

Norfolk County Council

Minutes of the Meeting Held on 20 January 2014

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

Total present: 80

Apologies for Absence:

Apologies were received from Mr A Byrne, Mr S Clancy, Mr N Shaw and Mr D Thomas.

1 Minutes

- 1.1 The minutes from the Council meeting held on 25 November 2013 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the following amendments:-

Item 7.1: Amend to 'Mr R Smith proposed...'
Item 8.1.3 change word 'UNANIMOUSLY' to 'UNOPPOSED'.
Item 9.1 change 'My Joyce' to 'Mr Joyce'
Item 10.10 change 'Early Health' to 'Early Help'.
Item 10.13 Amend to 'Mr R Smith proposed...'

2 Chairman's Announcements

- 2.1 The Chairman announced with great sadness the death of former Chairman of Norfolk County Council, Dr Jim Norris. Dr Norris had represented the Feltwell division from 1997 to 2005, holding the office of Chairman in 2001/2002.
- 2.2 The Chairman reflected on the great sadness felt by the people of Norfolk following the helicopter crash in Cley earlier in the month. On behalf of the Council, the Chairman expressed her condolences to the family, friends and comrades of the four USAF airmen who were killed in the crash.
- 2.3 The Council stood in silence to remember Dr Norris and the four US airmen.

3 Declarations of Interest

- 3.1 The following interests were declared:-

Dr Strong, as the owner of a residential property in Wells, as co-ordinator of the Wells Flood Plan, and as a representative on the Flood Forum, in respect of item 6(iv).

Mr Childs, as the owner of a business in the area that flood defences were being discussed, in respect of item 6(iv).

4 Questions to the Leader of the Council

4.1 Question from Mr Borrett

Given that the budget meeting is approaching on 17th February, councillors would be very keen to see the findings of the Efficiency Group. The report is ready but will not be made public until after the budget. Given how difficult and tight the budget will be could the Leader say why the report is not going to be available to Members in time for the budget setting meeting, so that the information and conclusions can be used?

The Leader replied that the budget was not dependent on the Efficiency Group's report, and that the efficiencies being proposed were not for the 2014/15 budget. The report was not complete which was why it was being presented at the March meeting.

4.2 Question from Mr M Smith

In the September Full Council, Members passed a motion to continue the provision of free school bus travel for children already in receipt of this. Please could the Leader explain why, at the Cabinet meeting on 6th January 2014, he went against the expressed will of the Council and overturned this decision, especially as the adverse effect this will have on hard-pressed families across Norfolk outweighs the negligible savings it will offer.

The Leader replied that the issue would be debated later in the meeting and the matter was being considered by Cabinet Scrutiny Committee the following day. Therefore he considered that the debate by Full Council on the motion would cover the matter. The Leader did not feel that he had gone against the express will of the Council, which was that Cabinet look at the matter again.

4.3 Question from Dr Boswell

The recent announcement by Mr Pickles to defer the planning decision on the Willows plant for an unspecified time has moved the residual waste project into the deep freeze. Will the Leader urgently instruct officers that planning for alternative waste solutions must start to be undertaken before Norfolk faces the impact of not diverting waste to landfill?

The Leader responded that the question inferred a decision by the Secretary of State in a particular way, and that the planning procedure was conducted in a proper manner, which had been confirmed within the independent QC's report. The Inspector had made his recommendations to the Secretary of State in early September and the Leader was surprised that a final decision had not yet been reached. The Leader suggested waiting for the decision before proceeding further.

4.4 Question from Dr Strong

When officer's entitlement to payment for meals in certain circumstances was ceased, this was also applied to Members. At the recent Independent Remuneration Panel meeting it was suggested that this was a disincentive for people to give up their own time to be councillors. Since there were no names in the report and this was not justified in times of austerity, taxpayers should not have to pay particularly when people rely on food banks. Would the Leader ask the Group Leader who raised this issue to identify himself?

The Leader replied that it was up to the individual group leader to identify himself if he wished. Cllr Borrett confirmed that he had raised the point as he wanted to make it easier for women with young children to stand for election. The allowances paid to Members were an important part of making democracy accountable. Cllr Borrett suggested that young women were not standing for Council as the allowances paid did not reflect the time that they had to give up.

4.5 Question from Mr Bremner

Mr Bremner asked the Leader to comment on his commitment to the new committee arrangements and to express a hope that the Conservative Group representatives would return to the Steering Group once they had had time to reflect on their walk out.

The Leader confirmed that he was committed to a better form of governance in the Council which was why he had supported the committee system since May 2013. It was important that the Council had a committee system that worked and which could be achieved if everyone worked together. The Council was seeking a more inclusive system which involved all parties, noting that he would welcome the return of the Conservative Group representatives to the Steering Group.

4.6 **Question from Mr Wilby**

Does the Leader agree that the Cabinet Member for Economic Development should be the Council's representative on the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership?

The Leader replied that he believed that the Cabinet Member was fully qualified for the role, however the Leaders of both Norfolk County Council and Suffolk County Council were appointed to the LEP, and to pass responsibility across to a Cabinet Member could be seen as giving that organisation less priority than Suffolk County Council did.

4.7 **Question from Mr Ramsbotham**

The funding of £20M for the Northern Distributor Road was still to be found. Where is this money coming from and what Council assets are going to be sold?

The Leader replied that as far as he was aware no Council assets were being sold to fund the NDR. The Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Personnel commented that the Capital Programme reports would be published later that day. The Cabinet Member was looking to put together a proper capital programme for the future which would highlight how much money was needed, and what sources would be available to help fund these. Some capital funding would come from borrowing, and some from sale of assets which were no longer needed. The capital programme would be brought before members, and would include a number of areas including the NDR.

4.8 **Question from Mr Watkins**

One of the first decisions made by the Council in June 2013 was to overturn the decision to discontinue adult education services from Wensum Lodge. This was part of a review which could have seen adult education transfer from County Council control to further and higher education establishments. Could the Leader confirm what further consideration has been given to the future of adult education in Norfolk since that early decision?

The Leader replied that Wensum Lodge would continue, and that the changes proposed would not be going ahead. A study had been carried out on the subject and the Leader agreed that the Director of Community Services would provide further information on the outcomes of the study. Wensum Lodge would continue as the centre for adult education in Norfolk, which was a self-funding service appreciated by many.

5 **Committee Governance**

- 5.1 The Chairman of the Committee Governance Steering Group, Mr P Smyth, gave a presentation on the work of the Group to date (Appendix 1).

- 5.2 Following the presentation, Group Leaders were invited to ask one question each regarding the work of the Steering Group. During this questioning it was suggested that Members with experience of committee governance could be invited to put forward their views on the new governance arrangements. It was **AGREED** that the Steering Group would consider this suggestion.

6 **Notice of Motions**

- 6.1 The following motion, proposed by Mr Borrett and seconded by Mr Coke, was moved:-

“This Council believes the new Head of Paid Service should be able to determine their own Senior Management arrangements and a reorganisation at this time does not represent a good use of Council resources, in monies, time or the goodwill of our staff. Therefore, Council RESOLVES to:

- rescind the decision by Council on 25th November 2013 to endorse the proposed Senior Management arrangements recommended by the Cabinet in its report from its 4th November meeting and as set out in Appendix B of the report
- change the title of the Head of Paid Service post from Chief Executive to Managing Director”

Note by Head of Democratic Services – In accordance with Council Procedure Rules 12.1 and 12.2, the notice of this motion was signed by 21 Members of the Council

- 6.1.1 Following a debate and recorded vote (Appendix 2), with 51 in favour, 28 against and 1 abstention, the motion was **CARRIED**.

- 6.2 The following motion, proposed by Mr Borrett and seconded by Mr M Smith, was moved:-

“On 16th September Council voted by 50 to 14 votes to ask for the school transport subsidy for pupils across Norfolk to be urgently reviewed due to safety concerns and the clearly voiced opinions of local residents.

This Council notes with considerable disappointment the undemocratic decision of the Cabinet on Monday, 6th January to go against the will of the County Council, local residents and elected representatives.”

- 6.2.1 Following a debate, with 52 in favour, 25 against and with 2 abstentions, the motion was **CARRIED**.

- 6.3 The following motion, proposed by Ms Corlett and seconded by Mr R Smith, was moved:-

“This council notes:

1 in 6 people will experience a mental health problem in any given year.

The World Health Organisation predicts that depression will be the second most common health condition worldwide by 2020.

Mental ill health costs some £105 billion each year in England alone.

People with a severe mental illness die up to 20 years younger than their peers in the UK.

There is often a circular relationship between mental health and issues such as housing, employment, family problems or debt.

This council believes:

As a local authority we have a crucial role to play in improving the mental health of everyone in our community and tackling some of the widest and most entrenched inequalities in health.

Mental health should be a priority across all this authority's functions.

All councillors can play a positive role in championing mental health on an individual and strategic basis.

By working with all our strategic partners we must develop a coherent mental health strategy for Norfolk

This council resolves:

To sign the "Local Authorities' Mental Health Challenge" run by Centre for Mental Health, Mental Health Foundation, Mind, Rethink Mental Illness, Royal College of Psychiatrists and YoungMinds.

And thereby agrees to:

1. Identify a 'lead officer' for mental health to link in with colleagues across the council
2. Follow the national mental health strategic partnership guidance for local authorities
"no health without mental health"
http://www.centreformentalhealth.org.uk/pdfs/Mental_Health_Strategic_Partnership_LA.pdf
3. Work to reduce inequalities in mental health in our community
4. Work with the NHS to integrate health and social care support
5. Promote wellbeing and initiate and support action on public mental health
6. Encourage positive mental health in our schools, colleges and workplaces
7. Proactively engage and listen to people of all ages and backgrounds about what they need for better mental health
8. Sign the Time to change pledge to tackle mental health stigma and discrimination"

6.3.1 The following amendment was proposed by Mr Watkins:-

After 'This Council notes' insert:

"This Council welcomes:

- The steps taken by this Government to ensure that, for the first time ever, mental health is given equal priority to physical health across the NHS through the NHS Mandate.
- The significant progress made by this Government in responding to the worldwide challenges presented by dementia, culminating in the recent London G8 Summit agreement to significantly increase investment in dementia research, with an ambition to identify a cure, or a disease-modifying therapy, for

dementia by 2025.”

The amendment was accepted by Ms Corlett and became the substantive motion.

6.3.2 After a discussion the motion was **CARRIED** unanimously.

6.4 The following motion, proposed by Mr Childs and seconded by Mr M Smith, was moved:-

“This Council resolves to ask the Acting Managing Director to seek a meeting with the relevant Government Minister, local MP's and coastal County Councillors with the intent to procure additional central government funding to urgently enhance sea defences along some of our most vulnerable coastlines, in particular where homes and livelihoods are at risk. Despite some excellent work by Council and Emergency Services staff during the recent high-tide flood emergency, this Council acknowledges that Emergency Response teams were not universally adequate across the County and resolves to implement an action plan for improvement, especially with regard to the effects of coastal erosion.”

6.4.1 The following amendment was proposed by Dr Strong:-

Delete all and replace with:

“This Council resolves to require the Acting Head of Paid Service to seek a meeting with the relevant Government Minister, local Members of Parliament, the Environment Agency and coastal Councillors to consider if and where sea defences require not only repairing but upgrading in order to ensure the safety of our coastal residents and their livelihoods. Further if existing funding is inadequate for these purposes to seek additional central government funding.”

This amendment was accepted by Mr Childs and became the substantive motion.

6.4.2 After a discussion the motion was **CARRIED** unanimously.

6.5 The following motion, proposed by Mr Dobson and seconded by Mr Long, was moved:-

“This Council is aware that there is now evidence that the environmental permit awarded for the King's Lynn incinerator may have been the result of a flawed process. Important deficiencies appear to have been ignored which should have been addressed. They are:

- Some of Wheelabrator's incinerators in the USA are officially recorded as “HPV” (High Priority Violator) and have the current compliance status of “Significant Violation”. During the Environment Agency (EA) permit consultation many people raised concerns about the numerous violations of Environmental laws in North America by Wheelabrator incinerators. The US Environmental Protection Agency publishes details of compliance failures and the penalties levied against offending companies. If some of the violations associated with Wheelabrator were in future to be repeated at the proposed King's Lynn site the impact could be very serious for protected habitats, public health, farming and tourism. The EA response to these concerns was to ask Wheelabrator for information about their compliance record. Wheelabrator failed to disclose any of their violations or the substantial penalties levied against them; instead they responded indirectly via a letter to their own consultants. Their letter was ‘economical with the truth’ giving a strong impression

that Wheelabrator had an unblemished compliance record; when it was forwarded to the EA it was accepted at face value. As a result the EA did not consider important material facts that could have influenced the permit and conditions attached to it.

- The dispersal and impact of emission from the proposed incinerator should have been thoroughly assessed as part of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA); unfortunately a scientifically robust assessment has not been conducted. Usually the industry Air Dispersal Modelling Standard (ADMS) Software provides a sound basis for such an assessment. The King's Lynn site has unique conditions that were not given proper consideration. Cory Wheelabrator (CW) failed to notice the revised orientation of the Centrica 'B' power station (already permitted but not yet constructed). This is significant because it now places a bank of air-cooled condensers immediately upwind and adjacent to the incinerator stack and this has a major impact on the incinerator's plume. The authors of the ADMS software acknowledged in a letter that ADMS is incapable of modelling the impact on the plume under these complex conditions. Other software is available which can cope with the site-specific conditions but this was not used. Cory Wheelabrator's own site plans continue to show the Centrica condensers in their previous location where they would not affect the plume. Until opponents of the incinerator drew this problem to the attention of the EA's permitting team the EA had not noticed it. The EA did not insist on remodelling using the appropriate software. It is the professional opinion of a qualified local environmental consultant "this is a fundamental breach of the EIA regulations" With so many other assessments dependent on it, accurate modelling is essential.
- Standard permitting rules for Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA) processing facilities require them to be 250 meters from the nearest Sensitive Receptors. In the case of King's Lynn a combined bespoke permit was issued to cover both the IBA facility and the Incinerator. Bespoke permits should afford the same level of protection for public health and the environment as standard permit rules. The King's Lynn IBA facility cannot comply with standard permitting rules due to the close proximity of sensitive receptors (within 50 meters). When applying for the bespoke permit Cory Wheelabrator failed to identify the nearest sensitive receptors. The applicant and the EA have still not acknowledged the existence of sensitive receptors within 50 meters of the IBA facility, namely "C and A" Superbikes, the Police Investigation Centre and the Borough Council's Recycling Site.
- King's Lynn's Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) are located downwind of the proposed incinerator's site. The AQMA's records show that they are currently in excess of the annual air quality standard of (40µg/m³) for oxides of nitrogen (NO₂), which are injurious to health. The incinerator and HGV traffic serving the incinerator will further add to the NO₂ burden in the AQMA. The full extent of the increase and its impact, have not been scientifically assessed. As previously mentioned the emissions modelling used standard ADMS software under circumstances that render the results meaningless. Therefore the health and environmental assessments based upon the ADMS model are all fundamentally flawed. In a situation such as this where existing standards are already exceeded the EA can impose permit conditions that afford greater protection.

In the light of the above and recognising the Council's responsibility and duty to be quite sure that the safety of Norfolk's populations, environment and habitats is properly guaranteed, this Council directs the ETD Overview and Scrutiny Panel, as a matter of

urgency, to examine the issues raised in this Motion, and if necessary to recommend that the environmental permit be suspended until those concerns are satisfactorily resolved.”

- 6.5.1 Following a debate and recorded vote (Appendix 3), with 33 in favour and 42 against, the motion was **LOST**.

- 6.6 The following motion, proposed by Mr Dobson, was moved:-

“If the Secretary of State, in the near future and after the date of submission of this Motion, decides in favour of the planning application for a mass-burn incinerator at the Willows, King's Lynn, this Council would have no confidence, on such an announcement being made, in the present Leader, Councillor George Nobbs, because of his unprincipled refusal to honour the Labour Party's special election pledge, which he wrote and published in their manifesto, and which promised to seek means other than mass-burn incineration for disposing of Norfolk's residual solid domestic waste if such a course were legally possible. A formal opportunity for this of course occurred, on 28th October last year, but the Council Leader resolutely refused to espouse it, indeed he acted vigorously against it, in defiance of the wishes of many of those electors in Norfolk who voted for him and other Labour election candidates. A motion such as this on the part of the Council at this time will serve, if nothing else, a moral purpose, by balancing any undue influence which may have been exerted on the Secretary of State by the Council Leader's pro-incinerator actions prior to and after 28 October, even if it can only be retrospective.”

- 6.6.1 The motion had no seconder and it therefor **FELL**.

The meeting adjourned at 1.15pm and reconvened at 1.45pm.

7 **Cabinet Recommendations**

- 7.1 Mr Joyce moved the recommendations from the Cabinet meeting held on 2 December 2013.

7.2 **RESOLVED:**

1. To approve the Mid Year Treasury Management Monitoring Report 2013-14.
2. That delegated authority be given to Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council in respect of the County Council's powers in Sections 143 and 149 of the Highways Act 1980 in relation to the area of West Norfolk defined at Appendix B of the Cabinet report to be carried out in accordance with a defined street activities code, commencing on a date to be determined by the Interim Director of Environment, Transport and Development and on such terms as he shall approve in consultation with the Head of Law and Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Development and Waste.
3. That delegated authority be given to the Interim Director of Environment, Transport and Development, in consultation with the Head of Law and Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Development and Waste, to implement the above recommendation with other district councils in Norfolk if they request such a delegation.

4. To approve the Statement of Purpose and Functions for the Local Authority Adoption Service to comply with the Care Standards Act 2000.
5. To approve the Statement of Purpose and Functions for the Local Authority Fostering Service to comply with the Care Standards Act 2000.
6. To approve the Statement of Purpose and Functions for the Local Authority's Children's Homes to comply with the Care Standards Act 2000.

8 Reports of Cabinet 2 December 2013 and 6 January 2014

Questions to the Cabinet Member for Finance, Corporate and Personnel

8.1 Question from Mr Dearnley

The Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel papers state that there is a balance of £16.8M remaining in the General Balance Reserve, stating that this could be used but that it would only be available on a one-off basis. Members were previously informed that should this balance fall below £16M, the minimum level which the Council has set, that the Council would effectively be bankrupt. Could the Cabinet Member please advise which of these two conflicting positions is the correct one?

The Cabinet Member replied that the budget papers being published for Cabinet would give some outline of the strategy for budget reserves for next year. Reserves could only be spent once, and the Council was only prepared to use reserves of any description for 'spend to save' activities, not for the maintenance of existing services to backfill revenue cuts. The definition of bankruptcy would be to not have enough money to meet the ongoing obligations of the Council, and the previous advice had been specific to that issue. The motion to rescind the previous decision around senior management review would need to be taken into account for the budget planning process.

8.2 Question from Mrs Leggett

What progress has been made in the disposal of underused corporate assets?

The Cabinet Member replied that the programme of change was being worked through, and Council approval of the budget in February would give a clear view of what was to be achieved. The Cabinet Member was working on the disposal of under-utilised assets, as well as the refurbishment of County Hall to ensure that more redundant assets could be disposed of quickly. A review of the method of disposal of property was underway, which would include a greater challenge mechanism and a staged disposal programme. Progress was being made, and needed to be shifted into a different context with a more streamlined approach in future.

8.3 Question from Mr R Smith

The Cabinet papers of 6th January 2014 gave a position of forecast reserves, particularly 'earmarked reserves non-schools' which started the financial year at £90M and is forecast to be £64M at the end of March 2014. This reflects a £26M decline in this reserve. Where has this money gone? Were these reserves for committed spend or for ongoing repairs and maintenance? Mr Smith hoped that a future report to

Cabinet would indicate where this money had gone.

The Cabinet Member replied that the money had been spent on the purposes for which it was reserved. The earmarked reserves had also been scrutinised to ensure that they were required for necessary expenditure, and if not then they had been removed. This did not mean that projects were underfunded, but that the reserve was no longer required. The projected spend of the earmarked reserves had been studied to ensure that money would be required for the purposes identified for the spend pattern over the next three years. This position would be much clearer once the budget papers were published. Cllr Morpew would be happy to answer individual questions on that matter.

Questions to the Cabinet Member for Public Protection

8.4 Question from Mrs Thomas

At the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting there had not been an opportunity for Cllr Roper to present the budget proposals for Public Health to Members. The budget for Public Health is ring-fenced therefore proposals are not savings within themselves, however could the Cabinet Member share with the Council the likely knock-on effect that the Public Health budget would have on other services? It is hoped that Public Health will effect some savings in other areas through their work.

The Cabinet Member agreed to circulate a full response after the meeting.

8.5 Question from Mr Seward

Would the Cabinet Member consider the establishment of a Member Working Group to ensure that there is the required impetus to examine what can be done to improve sea defences and associated inland drainage systems.

The Cabinet Member replied that lessons were being identified from the recent flooding incident, and there was a commonality between coastal areas across Norfolk in the challenges that they faced. He agreed to investigate Mr Seward's suggestion of a working group.

8.6 Question from Dr Strong

While recognising the financial situation that the Council is in, can the Cabinet Member give assurance that the cuts to the Trading Standards service will not impinge on the work carried out in safeguarding vulnerable residents against criminal acts, legally or morally, regarding the sale of dangerous foods and electrical goods?

The Cabinet Member acknowledged that services and budgets had to be scrutinised during times of cuts, and that the most vulnerable in the community were the Council's top priority.

8.7 Question from Mr Hebborn

Following the vicious and unprovoked assault on a police officer recently, which left him with a broken leg and back injuries, would the Cabinet Member record that the Council expects the full weight of the law to be asserted on the offender and that all those who put themselves in harms way to protect society are reminded of this council's continued and unequivocal support.

The Cabinet Member spoke for the Council in giving total support for those who put themselves in harms way, and extended this to all professionals within the criminal justice system and emergency services. He expressed best wishes for the police officer with a speedy recovery, together with his female colleague who was also injured in the incident. He expected the law to deal with the offenders accordingly.

8.8 Question from Mr Childs

Please could the Cabinet Member convey the Council's thanks to the Winterton Coastguard Team who acted uncalled, and helped people from their chalet homes as they were falling into the sea. Could the Cabinet Member also explain why there was no emergency response within Mr Childs' division on the night of the floods until 9.28pm, and why this seaside area was left to the mercy of the elements?

The Cabinet Member replied that the points had been raised at the debrief the previous week and that there were lessons to be examined in relation to the events last December.

Questions to the Cabinet Member for Safeguarding

8.9 Question from Mr Watkins

In August 2013, the Cabinet approved an additional £5M from the 2013/14 revenue budget for the employment of additional social workers to help improve the availability of provision and services for looked after children and vulnerable young people in Norfolk. Could the Cabinet Member confirm what impact this investment has had so far, and what further actions are planned in the coming months?

The Cabinet Member reported that the Directions Notice, dated 18th December 2013, had been received. The Notice provided that the Council should submit their plans for improvement within two calendar months, which gave until 18th February 2014. The £5M funding was part of a package which changed the management structure of Children's Services. Five interim members of staff were in place, together with the best Children's Services Director. The funding had contributed towards the cost of these members of staff. The recruitment campaign for permanent social workers was ongoing, including targeted Tube advertising in London. The recruitment website had received 4,400 hits. This showed to the Department for Education that everything was moving in the right direction. Another element of the Notice was to demonstrate that the Council's Members were behind improving Children's Services, which was being supported by a new focus within the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

8.10 Question from Ms Kemp

At the last Full Council meeting, a reference was made to missing looked after children

which was an issue of great concern. Could the Cabinet Member inform Council what has been done since last Council to improve performance in that area, and how this is being measured, and what more needs to be done?

The Cabinet Member replied that a report on this would be presented at the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

8.11 Question from Mrs Leggett

Council has heard in the past about 'Good' or 'Outstanding' OFSTED ratings for residential settings for children and young people, which are run by Norfolk County Council. Could the Cabinet Member report on the residential settings that are used by the Council, but that are run by other providers?

The Cabinet Member replied that every looked after child in Norfolk was under the care of the Council. Some private care providers were more efficient than others, and further information on this matter would be reported to the Children's Services Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

Questions to the Cabinet Member for Schools

8.12 Question from Mr Wilby

Has the Cabinet Member written and congratulated Dickleburgh Primary School, its governors, and community, on their tremendous achievement of being one of only 159 schools in the country to achieve 100% Level 4 attainment in all core subjects?

The Cabinet Member replied that the school deserved the Council's commendation and thanked Mr Wilby for bringing this to his attention. The Cabinet Member confirmed that he would write to the school with his congratulations.

8.13 Question from Mr Bearman

Mr Bearman commended the council on promoting walking and cycling as a health option for travel to and from school. Would the Cabinet Member support an area-wide default 20mph speed limit in urban areas, improving safety on the roads for children on their whole journey to school, not just for the last 100 metres outside the school gate?

The Cabinet Member replied that he saw the merits of 20mph limits in streets near schools but would not wish to pass judgement on a district-wide implementation of such limits as this was not always appropriate. However this made sense in the vicinity of schools, for public and road safety.

8.14 Question from Mrs Thomas

Mrs Thomas questioned the exemption to contract standing orders relating to the specialist resource bases, which stated that the Cabinet resolved "to note". Does the Cabinet not have to make a decision to undertake the exemption to contract standing orders?

The Cabinet Member responded that this was an officer delegated power and was therefore noted.

8.15 Question from Mr R Smith

In some parts of the county there is an increasing need for school places. Could the Cabinet Member comment generally on the council's capacity to deliver future school improvements and school building?

The Cabinet Member replied that the allocation from government of capital funding for the next three years had recently been received. Section 106 money from developers would still be required in some areas over the longer period, however the existing programmed looked set to meet demand in the near future.

8.16 Question from Mr Bremner

Would the Cabinet Member consider writing to all the schools that improved their results for the children in the 'value added' category?

The Cabinet Member agreed that he would write, and agreed that there was a need to recognise improvement in many areas as well as academic results.

8.17 Question from Mr Collis

Would the Cabinet Member comment on the benefits of the appointment of the Interim Director of Children's Services?

The Cabinet Member replied that this had been an excellent appointment for the council, and that she had brought real experience from other authorities in a similar position to Norfolk. She had infused confidence in the staff around her, and given a new focus on the essential needs of the department. There was a need to be focussed on outcomes, with special regard to the statutory duties of the council. She had brought focus, experience and confidence.

Questions to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Services

8.18 Question from Mrs Brociek-Coulton

Is there anything in particular that could be carried forward from the findings of the Fuel Poverty Working Group report?

The Cabinet Member replied that two main recommendations of the report which would be presented to Cabinet were centred around the roll-out of mains gas, with 80% of Norfolk not having access to this. The second recommendation suggested that the Council should subscribe to the Energy Bill, which would spend the carbon tax revenue of around £4BN per year nationally on making homes more energy efficient. It was noted that many homes in Norfolk relied on expensive oil heating.

8.19 Question from Mrs Gurney

Mrs Gurney expressed concern about the budget proposals to heavily rely on NHS money to supplement the Swifts and Night Owls service. Could the Cabinet Member give assurance that this service would be protected should the NHS money not be forthcoming, noting that there had been commentary on the local radio suggesting that the Ambulance Service relied on this service for less critical emergencies.

The Cabinet Member replied that the Swifts was not an emergency medical service and that anyone suffering a fall should call the ambulance service, who would then assess the risk and determine whether another agency should respond. Swifts and Night Owls were not medically trained however they did have equipment to lift someone who had fallen. The Swift and Night Owl service was designed for lower level assistance, employing 40 full time equivalent staff with eight on duty at a time. The Cabinet Member was disappointed that the ambulance service were no longer routinely responding to falls.

Around £7M per year was spent on the Swift and Night Owl service, with the main benefit being prevention of admission to hospital. The NHS contributed around £1M to the service. Discussions were underway to seek a more equitable division of financial contribution.

Questions to the Cabinet Member for Communities

8.20 Question from Mr Humphrey

Mr Humphrey noted the ongoing review within the Adult Education Service and asked when the outcome of the Wensum Lodge investigation would be known so that the review of adult education could be completed.

The Cabinet Member confirmed that a report would be presented to the Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Panel in March 2014, and had understood that an answer to the question raised at the previous meeting had been provided. The Leader added that he had earlier confirmed that services would continue to be provided from Wensum Lodge and that the Director would provide further information.

8.21 Question from Mr Humphrey

Would the Cabinet Member congratulate the Library Service and the Customer Services for the information that is given within her report, and also the Norfolk Museums Service for the great efforts that they are making on income generation, finding ways of getting money for that service to increase the service? Mr Humphrey noted that he hoped that all services would follow this example.

The Cabinet Member agreed with Mr Humphrey's comments.

8.22 Question from Mr Ward

In the recent consultation there was reference to libraries sharing buildings and possibly being moved. Has the administration any concrete plans for libraries to be closed in the future?

The Cabinet Member replied that the administration never had and never would propose to close libraries. They were of great value to the community across all age groups with

lots of activities, and were a resource that needed to be kept.

8.23 Question from Ms Kemp

Regarding the increased footfall in Norfolk's museums last year, and the plans for a Foundation in order to maximise income generation, have there been any plans to bring this into force?

The Cabinet Member replied that there were plans for the Foundation which were not yet finalised, but would be very welcome when implemented.

8.24 Question from Mr Wilby

Will the Cabinet Member support the running of the Pride in Norfolk Awards during 2014?

The Cabinet Member replied that no decision had been made at present.

Questions to the Cabinet Member for Economic Development.

8.25 Question from Mr Timewell

Would the Cabinet Member update Members on the Coltishall project?

The Cabinet Member reported that a meeting had taken place with Norman Lamb MP, and that people with interests in the site had been invited to declare these by the end of March 2014 with a closing date of April 2014. A development partnership relating to the former Officers' Mess was being set up, however this had not yet reached the planning stage. Draft proposals were ready for submission in relation to other prospective occupiers. These would be submitted if and when the Council agreed to enter into a lease agreement. The modern runway extension would be used for aggregate which would be used on the new Postwick Hub build, recouping the cost of purchasing the site. The original runway would remain in situ and there were plans to reinstate a small hamlet, Batley Green, which had to be demolished when RAF Coltishall was established, to make way for the runway.

8.26 Question from Mr Wilby

When will Norfolk County Council take over the INTERREG project and when will the 30 new jobs be advertised that are required to run the programme?

The Cabinet Member agreed to provide a written response.

8.27 Question from Mrs Thomas

Would the Cabinet Member thank the staff involved in Apprenticeships Norfolk for achieving 287 new apprenticeships in this programme?

The Cabinet Member supported Mrs Thomas's comments and noted that the Council intended to continue supporting this programme as best it could.

Questions to the Cabinet Member for Environment, Transport, Development and Waste

8.28 Question from Dr Boswell

The recent consultation submitted to the Planning Inspectorate shows 460 residents opposed a three quarter Northern Distributor Road whilst only 171 supported it. Given this growing lack of support, and that this council has to find £189M of cuts, will the Cabinet Member freeze any start of construction within the financial year 2014/15, saving the Council at least £3M?

The Cabinet Member responded that the answer was no.

8.29 Question from Mr R Smith.

The Cabinet Member advised Cabinet about the reports from PriceWaterhouse Cooper and Queen's Counsel regarding the waste incineration project. Could the Cabinet Member advise Council as to how much each of those report cost?

The Cabinet Member agreed to provide a written response.

8.30 Question from Mr Spratt

With their budget release, the Conservative Group priced in the four recommendations which were passed on Tuesday 14th January 2014 at the Environment, Transport and Development Overview and Scrutiny Panel. Could the Cabinet Member support and propose these recommendations to Cabinet?

The Chairman disallowed the question as it related to the budget which would be discussed at the next meeting.

8.31 Question from Mr East

Is the recent A47 announcement by the Prime Minister when he visited Norfolk just hollow and empty rhetoric?

The Cabinet Member replied that he had listened very carefully to what the Prime Minister had said, and noted that an NCC delegation had visited Westminster to discuss the matter there. The Cabinet Member was glad that the Prime Minister had made the announcement and hoped that this was delivered.

8.32 Question from Mr Dobson

Referring to the PriceWaterhouse Cooper and Queen's Counsel reports, given that the reports self-evidently contain irregularities, omissions and material, intellectual and moral confusions in their detailed content, would the Cabinet Member agree that it would be unusual if the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee did not wish as a matter of expediency to learn more of the Cabinet's detailed views on both reports, and to seek to challenge them if they are considered to be wrong?

The Cabinet Member replied that he did not think so.

8.33 Question from Mr Childs

Would the Cabinet Member convey the Council's thanks to Mr McCabe for the sterling

work that the ETD staff did during the floods?

The Cabinet Member agreed to convey this message.

8.34 Question from Mrs Gurney

Could the Cabinet Member give assurance that more rigorous checks will be made to ensure that minor road works such as re-lining of white lines are completed properly? This is mentioned as a result of re-lining in Hellesdon where the contractors sent the bill when only half the work had been completed.

The Cabinet Member replied that he would pass these comments to the Director.

9 **Reports**

9.1 **Report of the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee 19 November 2013.**

Mr Borrett moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

9.2 **Report of the Personnel Committee 22nd November 2013 and 2 December 2013**

Mr Nobbs moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

9.3 **Report of the Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee 28 November 2013.**

Mr Carttiss moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

9.4 **Report of the Planning (Regulatory) Committee 6 December 2013**

Mr Bremner moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

9.5 **Report of the Norwich Joint Highways Committee Meeting 28 November 2013.**

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

9.6 **Report of the Norfolk Joint Museums Committee Meetings 22 November 2013 and 3 January 2014.**

Mr Ward moved the reports. Council **RESOLVED** to note the reports.

9.7 **Report of the Norfolk Records Committee Meetings 22 November 2013 and 3 January 2014.**

Mr Chenery moved the reports. Council **RESOLVED** to note the reports.

10 **Overview and Scrutiny Panels**

Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

11 **Appointments to Committees / Panels etc**

It was noted that the following appointments to committees and panels had been made:

- Mr Bremner to the vacancy on the Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Panel.
- Mr Jermy to the vacancy on the Fire and Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Panel.
- Mr Seward to replace Mr Hannah on the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- Mr Thomas to replace Mr Hannah on the Fire and Rescue Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

12 To Answer Questions on notice under rule 8.3 of the Council Procedure Rules

There were none.

The meeting concluded at 3pm.

Chairman

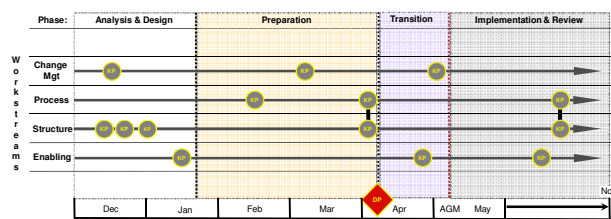
If you need this document in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact the Democratic Support Team, Resources on 0344 800 8020 or 0344 800 8011 (textphone) and we will do our best to help.

Appendix 1

"This Council agrees to the introduction of a Committee system for Norfolk County Council which includes a Policy and Resources Committee. This Council further agrees to the establishment of a cross party Steering Group consisting of two members of each political group and the independent member. This Steering Group will produce a detailed committee system proposal to be voted on at an extraordinary meeting of the Council in April 2014 to come into effect from May 2014."

25 Nov 13

Mapping The Change To A Committee System



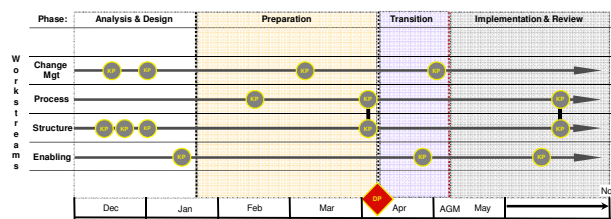
How Do We Promote Clarity?
How Do We Ensure Nothing Important Is Missed?
How Do We Know How We Are Progressing?

Mapping The Project Will:

- Provide A Common Understanding
- Identify Key Elements Of The Problem
- Assist The Orchestration Of Activity
- Indicate Degree Of Progress
- Enable The Prioritisation Of Effort
- Identify Problems Early

1. An Update During Analysis & Design Phase = Detail In April
2. Requirement Focus (Work From First Principles)
3. First Task...
4. Detail In April

Mapping The Change To A Committee System

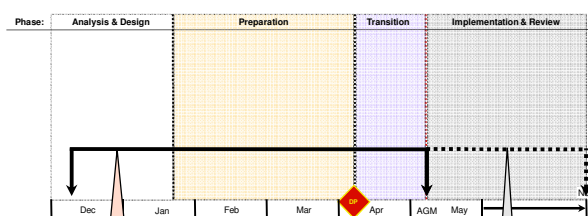


How Do We Promote Clarity?
How Do We Ensure Nothing Important Is Missed?
How Do We Know How We Are Progressing?

Mapping The Project Will:

- Provide A Common Understanding
- Identify Key Elements Of The Problem
- Assist The Orchestration Of Activity
- Indicate Level Of Progress
- Enable The Prioritisation Of Effort
- Identify Problems Early

Mapping The Change To A Committee System



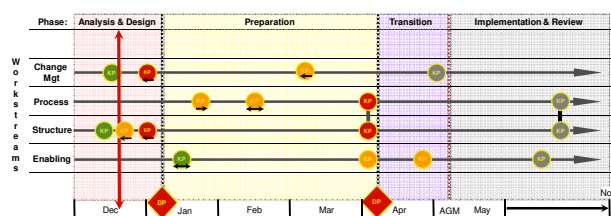
Phase Aims:

- Understand Task, Aim, Constraints
- Establish Work-Plan
- Agree Key Features Of New System
- Produce Committee Model Structure For Detailed Development

Phase Aims:

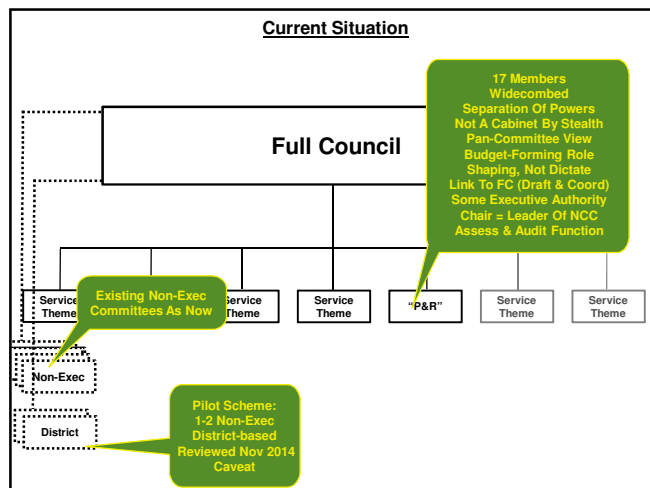
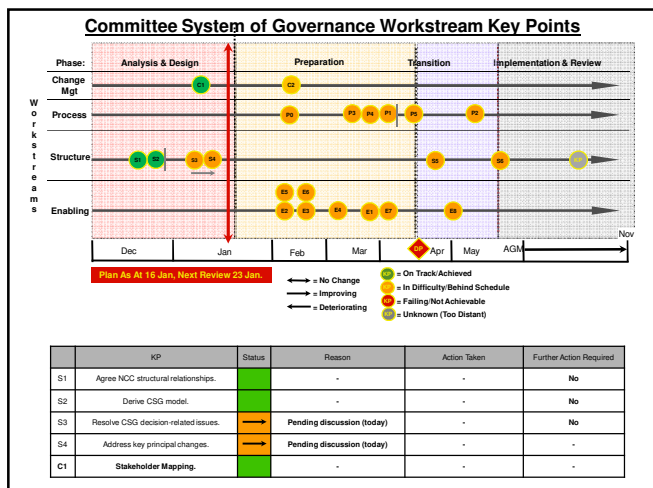
- Ensure NCC Functions Effectively After Implementation
- Address Any Post-Implementation Problems
- Conduct Review For Possible Changes After Nov 2014

Mapping The Change To A Committee System



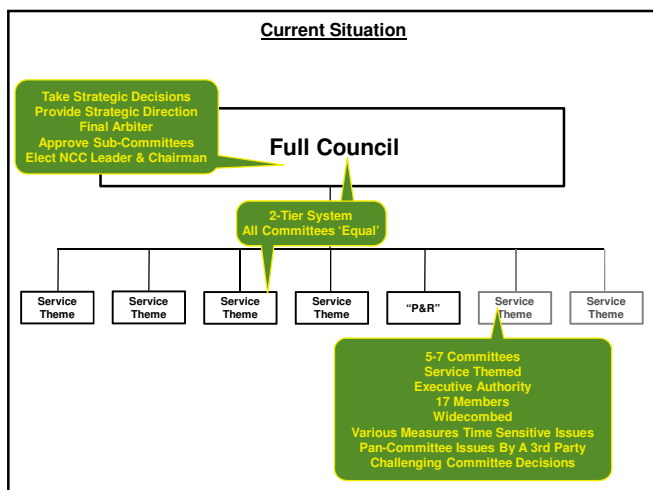
- = On Track/Achieved
- = In Difficulty/Behind Schedule
- = Failing/Not Achievable
- = Unknown (Too Distant)
- ↔ = No Change
- = Improving
- ← = Deteriorating

Key Point	Status	Reason	Action Taken	Further Action Required
X		Report Running Late.	2 Staff added to writing team.	Nil.
Y		No agreement on data set.	Second ballot taken.	External review necessary.



	KP	Status	Reason	Action Taken	Further Action Required
S5	Appointments - Publication of final process				
S6	Appointments - Completion of the process				
P0	Papers on new constitution - Table of contents approved				
P1	Papers on new constitution available for CAG				
P2	Papers on new constitution issued for Full Council				
P3	CMS - System configuration completed				
P4	CMS - Technical testing completed				
P5	CMS - User acceptance testing completed				
E1	Documentation - Templates & standards signed off				
E2	Democratic Support - New workflow mapped				
E3	Democratic Support - Operating model produced & impact assessment completed				
E4	Democratic Support - New structure signed off				
E5	Training - TNA completed				
E6	Training - Integrated programme developed				
E7	Training - Generic materials produced				
E8	Training - Role specific materials produced				
C1	Stakeholders - Identification of internal & external stakeholders completed				
C2	Stakeholders - Communication & engagement plan produced				

1. Scope & Scale Of The Task
2. Analysis & Design Phase = Detail In April
3. Steering Group members
4. The Ability To Review
5. Common Ground & Objectives



Norfolk County Council
20 January 2014

Appendix 2

Recorded Vote – Minute 6.1 – Mr Borrett Motion

Name	For	Against	Name	For	Against
Adams Tony	x		Jermy Terry		x
Agnew Stephen	x		Jordan Cliff	x	
Aldred Colin	x		Joyce James		x
Askew Stephen	x		Kemp Alexandra		x
Baker Michael	x		Kiddle-Morris Mark	x	
Bearman Richard		x	Law Jason	x	
Bird Richard	x		Leggett Judy	x	
Borrett Bill	x		Long Brian	x	
Boswell Andrew		x	Mackie Ian	x	
Bremmer Bert		x	Monson Ian	x	
Brociek-Coulton Julie		x	Mooney Joe	x	
Byrne Alec	ABSENT		Morgan Elizabeth		x
Carttiss Michael	x		Morphew Steve		x
Castle Mick		x	Nobbs George		x
Chamberlin Jenny	x		Northam Wyndham	x	
Chenery of Horsbrugh Michael	x		Parkinson-Hare Rex	x	
Childs Jonathon	x		Perkins Jim	x	
Clancy Stuart	ABSENT		Proctor Andrew	x	
Coke Toby	x		Ramsbotham David	x	
Collis David		x	Richmond William	x	
Corlett Emma		x	Roper Daniel		x
Cox Hilary	x		Sands Mike		x
Crawford Denis	x		Seward E		x
Dearnley Adrian		x	Shaw Nigel	ABSENT	
Dewsbury Margaret	x		Smith Matthew	x	
Dixon Nigel	x		Smith Roger	x	
Dobson John	x		Smyth Paul	ABSTAIN	
East Tim		x	Somerville Margaret	x	
FitzPatrick Tom	x		Spratt Bev	x	
Foulger Colin	x		Storey Martin	x	
Garrod Tom	x		Strong Marie		x
Gihawi Deborah		x	Thomas Alison	x	
Gilmour Paul	x		Thomas David	ABSENT	
Grey Alan	x		Timewell John		x
Gunson Adrian	x		Virgo Judith	x	
Gurney Shalagh	x		Walker Colleen		x
Hacon Pat		x	Ward John	x	
Hannah Brian		x	Watkins Brian		x
Harrison David		x	Whitaker Sue		x
Hebborn Stan	x		White Tony	x	
Humphrey Harry	x		Wilby Martin	x	
Iles Brian	x		Wilkinson Margaret		x

For 51, Against 28, Abstentions 1 – **CARRIED**

Norfolk County Council
20 January 2014

Appendix 3

Recorded Vote – Minute 6.5 – Mr Dobson Motion

Name	For	Against	Name	For	Against
Adams Tony		x	Jermy Terry		x
Agnew Stephen	x		Jordan Cliff		x
Aldred Colin	x		Joyce James		x
Askew Stephen		x	Kemp Alexandra	x	
Baker Michael	x		Kiddle-Morris Mark		x
Bearman Richard	x		Law Jason	x	
Bird Richard	x		Leggett Judy		x
Borrett Bill		x	Long Brian	x	
Boswell Andrew	x		Mackie Ian		x
Bremmer Bert		x	Monson Ian		x
Brociek-Coulton Julie	x		Mooney Joe		x
Byrne Alec	ABSENT		Morgan Elizabeth	x	
Carttiss Michael	ABSENT		Morphew Steve		x
Castle Mick		x	Nobbs George		x
Chamberlin Jenny		x	Northam Wyndham		x
Chenery of Horsbrugh Michael	x		Parkinson-Hare Rex	x	
Childs Jonathon	x		Perkins Jim	x	
Clancy Stuart	ABSENT		Proctor Andrew		x
Coke Toby	x		Ramsbotham David	x	
Collis David	ABSENT		Richmond William		x
Corlett Emma		x	Roper Daniel	x	
Cox Hilary	x		Sands Mike		x
Crawford Denis	x		Seward E	x	
Dearnley Adrian	x		Shaw Nigel	ABSENT	
Dewsbury Margaret	ABSENT		Smith Matthew	x	
Dixon Nigel		x	Smith Roger		x
Dobson John	x		Smyth Paul	x	
East Tim	x		Somerville Margaret		x
FitzPatrick Tom		x	Spratt Bev		x
Foulger Colin		x	Storey Martin	x	
Garrod Tom		x	Strong Marie	ABSENT	
Gihawi Deborah	x		Thomas Alison		x
Gilmour Paul	x		Thomas David	ABSENT	
Grey Alan	x		Timewell John	x	
Gunson Adrian		x	Virgo Judith		x
Gurney Shalagh		x	Walker Colleen		x
Hacon Pat		x	Ward John		x
Hannah Brian	x		Watkins Brian	ABSENT	
Harrison David		x	Whitaker Sue		x
Hebborn Stan	x		White Tony		x
Humphrey Harry		x	Wilby Martin		x
Iles Brian		x	Wilkinson Margaret		x

For 33, Against 42, – **LOST**