Bremner	Mr G Nobbs
Mrs J Brociek-Coulton	Mr W Northam
Mr M Carttiss	Mr R Parkinson-Hare
Mr M Castle	Mr J Perkins
Mrs J Chamberlin	Mr G Plant
Mr J Childs	Mr A Proctor
Mr S Clancy	Mr D Ramsbotham
Mr D Collis	Mr W Richmond
Ms E Corlett	Mr D Roper
Mrs H Cox	Ms C Rumsby
Mr D Crawford	Mr M Sands
Mr A Dearnley	Mr E Seward
Mrs M Dewsbury	Mr N Shaw
Mr N Dixon	Mr R Smith
Mr J Dobson	Mr P Smyth
Mr T East	Mr B Spratt
Mr T FitzPatrick	Mr B Stone
Mr C Foulger	Mrs M Stone
Mr T Garrod	Dr M Strong
Mr A Grey	Mrs A Thomas
Mrs S Gurney	Mr J Timewell
Mr B Hannah	Miss J Virgo
Mr D Harrison	Mrs C Walker
M Chenery of Horsbrugh	Mr J Ward
Mr H Humphrey	Mr B Watkins
Mr B Iles	Ms S Whitaker
Mr T Jermy	Mr M Wilby
Mr C Jordan	Mrs M Wilkinson
Mr J Joyce	

Present: 75

Apologies for Absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Mr M Baker; Mr P Gilmour; Mr T Coke; Mr C Aldred; Mr P Hacon; Mr A Byrne; Mr M Kiddle-Morris; Mr M Storey and Mr A White.

1 Minutes

- 1.1 The minutes of the Council meeting held on 25 July 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendments:
 - 1.1.1 Paragraph 7.1 – (Question from Mr D Roper to Chair of Policy & Resources committee). The date should read 2016-17 and not as stated.
 - 1.1.2 Paragraph 7.5.2. Replace the word “tendering” with the word “tankering”. Sentence to read “Mr Proctor said Norfolk County Council was paying thousands of pounds in tankering water away after the floods, ..

2 Chairman’s Announcements

- 2.1 The Chairman reminded Council that a special Council meeting had been convened for 21 November 2016 to consider devolution.
- 2.2 The Chairman advised Council that the funeral of Mr John Ellis, who had worked for Norfolk County Council for many years as Head of Emergency Planning was held on 17 October.

3 Declarations of Interest

- 3.1 Mrs C Walker declared an interest in item 9 (Norfolk and Waveney Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP)) as her daughter was a midwife at the James Paget Hospital.
- 3.2 Mrs S Gurney declared an interest as a family member was employed by Norse.
- 3.3 Mr I Mackie declared an interest in item 6 (Policy & Resources report from the meeting held on 26 September 2016) as he was a Director of Norse and Interim Norse Chairman of all subsidiaries.
- 3.4 Mrs M Dewsbury declared an interest as she had a family member who was employed by Norse.

4 Questions to Leader of the Council

4.1 Question from Mr G Nobbs.

Mr Nobbs said that the Leader and he were of one opinion that this should be a Member-led authority and he considered it was now as it had been under his leadership. Mr Nobbs said he had been concerned to read in the papers for the Personnel Committee meeting on 21 October, under item 5 - Appointments and Disciplinary action relating to senior officers and the proposal that the number of appointments made by Members should be reduced from the present 29 to 5, 6

or possibly 7 depending on who held the post. Mr Nobbs said various reasons had been put forward for the proposal, one of which was that it was very demanding for Councillors to be involved in the application process and also that applicants may not wish to apply for senior positions if they knew they were going to be interviewed by Councillors. Mr Nobbs continued that Norfolk County Council employed thousands of people and he considered reducing the number of jobs that elected Councillors were involved in the interview and recruitment process to five or six was ridiculous. Mr Nobbs said he hoped that Members would look very carefully at the proceedings of the Personnel Committee and asked the Leader if he, presumably having seen and commissioned the report, would agree with the recommendations.

The Leader replied that the Committee system had extended the recruitment processes beyond all reason so he was trying to speed things up.

4.2 Question from Ms A Kemp

Ms Kemp asked why it was, that 2½ years after the County Council had voted against an incinerator in her Division, the Waste Allocation and Site Specific Plan included the Willows site as suitable for all sorts of thermal treatment, including incineration. She asked when the Administration was going to change the Plan.

The Leader replied that there would be a discussion on that topic under item 5 (Notice of Motions) on the agenda.

4.3 Question from Mr D Crawford

Mr Crawford asked the Leader if he would instruct officers to start looking into the necessary steps that must be taken to implement the reintroduction of the grammar school system.

The Leader responded that there was a Motion on grammar schools on the agenda (item 5). He added that he would not restrict anything and at present this was a Green Paper proposal out for consultation.

4.4 Question from Mr D Harrison

Mr Harrison said the Leader constantly talked in a deprecating way about the so-called rainbow alliance, saying that when the alliance was in power it kicked the cans up the road. Mr Harrison referred to the cans when the alliance was in power: 1 – incinerator; 2 – cabinet system – which was squashed for five years; 3 – looked after children – dealt with and now improved hugely; 4 – Conventional education. At the time the rainbow alliance came into power Norfolk County Council was well down in the league tables of GCSE results and was now mid-table; 5 – Adult Education –unsatisfactory and now rated good; 6 – Three budgets and the County Council hadn't spun off into a financial abyss. Mr Harrison asked the Leader what the cans were that had been kicked up the road.

The Leader replied that he was still working his way through the cans. He added that he had been asked this question at most Council meetings and one example was the Syrian Refugee initiative which had been kicked into the long grass and that there were also other examples.

4.5 Question from Mr R Bearman

Mr Bearman said for the past 2 years he had asked the former Labour leader to move this Council's lowest paid staff onto the Real Living wage - as set by the Living Wage Foundation - which was currently £8.25 per hour. He continued that

Norfolk County Council still had directly employed full time staff struggling to make ends meet on low wages and following an email to Members from the GMB Union recently he asked the Leader, in his role as Chair of the Personnel Committee, if he would bring forward proposals for the introduction of the Real Living Wage at £8.25 per hour as the minimum acceptable rate of pay for our hard working Norfolk County Council staff.

The Leader replied that a lot of information had been circulated to all Councillors about living wage and the Managing Director had made sure Members had been kept up to speed. He added that there were knock-on effects from all wage increases on County Council services and that we would need to find the money from somewhere. The Leader said he fully supported everyone having a wage they could live on.

4.6 Question from Mrs C Walker

Mrs Walker asked the leader if he intended to follow the example of his predecessor, the Leader of North Norfolk District Council, by suspending those Norfolk County Council Members who had been taken to court for non-payment of council tax, given that any decisions taken here were based on what people paid on their council tax.

The Leader replied that the reporting on the case had been historical, he didn't know all the details and it was a matter for individual Members.

4.7 Question from Mr P Smyth

Mr Smyth said that his question related to the process over the summer where the Committees had put forward their proposals for the use of the Rural Services Delivery Grant money which had been wrapped up into transitional funding. He asked when the Service Committees would find out why their proposals didn't appear to have been adopted and how much money of the Rural Services Delivery Grant, which was there to provide additional funding for delivering services in rural areas, had been spent on the delivery of services in rural areas.

The Leader delegated the question to the Deputy Leader, who responded that, as Members were aware, it had been hoped to use the Rural Services Delivery Grant or Transition Grant for proposals that came forward through Service Committees. The Deputy Leader said this would have happened, had the budget that we were assured was robust in February had been so, but sadly that had not been the case and the money had been needed to deal with the overspend.

4.8 Question from Mr D Roper

Mr Roper said that last month he had asked the Leader of the Council about the Transitional Funding for 2016-17 and received assurance that it would be spent in this financial year. He added that no proposals had been taken forward and Committee papers indicated that, far from being used to fund the overspend this year as the Deputy Leader had pointed out, it was in the budget papers for each Committee to be rolled forward into next year. He asked if the Leader could let him know when the decision had been made and how it had been made.

The Leader replied that he had given a straight answer when the question had been asked so the decision had changed between then and now as that had been the way the budget had been set up.

4.9 **Question from Dr A Boswell**

Dr Boswell said now that the Prime Minister had signalled her intention that the UK would pursue a “hard Brexit” approach to leaving the EU including also leaving the single market, would the Leader instigate an investigation and review on the likely impact on the Norfolk economy and people’s social wellbeing, of such an approach, so that the Council was best prepared to make the optimal decisions for Norfolk people over the next few years.

The Leader replied that he was waiting to see exactly how Brexit would take shape. He had not yet been told by Government exactly what they were doing and everyone was assuming that was what was happening. He said he was waiting until there was some substance to see how Brexit would affect Norfolk.

5 **Notice of Motions**

- 5.1 The following motion was proposed by Mr J Dobson, Dr A Boswell, Ms A Kemp and Mr R Bird and seconded by Mr T East:

“This Council wishes the discontinued Revell Inquiry to be completed as soon as possible and for its report to be brought to Council not later than 1 March 2017. The Inquiry should retain its original terms of reference, as laid down by the Leader of the Council (Cllr Nobbs) in April 2014. The work should be completed by a neutral, suitably qualified LGA or other nominee. In those few cases where parties to the Inquiry have declined to give evidence, the missing information should be derived from the Council's records.

The Inquiry should be formally recommenced and managed under the auspices of the Managing Director, who additionally should add recommended lessons to be learned to the completed report.”

- 5.1.1 Dr M Strong, seconded by Mr B Hannah, proposed the following amendment which was agreed by the Proposer of the motion and became the substantive motion:

“This Council instructs the Managing Director to ask the Local Government Association (LGA) Chief Executive to take a view from his political leaders as to the LGA commissioning an independent person to carry out an inquiry on governance of the Willows Energy from Waste project and if the political leaders so agree, to advise Norfolk County Council as to the cost.”

- 5.1.2 Ms A Kemp proposed the following amendment, which was agreed by the proposer and became the substantive motion:

“This Council instructs the Managing Director to ask the Local Government Association (LGA) Chief Executive to take a view from his political leaders as to the LGA commissioning an independent person to carry out an inquiry on governance of the Willows Energy from Waste project and if the political leaders so agree, to advise Norfolk County Council as to the cost. The Report should be delivered to Council by April 2017.”

- 5.1.3 Following debate, and upon being put to a recorded vote (Appendix A), with 36 votes in favour, 37 votes against and 2 abstentions, the motion was **LOST**.

- 5.2 The following motion was proposed by Mr M Sands and seconded by Ms E

Corlett:

- 5.2.1 “Norfolk County Council affirms its commitment to an inclusive education system offering wide opportunities for all which is not based on selection and therefore opposes the proposed reintroduction or extension of grammar schools.”
- 5.2.2 Mr R Smith proposed the following amendment, which was seconded by Mrs S Gurney.
- “Norfolk County Council affirms its commitment to an inclusive education system offering wide opportunities for all ~~which is not based on selection and therefore opposes the proposed reintroduction or extension of grammar schools.~~”
- Upon being put to the vote, with 43 votes in favour of the amendment, 25 votes against and 4 abstentions, the amendment was **CARRIED** and became the substantive motion.
- 5.2.3 Following debate, the motion was **WITHDRAWN** by the proposer and seconder of the original motion.

The meeting adjourned at 12.50pm and reconvened at 1.30pm.

6 Recommendations from Service Committees

6.1 Policy & Resources – 26 September 2016

- 6.1.1 Mr C Jordan, Chair of Policy & Resources Committee, moved the Recommendation in the report.

Appointment of Directors in NCC related companies: shareholder consents required under Articles of Association of Norse Group companies and Financial Regulation 5.10.6.

Council **RESOLVED**:

1. To retrospectively approve the appointment of Directors to companies in which the County Council has an interest, as set out in the report.
2. That Martin Hopkins be appointed to directorships held by Peter Hawes prior to his retirement.
3. That Tom McCabe be appointed to directorships previously held by Anne Gibson, including appointment as chairperson of the Norse Group Ltd and as director of Norse Care Limited and Norse Care Services Limited.
4. To agree the proposed changes to the articles of association of NPS Property Consultants Limited, Norse Commercial Services Limited, Norse Eastern Limited, Norse Transport, Norse Care Limited and Norse Care Services as set out in schedule 2 of the report.
5. That Karen Knight be appointed as a Director of NPS Property Consultants Limited, Norse Commercial Services Limited, Norse Eastern Limited and Norse Transport.

6.2 Children’s Services Committee – 13 September 2016

6.2.1 Mr R Smith, Chair of Children's Services Committee, moved the recommendations in the report.

6.2.2 **Annual Review of Norfolk Residential Services.**

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Statements of Purpose and Functions for all the Local Authority Children's Homes to comply with the Care Standards Act 2000.

6.2.3 **Statement of Purpose of Norfolk's Fostering Services Annual Review.**

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Statement of Purpose of Norfolk's Fostering Services.

6.2.4 **Norfolk County Council Adoption Agency Annual Review.**

Council **RESOLVED** to approve the Statement of Purpose for the Adoption Agency.

6.2.5 **Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children.**

Council **RESOLVED** that:

- Norfolk County Council would participate in the national voluntary arrangements as set out in the Protocol agreed between the Home Office and the Association of Directors of Children's Services.
- The Executive Director of Children's Services should have authority to accept or refuse individual children in accordance with the criteria set out in the report and always subject to the Department's agreed budget being able to sustain the costs of providing for that child as looked after and as a care leaver, taking account of any additional funding provided by national government for that purpose.
- In placing UASC in accommodation, consideration will be given to the capacity of the local community to meet the needs of that child and the importance of ensuring that there are good opportunities for that child to build sustainable relationships that will support them in adulthood.

7 Reports from Service Committees (Questions to Chairs)

7.1 **Report of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on 26 September 2016**

Mr C Jordan, Chair of Policy and Resources Committee, moved the report.

7.1.1 **Question from Mr B Bremner**

Mr Bremner referred to Psychometric Testing and said he was given to understand, and that he hoped he was mistaken, that the Managing Director had commissioned an outside agency to conduct psychometric testing among senior officers. He asked if he was correct in this understanding and if so, what was the purpose and motivation for this testing and what was to be done or achieved with the results. He also asked who had authorised this testing, how much it was costing and what was the value for money analysis.

The Chair said that he would provide a written response to the question.

7.1.2 Question from Mr P Smyth

Mr Smyth referred to the National Policy context outlining the Government's commitment to move to local government funding being 100% self-sufficient by 2020 and that this was a fundamental change to local government finances and would have an impact on all service committees. Mr Smyth referred to the paragraph which stated that the Committee had resolved to make its response to the government consultation and said that because this was such a fundamental shift to the way business would be conducted, whether the response should be a county council response rather than just a Policy & Resources Committee response as Service Committees had not seen the report to add their input to the consultation.

The Chair replied that the decision had been made as required.

7.1.3 Question from Mr S Morpew

Mr Morpew referred to a rumour that the Conservative Group intended to propose a 3.8% council tax increase. He asked, given that no budget proposals had been published as yet, if the Leader could let Council know when this information would be published for public consultation and comment.

The Chair replied that he was following the budget process and the topic would be presented to Policy & Resources Committee at its next meeting.

7.1.4 Question from Mr G Nobbs

Mr Nobbs asked how many consultants were currently employed within the Organisation, or had been commissioned since Mr Jordan had become Leader. Mr Nobbs asked what the method was of recruiting them, how they were invited to tender for the work and more importantly how much the process was costing.

The Chair agreed to provide a written response to the question.

7.1.5 Question from Mr B Watkins

Mr Watkins said that in November 2013, the then Leader had announced a new concordat with Suffolk County Council to explore new ways of working and to drive down costs. He asked the current Leader how the Council had benefited from this arrangement and what further initiatives if any, were planned with Suffolk.

The Chair replied that there were a number of different initiatives, but whether they were beneficial or not, we would need to wait until the full cycle had been completed. The Chair said he had been told significant savings were being achieved.

7.1.6 Question from Ms A Kemp

Ms Kemp referred to the reforming of the farms and that these now came under the remit of Finance which in turn came under the remit of Policy & Resources Committee. Ms Kemp said she understood Policy & Resources was planning to create a Business and Property Committee and that it was being proposed that Members would make decisions in the granting of farm tenancies. She added that following the problems previously, which had led to Members being involved in making decisions and a lack of impartiality, how this would contribute to the good reputation of the Council.

The Chair responded that a Business and Property Committee would be created, after which the details would be sorted out.

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

7.2 **Report of the Adult Social Care Committee meeting held on 5 September 2016**

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

7.2.1 **Question from Mr B Watkins**

Mr Watkins said, at the Adult Social Care Committee meeting on 10 October, Members were informed that savings in the region of £7m would need to be made in the 2017/18 financial year. One option which would be included in the public consultation process was a scheme to reshape work with people of all ages requiring housing related assistance to support to keep them independent, which it was suggested, would save approximately £4.5m. Mr Watkins asked the Chair, if it was decided that this option should not go ahead, if he would state what other options to secure an equivalent level of saving would be made instead.

The Chair responded that there were no other alternatives and if a particular saving was not able to be made as a result of the public consultation, further savings would need to be offered up from other areas.

7.2.2 **Question from Ms S Whitaker**

Ms Whitaker said that, given the unilateral decision by the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital (NNUH) to discontinue funding the Henderson Unit, which was doing excellent work in rehabilitating people after they had a spell in hospital, what alternative plans would be put in place to assist the 300 (approximately) people per year who would have used the facility, to gain access to a similar service.

The Chair said that this had been discussed at the Adult Social Care Committee meeting and that he was extremely sad at the news, given the key work the Henderson unit did in rehabilitating people out of hospitals, so they were not blocking beds and also enabling them to go back into their own homes which was a core part of the county council strategy. The Chair added that he couldn't help but note to Council that the NNUH was cutting the service at the same time the Queen Elizabeth Hospital (QEH) at Kings Lynn was looking to start a similar service. The Chair went on to say that Brian Watkins, who was the Council's representative on the Trust of Governors for the NNUH took the will of the Adult Social Care Committee back to a Trust meeting to say that Norfolk County Council was extremely unhappy with the decision. The Chair said there were no details of specific outcomes as yet, but contingency planning was being considered and it was hoped that all staff who were currently employed by Norfolk County Council at that site could be redeployed elsewhere.

7.2.3 **Question from Mr P Smyth**

Mr Smyth referred to item 5 of the report that Adult Social Care Committee was going to lobby Government directly to try to secure additional funding and said that Members may be aware that there was a cross-party group of MPs that lobbied to obtain extra funding for rural areas, with the Department for Communities and Local Government responding to their successful lobbying earlier this year by providing millions of pounds in Rural Service Delivery Grant

(RSDG) to offset the need that we appear to have in Norfolk. Mr Smyth asked the Chair to what extent had the committee bid for use of the RSDG money to address the shortfall.

The Chair replied that Adult Social Care Committee had passed a resolution to recommend to Policy & Resources Committee that the full £4.7m of the RSDG should be used to support the budget for adult social care in the coming year. He added that the Committee had considered it and suggested to Policy & Resources Committee how the money should be spent.

7.2.4 Question from Mr M Sands

Mr Sands said that Adult Social Care was heading for a £9m overspend. Given the largest overspends were in adult social care transport and the Learning Difficulty Service, he asked the Chair what plans were in place to bring these overspends in on budget.

The Chair replied that the Council had initiated a review into adult social care transport and due to an overlap, the review would also cover children's services transport. The Chair added that the Committee would receive a report at a future meeting to consider areas where savings had consistently been demanded and failed over a number of years and that this review would be key.

7.2.5 Question from Ms A Kemp

Ms Kemp referred to the closure of the Henderson Unit and asked what had happened to the £3m allocated funding. She felt the Council should write to government opposing the closure.

The Chair replied that Norfolk County Council had not made the decision to close the Henderson Unit, this had been made by the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital. He added that the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board was lobbying in an attempt to reverse the decision.

7.2.6 Council RESOLVED to note the report.

7.3 Report of the Children's Services Committee meeting held on 13 September 2016

Mr R Smith, Chair of Children's Services Committee moved the report.

7.3.1 Question from Ms E Corlett

Ms Corlett stated that the Education and Adoption Act gave Norfolk County Council the responsibility to act as champions of children and parents and one of the ways we could do this was by scrutinising the quality of education and challenge the Norfolk system over standards. It would be difficult to do that without clear, accurate information from education providers as we need to know that "Progress 8" scores were comparing "like for like" and that data was not being skewed, for example by using this year's English Literature GCSE results compared to previous years English Language GCSE results. Ms Corlett asked if the Chair would write to Norfolk Headteachers and ask them what measures and data they had used to calculate the Progress 8 scores.

The Chair replied that progress with regard to GCSE results had been reported in the Eastern Daily Press on Friday 14 October, which had also included a note about Progress 8. He added that schools received credit for the amount of

improvement pupils had made since leaving primary school. Progress 8 qualification was based on the results of up to 8 subjects including English and Maths which were given particular prominence. The Chair considered this was something that could be taken up with the Primary and Secondary Heads Leadership Board and he asked Ms Corlett to raise the issue at the Children's Services Committee meeting on 18 October.

7.3.2 Question from Mr R Bird

Mr Bird said he had heard that Smithdon School in Hunstanton was to become an academy on 30 November and become part of the West Norfolk Academy Trust. He added that as part of the process, the sixth form at the school was being closed. Mr Bird asked for some help as to his knowledge there had been no public consultation or liaison about the academisation and that he had only received information about it the previous week. He asked for some help on clarifying the current position and what could be done about the situation.

The Chair replied that he would find out and provide a written response.

7.3.3 Question from Mrs J Chamberlin

Mrs Chamberlin asked the Chair to explain the Higher Education Scheme.

The Chair replied that the County Council had hosted a recent meeting for 100 young people who were seeking entry into the top flight universities. The scheme was open to all students wishing to gain admittance to any university, although the evening had focused on those who were recommended by their teachers and stood a chance of entry into one of the top universities in the country, including Oxbridge. The Chair continued that this was the second year of the scheme, with the pilot event, which had been well received, held in the last academic year. The scheme included a yearlong programme of events, assisting pupils with drafting personal statements, interviewing skills, university selection procedures, university visits, etc. The Chair commended the scheme to all Members and asked Members to contact him if they knew of any aspiring youngsters and he would ensure the details were passed on to the appropriate team.

7.3.4 Question from Ms C Rumsby

Ms Rumsby asked the Chair what specific plans were in place to address the budget overspend and what actions to keep families safe.

The Chair replied that the Executive Director of Children's Services was considering ways to reduce the departmental overspend, the details of which would be discussed at the Children's Services Committee meeting on 18 October. He added that he was very concerned about the overspend.

7.3.5 Question from Mr D Crawford

Mr Crawford asked for some clarification about the unaccompanied asylum seeking children. He added that we had been told that these children were mainly 16 and 17 years of age and would not be in the care of Children's Services for very long as they would leave care when they reached the age of 18. Mr Crawford asked the Chair to let him know who looked after them after they reached 18 years of age so he could let his constituents know.

The Chair said that this issue had been considered by the Children's Services Committee in September. Essentially, refugees between the age of 16 and 17 years old would be looked after children, who were the responsibility of Norfolk

County Council Councillors in their role as corporate parents. Once a young person reached the age of 18 they would become a care leaver. The Chair referred to the report presented to the Children's Services Committee meeting which stated that new guidance had confirmed some Local Authorities had a duty to fund refugees beyond the age of 18 while immigration status was confirmed and would be transferred to the Home Office to limit the financial liability on local authorities until it was confirmed they had leave to remain in the country. This was a developing situation and the Chair considered that these young people would have all the rights of a care leaver like any other Norfolk looked after child.

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

7.4 **Report of the Communities Committee meeting held on 7 September 2016**

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

7.4.1 **Question from Mr A Grey**

Mr Grey asked if the Chair would ask officers from Trading Standards, the Police and Public Health to continue the great work that had been carried out recently in targeting the illicit tobacco trade that blighted towns and villages. He also asked if the Chair would look into whether this could be taken further to include tackling crime at source by securing funding from HM Coastguard for teams to patrol our coast.

The Chair agreed that Trading Standards, the Police and Public Health were doing a good job and that a lot of illegal cigarettes had been confiscated recently from King's Lynn, Great Yarmouth and Thetford by Trading Standards and the Police. She added that Trading Standards, along with sniffer dogs, had recently attended County Hall to show Members the work they were doing.

The Chair went on to say with regard to getting more teams to patrol the coast, Revenue and Customs was responsible and any money would need to come from the Government. She added that a request for additional funding would be made.

7.4.2 **Question from Ms S Whitaker**

Ms Whitaker said that at a recently Council of Governors Meeting at the Mental Health Trust a staff member had raised with her that the ring-fenced budget for Public Health had been reduced by approximately 2.5%, although as far as the Norfolk Recovery Partnership was concerned, which dealt with people who had drug and alcohol problems, the offer to the mental health trust was a reduction of 27%. Ms Whitaker said they provide a very good service which was well respected, but operating with that amount of reduction in budget would put the service in serious jeopardy. Ms Whitaker asked the Chair for some comment about whether this was true and had the consequences been thought through with a reduction of that magnitude.

The Chair replied that this was a delegated decision to officers and no final decision had yet been made. The Chair agreed to speak with Ms Whitaker outside the meeting and provide more detail.

7.4.3 **Question from Mr M Carttiss**

Mr Carttiss said that, whilst he had been abroad, he had left his library card with a relative, asking them to renew his library books at Great Yarmouth Library. His relative had called the 0344 800 8006 number quoted on the slip and received a

recorded message that the line was discontinued and books could be renewed either on line or by going to the public library and returning them there. His relative had looked up a number for the public library in the telephone book, and spoken to a helpful member of staff who had renewed the books. Mr Carttiss asked the Chair why the Great Yarmouth library computer had issued a chitty advising people to call a discontinued number, and why the number had been discontinued and also why people were being informed they must return books to the library to renew them, or go on line.

The Chair replied that she had contacted the new Head of Library Service about the issue who had said that when a review of the automated service had been carried out it had found there were only about 20 people using the service each month. Providing the number had been uneconomic so it had been decided to discontinue the 0344 number. The library service had contacted all 20 members of the public who had been using the service and the Chair confirmed that a new number had now been provided.

7.4.4 **Question from Mr P Smyth**

Mr Smyth said Members not on the Communities Committee may not be aware that flood response was not a mandated task for Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service. The external funding currently available was due to cease in Spring 2017 and there was no concrete funding available for that task at the present time. Mr Smyth added that the Committee had agreed to write to MPs to raise the issue and asked if the Chair had sent the letter yet, and if so had a response been received.

The Chair replied that the letter had been drafted. Other ways to see if there was any funding available were also being explored, although she advised that the rescue boat was not a statutory responsibility of the Fire and Rescue Service, it was a Police responsibility. The Head of Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service was exploring ways to fund the service, although there may have to be funding cuts in other areas to cover the costs. She added that the Communities Committee would be considering options at its meeting on 19 October.

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

7.5 **Report of the Environment, Development and Transport Committee meeting held on 16 September 2016.**

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

7.5.1 **Question from Mr T Jermy**

Mr Jermy referred to the re-routing of HGV's from the B1111 at East Harling through Thetford, which was of considerable concern to residents in his Division. Mr Jermy asked, as a result of the decision taken by the Committee, if the Chair could reassure residents that the safety concerns highlighted would be looked at, particularly along the Norwich Road in Thetford, which was a busy route to schools, as well as considering the likelihood that additional HGV's would travel along the A134 Bury Road, where there were long-standing issues with HGVs causing damage to parked cars and property.

The Chair gave his total assurance that the route would be reviewed and monitored and if changes were required, they would be addressed and changed as necessary.

7.5.2 Question from Mr B Spratt

Mr Spratt asked the Chair to look into the request for a 20mph speed limit at Carleton Rode which had been on the agenda for some time.

The Chair replied that he would look into the request at Carleton Rode provide a response.

7.5.3 Question from Mr B Borrett

Mr Borrett congratulated the Chair of EDT Committee on his excellent handling of the recent meeting with the A47 Highways Agency at County Hall, in particular concerns about the delivery of the North Tuddenham to Easton dualling, taking account of the County Council's aspiration to deliver the Norwich Western Link from the end of the Northern Distribution Route through to the A47. He added that the gentleman from the Highways Agency had acknowledged that he understood that this particular route was a County Council priority and that the Highways Agency should take account of delivering a junction on that piece of dualling. He asked if the Chairman agreed with his view that is what happened.

The Chair replied that he felt the Highways Agency was fully aware of where the Norwich Western link needed to join onto the A47. He added that Norfolk County Council would be involved in any proposals.

7.5.4 Question from Mr B Bremner

Mr Bremner asked if the presentation or report from the A47 meeting could be circulated to all Members, as he had been unable to attend the meeting due to other commitments.

The Chair replied that the Highways Agency should be producing a briefing note which would be circulated to all Members, together with an update and timescales, hopefully in the near future.

7.5.5 Question from Mr P Smyth

Mr Smyth asked if the Chair would write to Swaffham Town Council to explore ways of providing additional funding for traffic regulation orders in the town.

The Chairman replied that there was not an easy fix for every village or town and each scheme for traffic regulation orders was dealt with on their own merit. He added that Harleston had commissioned a feasibility study to look at the traffic issues and had agreed to fund some schemes themselves and that it may be worthwhile for Swaffham Town Council to carry out a feasibility study of its own, whilst appreciating there was a cost to doing so.

7.5.6 Question from Ms A Kemp

Ms Kemp referred to the Waste Site Specific Allocations document which still showed the Willows site as being eligible for any sort of incineration or mass burner. Ms Kemp asked the Chair what steps he would take to make sure that the Committee discussed this issue and got the plans amended. She added that if this issue needed to be raised with the Secretary of State, then it should be.

The Chair replied that it was not for him to personally decide the future of the site, it was a decision for Full Council.

7.5.7 Council RESOLVED to note the report.

7.6 **Report of the Economic Development Sub-Committee meeting held on 9 September 2016**

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

Other Committees

7.7 **Report of the Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting held on 8 September 2016.**

Mr M Carttiss moved the report.

7.7.1 **Question from Mr R Parkinson-Hare**

Mr Parkinson-Hare said he had been given to understand at a recent meeting convened by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) in Great Yarmouth, that the Greyfriars Clinic in Great Yarmouth had closed due to EU Legislation. He asked the Chair if this was correct.

The Chair replied that until April 2016, NHS England had been responsible for maintaining and funding walk-in centres, set up as a government initiative. The contract had been let by NHS England and in April 2016, the responsibility for maintaining and funding walk-in centres had transferred to the relevant CCG. In the case of Greyfriars in Great Yarmouth, this was the Great Yarmouth and Waveney CCG. The contract with the provider of that walk-in centre had been extended twice by NHS England in order to allow it to reach the point at which the CCG would become responsible. Once the CCG became responsible for Greyfriars, they were prevented by EU Legislation from extending the contract any further, therefore the centre needed to be put out to tender, which took time and had led to staff leaving and obtaining jobs in other health service places.

7.7.2 **Question from Ms S Whitaker**

Ms Whitaker asked if a response had yet been received from the Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust to the letter requesting detailed information on information that was either not included, or not fully explored in Verita's review of unexpected deaths, and if not, what the deadline was for receipt of a response.

The Chair deferred the question to Mrs Stone, who informed Council that a response was due by 28 October 2016.

7.7.3 The Chairman advised Council that the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee received an information bulletin that had referred to the Henderson Ward although this had not been discussed by the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC). Mr Carttiss said that the HOSC did not have any rights to interfere with the decision to close the Unit, but would be looking at the consequences and how the situation could be resolved. Mr Carttiss said he had received a note to the effect that the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital paid for and employed the relevant staff at Henderson Ward at no cost to Norfolk County Council.

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

7.8 **Report of the Audit Committee meeting held on 22 September 2016**

7.8.1 Mr I Mackie moved the report and the recommendation included in paragraph 9

(Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 – External Auditor Appointments Implementation).

7.8.2 Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 - External Auditor Appointments Implementation.

Council **RESOLVED** to:

- Direct the Executive Director of Finance to formally “opt in” with the Government’s designated appointing person (in this case Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA)), as allowed under Section 17 of the Act, as the preferred option offering the greatest potential economic and efficiency savings.
- Note the report.

7.8.3 Mr James Joyce wished it to be recorded in these minutes that the Vice-Chair of Audit Committee was in the Chair for item 11 (County Farms Update) at the Audit Committee meeting on 22 September and, upon the recommendations being put to a vote, with 3 votes for and 3 votes against, the Vice-Chair had used his casting vote to agree the recommendations.

7.9 Report of the Planning (Regulatory) Committee meeting held on 2 September 2016

Mr M Sands moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

7.10 Report of the Health and Wellbeing Board meetings held on 20 July and 21 September 2016.

Mr B Watkins moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

7.11 Report of the Norwich Highways Agency Joint Committee meetings held on 21 July and 15 September 2016

Mr T Adams moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

8 Approval of Non-Attendance

8.1 Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, stated that if a member of a local authority failed throughout a period of six consecutive months from the date of their last attendance to attend any meeting of the authority, they should cease to be a member of the authority. The only exception was if their non-attendance had been approved by the authority before the expiry of the six month period.

Councillor Colin Aldred had been unable to attend meetings recently due to ill health. The last meeting Councillor Aldred had attended was County Council on 9 May 2016 and Council was asked to give its approval for a continuing absence for a period which exceeded six months.

8.2 Council **RESOLVED** that in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972, to approve Councillor Colin Aldred’s non-attendance at meetings until the end of the municipal year on the grounds of continued ill health and that the Council’s best wishes be conveyed to him.

9 Norfolk and Waveney Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP).

9.1 Council received the report by the Managing Director informing Council about the development of a Sustainability and Transformation Plan (STP) for the Norfolk and Waveney area and outlined the next steps. The report provided a summary of the key elements of the STP and invited Council to consider and endorse the overall strategic direction, in advance of the submission to NHS England on 21 October and give its support to the ongoing work with partners in moving to the next stages of detailed planning.

9.2 Following debate and upon being put to the vote, with 29 votes in favour, 1 vote against and 10 abstentions, Council **RESOLVED** :

To endorse the overall strategic direction of the Norfolk and Waveney STP and key areas for change for submission to NHS England by the 21 October deadline and supported the ongoing work with partners in moving to the next stages of detailed planning

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

There were none.

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

There were none.

The meeting concluded at 3.35pm

Chairman



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Appendix A

Norfolk County Council 17 October 2016

ITEM NUMBER: 5a – Motion by Mr J Dobson, seconded by Mr T East.

FOR	AGAINST	ABST.		FOR	AGAINST	ABST	
	X		ADAMS Tony		X		JORDAN Cliff
X			AGNEW Stephen	X			JOYCE James
	Absent		ALDRED Colin	X			KEMP Alexandra
	X		ASKEW Stephen		Absent		KIDDLE-MORRIS Mark
	Absent		BAKER Michael			X	LAW Jason
X			BEARMAN Richard		X		LEGGETT Judy
X			BIRD Richard		X		LONG Brian
	X		BORRETT Bill		X		MACKIE Ian
X			BOSWELL Andrew		X		MONSON Ian
	X		BOWES Claire		X		MOONEY Joe
X			BRADNOCK Allison	X			MORGAN Elizabeth
X			BREMNER Bert	X			MORPHEW Steve
X			BROCIK-COULTON Julie	X			NOBBS George
	Absent		BYRNE Alec		X		NORTHAM Wyndham
	X		CARTTISS Michael	X			PARKINSON-HARE Rex
X			CASTLE Mick	X			PERKINS Jim
	X		CHAMBERLIN Jenny		X		PLANT Graham
	X		CHILDS Jonathon		X		PROCTOR Andrew
	X		CLANCY Stuart	X			RAMSBOTHAM David
	Absent		COKE Toby		X		RICHMOND William
		X	COLLIS David	X			ROPER Daniel
X			CORLETT Emma	X			RUMSBY Chrissie
	X		COX Hilary	X			SANDS Mike
X			CRAWFORD Denis	X			SEWARD Eric
X			DEARNLEY Adrian		X		SHAW Nigel
	X		DEWSBURY Margaret		X		SMITH Roger
	X		DIXON Nigel	X			SMYTH Paul
X			DOBSON John		X		SPRATT Bev
X			EAST Tim		X		STONE Barry
	X		FITZPATRICK Tom		X		STONE Margaret
	X		FOULGER Colin		Absent		STOREY Martin
	X		GARROD Tom	X			STRONG Marie
	Absent		GILMOUR Paul		X		THOMAS Alison
X			GREY Alan	X			TIMEWELL John
	X		GURNEY Shelagh		X		VIRGO Judith
	Absent		HACON Pat	X			WALKER Colleen
X			HANNAH Brian		X		WARD John
X			HARRISON David	X			WATKINS Brian
	X		HORSBRUGH Michael Chenery of	X			WHITAKER Sue
	X		HUMPHREY Harry		Absent		WHITE Tony
	X		ILES Brian		X		WILBY Martin
X			JERMY Terry	X			WILKINSON Margaret

With 36 votes in favour, 37 votes against and 2 abstentions the motion was LOST.