

**Norfolk County Council****Minutes of the Meeting Held on 25 July 2016****Present:**

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

Mr J Ward, Vice-Chairman, in the Chair.

### **Apologies for Absence:**

Apologies for absence were received from Mr C Aldred, Mr M Baker, Mr A Byrne, Mr D Collis, Mr A Grey, Ms E Morgan, Mr P Smyth, and Mr B Spratt.

## **1 Minutes**

- 1.1 The minutes of the Council meeting held on 9 May 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman, subject to the word “families” replacing the words “a family” in the last sentence of paragraph 11.10.
- 1.2 The minutes of the Council meeting held on 27 June 2016 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

## **2 Chairman’s Announcements**

- 2.1 Council paid tribute to Harold Bodmer, Executive Director of Adult Social Care, who had passed away very suddenly and Members stood in a minute’s silence as a mark of respect. A book of condolence was opened for Members to record their personal tributes.

## **3 Declarations of Interest**

- 3.1 Mr B Bremner declared an interest in item 5b (Notice of Motions) as he was a member of the “Hope not Hate” organisation.

## **4 Questions to Leader of the Council**

### **4.1 Question from Mr G Nobbs.**

Mr Nobbs referred to the request by the EDP in November 2015 to view the internal assessments of Norfolk Schools. He added that, although his view at the time was that we should have given the information to the EDP, Children’s Services had decided to contest the matter legally. He added that the Leader had said at the time that parents in the county had a right to know whether local schools were in good shape or not and that sadly that this was typical of the secret squirrel tactics employed by the then County Council leadership. Since then, we had been told that the information should be made public and now Norfolk County Council was using what the EDP called a little known legal tactic to prevent publication. Mr Nobbs asked the Leader if he still thought the public had a right to know the information.

The Leader replied that he still considered the public had a right to know how schools had been rated.

### **4.2 Question from Mr D Roper**

Mr Roper said that proposals for the 2017-18 budget would be going out to public consultation in about 14 weeks’ time, although the papers for the September round of Committee meetings would probably be published in about six weeks’ time. He continued by saying that this time last year, the first round of inter-departmental challenge meetings to develop and challenge assumptions to go forward for the budget for 2015-16 had just been completed. Mr Roper asked

the Leader if this was a process that was being repeated this year, if so had any meetings taken place yet and if this process was not happening this year, what had taken its place.

The Leader responded that, when the time came, he hoped Mr Roper would help him as much as he had helped him previously.

**4.3 Question from Mr R Bearman**

Mr Bearman asked if the Leader would agree that this Council should make the humanitarian decision to accept 50 Syrian refugees for resettlement and commend those citizens of Norwich who had responded so positively to the crisis by their generous offers of help, both in kind and by donations, as outlined in the agenda papers.

The Leader responded that as the subject was on the agenda, a full debate would take place later on in the meeting.

**4.4 Question from Mrs C Walker**

Mrs Walker asked if the Leader could confirm whether or not those councils that had voted against devolution were going to be charged for the consultation.

The Leader replied that he did not know whether they were consulting.

**4.5 Question from Ms A Kemp**

Ms Kemp said that during the negotiations for the UK to come out of the EU, it may have fallen below the public radar how much money Norfolk councils stood to lose. She said for example Norfolk County Council received £20m from the EU for skills and training and £9m through the Leader programme to help local businesses. She continued that there were 35 full-time members of staff funded by EU projects. Ms Kemp asked the Leader if he would guarantee that he would do as much as he could to secure a guarantee from the Government that this Council continue to receive that funding when we came out of the EU, as it was vital that the funding was there for Norfolk's economic prosperity.

The Leader replied that he would do all he could to support Norfolk in any way possible. He said he was talking to the Government on a variety of topics, although he had not been involved with the Brexit debate as yet. He said he was sure there would be an opportunity to put forward suggestions but it was too early to say as it had only been one month since the referendum.

**4.6 Question from Dr A Boswell**

Dr Boswell asked if, given the recent close vote at Norfolk County Council and the voting against the devolution deal at four Norfolk district councils, the Leader would write to the new ministers at the Treasury, DCLG and the Business departments, setting out the key arguments against the Devolution deal as it stood, including opposition to the requirement for an elected Mayor and request that the new ministers revisit the devolution deal to propose something which was more acceptable to Norfolk Councillors and residents.

The Leader replied that he had made his position really clear and that he was going to wait until the results of public consultation were known, although he reassured Council that he would be talking to ministers for the benefit of Norfolk.

**4.7 Question from Mr S Morphew**

Mr Morphew said that when he had become Leader of the Council, Mr Jordan had promised a new start for Norfolk. He added that it was now almost three months down the road, not much had changed and there were no obvious signs of change on the horizon as a result of the Conservative administration. He asked the Leader if, in order to avoid any suggestions that he was kicking the can down the road, he could tell us when all would be revealed?

The Leader replied that there was an enormous mess and he was doing his best to find all the cans previously kicked down the road but he would get there.

**4.8 Question from Mr R Bird**

Mr Bird said he had written to the Leader on 9 July 2016, asking him a question about the Devolution document. He added that the document was, in the opinion of many, a propaganda document which set out only the benefits of devolution to the voting public. Mr Bird had asked what, if any, arrangements had been made to finance and circulate a brochure outlining the potential costs and drawbacks of entering the proposed devolved deal. Mr Bird had not received a response to his email and asked the Leader if there was a response and also what the normal practice was for acknowledging emails.

The Leader apologised to Mr Bird and said he would ensure a written reply was given as soon as possible. With regard to the costs, the Leader responded that the public consultation was underway and we would need to wait for the results of that before any decisions were made.

**4.9 Question from Mr B Bremner**

Mr Bremner referred to an earlier question and the reference to cans and roads. He asked the leader what cans he had found that he needed to deal with and what did he think he was going to find. The Leader had said there was a complete mess and Mr Bremner asked what the Leader's opinion of Children's Services was now, as it had been a complete and utter mess before the previous Administration had taken over. Mr Bremner asked the Leader to say what cans were missing, what cans he had found and explain the problems in more detail.

The Leader replied that he was still trying to get to the bottom of the situation and he was not going to tell everyone what he was doing.

**4.10 Question from Mr T Jermy**

Mr Jermy said, in the past, the Leader had been highly critical of unelected quangos having an influence and Mr Jermy asked the Leader if he thought it was appropriate for the Leader of the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to use a twitter feed to lobby the public about devolution.

The Leader replied that it was a matter for the business community, but personally he felt the business community should be involved as they were in a position to put the economics of this county at the forefront of any deal.

**5 Notice of Motions**

**5.1 The following motion was proposed by Mr S Morphew and seconded by Mr G Nobbs:**

"Council regrets the devolution consultation material and associated press

release gives a limited and biased view of the devolution proposals. In order to redress the balance and avoid the results being subject to challenge because of the biased nature of the process, Council instructs the Managing Director to use reasonable means to circulate additional information to residents sufficient to redress the pro devolution agreement bias”.

- 5.1.1 Following debate, and upon being put to a recorded vote (Appendix A), with 34 votes in favour, 38 votes against and 3 abstentions, the motion was **LOST**.

- 5.2 The following motion was proposed by Mr T Jermy and seconded by Ms E Corlett:

- 5.2.1 “Council notes with concern and regret the rise in reported ‘Hate Crime’ over the past few weeks and months, in particular during the run up to the European Referendum and weeks following the poll.

Council is aware of the inevitable anxiety and concern felt by migrant workers in particular across the County following the referendum result.

Council recognises and praises the significant contribution economically, socially and culturally made by migrant workers in our County and gives thanks to those people for those contributions.

Norfolk has long been a compassionate and tolerant County with such notable humanitarians as Edith Cavell and Elizabeth Fry born locally.

Council calls upon all Norfolk residents to continue that spirit of tolerance, compassion and understanding and will ensure that this culture is embedded in the organisation”.

- 5.2.2 Mr T Coke proposed the following amendment, seconded by Mr J Childs.

‘The Council notes that members of all political parties not least UKIP and their supporters have been targets themselves of hate and abuse from hard, left wing organisations and individuals who are intolerant of anyone who has differing views.

Furthermore, Council deplore the actions of those that wish to try and impede democracy such as the organisation ‘Hope not Hate’ and all forms of hate and intolerance from all areas of the political spectrum that should be abhorred. Those found to be advocating intolerance of other people’s beliefs or views, as has been widely reported in the media with the anti-Semitic behaviour of certain elements of the Labour Party, must not be tolerated.’

Upon being put to the vote, with 6 votes in favour of the amendment, the amendment was **LOST**.

- 5.2.3 The substantive motion was then put to the vote and with 73 votes in favour, the substantive motion was **CARRIED**.

- 5.3 The following motion was proposed by Mr J Dobson and seconded by Mr T East:

- 5.3.1 “This Council wishes to register its concern regarding the recently announced discontinuation of the Revell Inquiry and in particular the lack of transparency

surrounding the process leading to that termination. Further, members are worried lest the reputation of this Council be put at risk if a proper inquiry process into the massive loss of tax payers' money caused by the cancelling of the incinerator project is not pursued to satisfactory completion and its report presented to full Council, together with a list of lessons to be learned and measures that need to be taken to prevent such a large-scale financial disaster in future County Council procurements. It would be difficult to imagine that any comparable body, in local government, government or elsewhere in the public sector, undertaking multi- £million procurements, would be able to abandon a follow-up inquiry in similar circumstances without attracting significant public opprobrium and/or suspicions of a "cover-up".

To preserve our reputation in this respect the Council therefore wishes the Inquiry to be continued under a single, separate, volunteer individual (in this case a politically non-aligned member with detailed knowledge of the history of the failed project) with due support from Departmental Officers. It is not envisaged that the refusal by certain parties to give evidence in the case will present insuperable difficulties given that over the period in question many of those senior members and officers involved in advising and decision-making were part of a Strong Leader and Cabinet governance system and decisions and advice regarding the contract were clearly ex officio in most cases with the detail of those decisions, together with reasons, officially set down in Council records. It will however be expected that the new author will be given discreet access to the evidence given to Mr Revell during the course of his inquiry so far.

This Council therefore gives authority for the Inquiry to be continued with unaltered terms of reference except as provided for above with a target date for publication of the report with recommendations of 31 January 2017. The work will be undertaken discreetly by the volunteer author, who will work through the Managing Director, who is asked to facilitate the new author's access to records and other information needed to be supplied by officers".

- 5.3.2 Dr M Strong proposed the following amendment, seconded by Mr G Nobbs, which was agreed by the proposer and seconder and became the substantive motion:

This Council wishes to register its concern regarding the recently announced discontinuation of the Revell Inquiry.

This Council therefore gives authority for the Inquiry to be continued with unaltered terms of reference except as provided for above with a target date for publication of the report with recommendations of 31 January 2017.

- 5.3.3 Dr A Boswell, seconded by Mr R Bearman moved the following amendment which was accepted by Mr J Dobson and Mr T East, as proposer and seconder of the original motion and became the substantive motion:

This Council wishes to register its concern regarding the recently announced discontinuation of the Revell Inquiry.

That it be continued by a newly constituted Panel comprising a mixture of people from inside and outside Norfolk County Council with a Chair who is independent and outside Norfolk County Council.

This Council therefore gives authority for the Inquiry to be continued with unaltered terms of reference except as provided for above with a target date for

publication of the report with recommendations of 31 January 2017.

5.3.4 Following debate, the proposer Mr J Dobson, in agreement with the seconder Mr T East, **withdrew** the motion.

5.4 The following motion was proposed by Mr J Dobson and seconded by Ms A Kemp:

5.4.1 This Council notes with displeasure that notwithstanding its clear instruction in April to Policy and Resources and Children's Services for a working group to be set up to identify and recommend for implementation mitigating measures to restore equity in Broadband financing resources between schools, the latter, with the active encouragement of finance and children's services officers, decided that this was not possible and reported accordingly to the 31 May Policy and Resources meeting. This is despite the Council Leader reconfirming in the latest issue of Your Council our official priority of "excellence in education", implying equal resources for all schools, including those primary schools in remote, rural locations, not yet enjoying the benefits of superfast Broadband.

Council is asked to register the dismay and disappointment on learning of the working group's disinclination to do as bidden of one such school in my Division, which had been relying on the working group to mitigate the increase in costs associated with the new Broadband contract and for relative financial parity to be restored with other more favourably located and sized schools elsewhere in Norfolk. A small number of other schools elsewhere in Norfolk may similarly have had their expectations dislocated and will make their concern known once this motion is reported in the media.

Council therefore directs those responsible to set up a newly constituted working group to repeat the exercise, but this time comprising no member who actually opposes the idea of restoring fairness in our support for schools (as was the case with one member last time), nor any members who are School Governors and loath to bring in measures which might affect their own school and for the finance and children's officers supporting the Group to do so enthusiastically with the aim of achieving its original aim, rather than produce arguments that hinder that purpose.

5.4.2 Following debate, and upon being put to a vote, with 8 votes in favour, and 3 abstentions, the motion was **LOST**.

## **6 Recommendations from Service Committees**

### **6.1 Policy & Resources – 31 May 2016**

6.1.1 Mr C Jordan, Chair of Policy & Resources Committee moved the report and the recommendations and in respect of the Syrian refugee item, he proposed, seconded by Mrs A Thomas, that "This Council participate in the Government Scheme".

#### **6.1.2 Potential Use of Cash Balances.**

Council **RESOLVED** that the project be added to the capital programme.

#### **6.1.3 Annual Treasury Management Report 2015-16**

Council **RESOLVED** to endorse the report.

**6.1.4 Medium Term Financial and Service Planning 2017-18 to 2019-20**

Council **RESOLVED** to confirm the priorities, measures and targets set out in the County Council Plan.

**6.1.5 Syrian Refugee Crisis – Norfolk Response**

With 63 votes in favour, 6 votes against and 1 abstention, Council **RESOLVED** that

- a) after taking into account the potential cost implications for Norfolk authorities to take part in the Syrian Vulnerable Person's Resettlement Scheme.
- b) in the meantime the County Council urgently hold discussions with the various organisations involved, including the District Councils, to explore ways of meeting the financial shortfall.
- c) having noted the new arrangements for unaccompanied asylum seeking children and the Child at risk programme announced by the Immigration Minister, to seek the advice of the Children's Services Committee on the County Council's response.

Council adjourned at 12.30pm and reconvened at 1.20pm.

**6.2 Policy & Resources Committee – 18 July 2016**

**6.2.1 Budget 2017-18 Planning and Efficiency Plan**

**6.2.2 The Committee RESOLVED to:**

1. accept the Government's offer of a four year funding allocation by submitting an Efficiency Plan to the Department for Communities and Local Government before 14 October 2016;
2. approve the draft Efficiency Plan 2016-17 to 2019-20, noting that the Plan would be updated to reflect Full Council's decisions about the County Council Plan and then communicated to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

**7 Reports from Service Committees (Questions to Chairs)**

**7.1 Report of the Policy and Resources Committee meetings held on 31 May and 18 July 2016.**

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

**Question from Mr D Roper.**

Mr Roper referred to the transitional funding for 2015-16 and asked for reassurance that this money would be spent in the current financial year.

The Leader gave his assurance.

Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

7.2 **Report of the Adult Social Care Committee meetings held on 16 May and 4 July 2016**

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

7.2.1 **Question from Ms S Whitaker**

Ms Whitaker referred to item 7 (Integration of Better Care Fund Sustainability and Transformation Plan presented to Committee at its meeting on 4 July. She said that, given it was now known that the five Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in Norfolk had said they would not fund the Better Care Fund up to the level of last year, leaving a gap of £7m to be plugged and given that we had previously been told at a spokespersons meeting that £5m of savings would have to be found for this year and that some suggestions had been put forward as to where those savings could be found, what areas had been explored by the department about where those savings could be made.

The Chair agreed that it was very worrying and that he looked forward to discussing any proposals that members put forward at Committee, as it would be up to the Committee to make any decisions about savings.

For clarification, Mrs A Thomas, Deputy Leader, advised that Policy & Resources Committee at its recent meeting had agreed the business risk and reserve would cover the £5m shortfall.

7.2.2 **Question from Mr E Seward**

Mr Seward referred to a presentation made to North Norfolk District Council at its recent Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting about the possible closure of Cranmer House in Fakenham. Mr Seward asked the Chair if he had received any representations about the proposal and, as it was unclear if any closure was to proceed, whether any such decision would be made by management or Committee.

The Chair replied that Cranmer House was run by Norse, so it would be up to them to decide whether or not the facility was viable. The Chair advised that any decision would ultimately be made by the Adult Social Care Committee.

Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

7.3 **Report of the Children's Services Committee meetings held on 10 May and 28 June 2016.**

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

7.3.1 **Question from Mr B Watkins**

Mr Watkins referred to the fact that it had now been over two years since Norfolk County Council had commissioned a review to examine the treatment of foster carers across Norfolk. He added that recently Norman Lamb MP and others had raised various issues about the process, in particular that some foster carers who had raised concerns had not been contacted to give evidence. Also that the Norfolk Foster Carers Association had not been properly brought into the discussions. Mr Watkins asked the Chair of Children's Services Committee to inform Council whether the concerns had been taken on board as part of the review and also when Ian Parker's report was expected to be published.

The Chair replied that the Children's Services Committee would receive an update at its September meeting. In the meantime, the Chair was proposing to hold a spokespersons meeting in the near future, where a further update would be made available. He added that there had been some difficulties in finalising the report, but would share information as it became available.

**7.3.2 Question from Mrs J Leggett**

Mrs Leggett asked if the Chair and Vice-Chair would join her in congratulating the looked after children who had attended the WOW celebration event, sharing the achievements of Norfolk's looked after children.

The Vice-Chairman of Norfolk County Council also congratulated the young people on their achievements on behalf of Council. The Chair of Children's Services Committee also congratulated everyone involved and asked the Vice-Chair to respond as she had attended the event. The Vice-Chair said that she had attended the afternoon, representing Children's Services. She said there were over 70 awards given, with some wonderful entertainment. The children had been enthusiastic and proud of their awards. The Vice-Chair said it had been a wonderful afternoon and the children who had received their prizes were a real credit to Norfolk.

**7.3.3 The Chair reminded all Members of the Looked after Children and Care Leavers Strategic Workshop taking place on Wednesday 27 July at 2pm in the Anna Sewell Room, County Hall Annexe and urged all Members to attend in their role as corporate parents.**

**7.3.4 Question from Mr M Sands**

Mr Sands asked when the Task and Finish Group on Inclusion (agreed at the last Children's Services Committee meeting) would actually start and if the Chair agreed that the issue needed urgent attention.

The Chair replied that the terms of reference for the Task and Finish Group had been drawn up, together with a list of witnesses. The first meeting of the Group would be convened as soon as possible to agree the Terms of Reference and list of witnesses.

**7.3.5 Question from Mr R Bearman**

Mr Bearman asked for further information about unaccompanied asylum seeking children.

The Chair responded that there were a lot of young people, mainly males aged 15, 16 and 17, who needed care and following the decision made by Council earlier, the Committee would do its best to offer places. The Chair reassured Council that everything was being done to interpret the Home Office guidance and he would provide a further update at the next spokespersons meeting.

**7.3.6 Question from Ms E Corlett**

Ms Corlett asked if Norfolk County Council would accept unaccompanied refugee children and if the Chair could provide a timescale. Ms Corlett had asked the question because she was expecting to be able to vote on this issue at the meeting. She asked if the Chair could assure Council that the decision would now be taken at Children's Services Committee rather than referring the matter to full Council to avoid further delay to responding to this humanitarian emergency.

The Chair said he could not foresee any difficulty but it would depend on the scheme and any recommendations in the officer report. The report presented to the last Children's Services Committee had been withdrawn due to the publication of new guidance from the Home Office and as soon as there was further information available the Chair would circulate this. The published report had identified some of the costs and resources involved and the possible number of social workers for a cohort of 120 children. The Chair reiterated that it would be up to the Committee to decide whether it was feasible to take young people in tranches, rather than all at once as there could be an issue of ensuring foster carers were available. He added that supported lodgings was a possibility, but more information was needed. The Chair said he had spoken to some social worker teams at their monthly team meetings, as he felt it was important to get their views and engagement rather than imposing a decision on them which they may find impractical. The social workers the Chair had spoken to had confirmed they were up for the challenge.

**7.3.7 Question from Ms A Kemp**

Ms Kemp asked if the Chair would join her in congratulating Marshfields, in West Lynn, which provided breaks for disabled children, which had received 5 outstanding Ofsted reports in a row. Ms Kemp asked if the Chair would guarantee that in the recommissioning of short breaks for disabled children, the expertise available in Marshfields would not be diminished and also, if he would consider the fact that Marshfields had added to the skills of its staff by training them to provide individual, tailor made health plans for children. Ms Kemp said she knew there was an issue for children in care not receiving health plans quickly and asked if the Chair would consider tapping into the resource to build up skills and ensure all looked after children had resilient health plans.

The Chairman replied that specialist schools were a credit to Norfolk County Council and he would ensure the comments were passed on to the Committee. He thanked Ms Kemp for the sound advice and said that the work of Norfolk's specialist schools was exceptional. The Chair added that the Committee would consider this topic at its next meeting.

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

**7.4 Report of the Communities Committee meetings held on 11 May and 29 June 2016**

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

**7.4.1 Question from Ms A Kemp**

Ms Kemp referred to the excellent resource in the Communities department of the Museums Service and asked if Council would take the initiative and empower people with dementia to visit museums.

The Chair responded that places like Gressenhall museum acted as memory boxes to prompt people with dementia to remember things. The Chair said she had mentioned the possibility to officers and ways of making museums suitable for people with dementia to visit were being considered.

**7.4.2** The Chair of Children's Services invited the Chair of Communities Committee to commend the work libraries were doing, which was an excellent example of how cultural services staff, including museums staff, helped looked after children and

care leavers.

- 7.4.3 The Deputy Leader invited the Chair to ask all Members to encourage their resident's children to take part in the reading challenges run by libraries and also the Write on Norfolk scheme during the summer holidays.

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

7.5 **Report of the Environment, Development and Transport Committee meetings held on 20 May and 8 July 2016.**

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

7.5.1 **Question from Dr A Boswell**

Dr Andrew Boswell noted that the Committee had recently resolved to spend around £1.6m from in-year budgets to carry out early design and bid work on the Yarmouth Third River Crossing and the NDR Wensum Valley Link. He asked if the Chairman agreed that it would be responsible to review this spending, as the Head of the National Audit Office, Sir Amyas Morse, had recently warned that the post-Brexit Government would have to cut billions of pounds of infrastructure investment: previously assumed government funding might not be available, and money might be better spent on issues now.

The Chair replied that we were fully committed to improving infrastructure across Norfolk, whether it was in Great Yarmouth or the western link as they were essential pieces of work that needed to be completed.

7.5.2 **Question from Mr A Proctor**

Mr Proctor referred to flooding which could be disastrous for communities. He added that the recent heavy rain had meant the Huntsman public house in Strumpshaw had been flooded again, this time it would be closed for approximately 4-6 months which was a major blow to the community. Mr Proctor said Norfolk County Council was paying thousands of pounds in tendering water away after the floods, but did not appear to be sorting out a solution. Mr Proctor asked if the Chair would work with himself and the local community, not worrying about whose water was causing the problem, to get a solution and ensure Norfolk County Council fulfilled its obligations as the lead local flood agency.

The Chair replied that there had been some severe flooding issues across all of Norfolk over the last few months. He added that he was fully aware of what had happened at the Huntsman public house. The Chair said he would be attending a meeting in early August involving all statutory bodies, including Anglian Water and local people, and reiterated he would be happy to work with Mr Proctor to achieve a constructive outcome and resolve the problem, as local businesses needed to be supported.

7.5.3 **Question from Mr B Bremner**

Mr Bremner asked if the Chair of EDT had any answers to the number of road gullies (drains) that needed to be cleared all over Norfolk, especially with regard to the problems of localised flooding when there was heavy rain.

The Chair replied that he was aware of the issue of blocked gullies, especially from washed soil from fields, etc. He added that Norfolk County Council was working hard to catch up with clearing the gullies across the county, as well as

working hard to cut roadside grass verges.

**7.5.4 Question from Ms A Kemp**

Ms Kemp said that bridges were very important and she had noted that the Haven Bridge in Great Yarmouth was being repainted. She asked what had happened to the money allocated in the budget to repaint the Free Bridge, which was a very important piece of infrastructure, being a gateway into King's Lynn and South Lynn, linking the east coast industrial estate with the new innovation centre. She said that the money for the repainting had been spent elsewhere and also asked why the safety review which should have taken place had been postponed to October. She asked what the Chair could do about the situation.

The Chair replied that, as far as he was aware, the painting and safety inspection had been put back to take place in the future and he would provide a written response to Ms Kemp.

**7.5.5 Question from Mr D Roper**

Mr Roper referred to the flooding experienced in Hevingham recently, since a small scale housing development had been completed approximately 18 months ago. There was currently an impasse between Highways, Broadland District Council and the developer as to exactly whose responsibility it was to resolve the problem and he said any help the Chair could give to break the impasse would be appreciated.

The Chairman replied that he was sure everyone was concerned about anyone that got flooded and suggested local people got together to come up with a solution to the problem.

**7.5.6 Question from Mr G Plant**

Mr Plant asked how the verge cutting programme was progressing following the recent allocation of £20k for the project.

The Chair replied that the verge cutting was progressing well in the current hot dry weather, with staff working long days to complete the work.

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

**7.6 Report of the Economic Development Sub-Committee meetings held on 12 May and 14 July 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 26 May 2016.**

Mr M Carttiss moved the report, asking Council to note that Dr Ian Newton, referred to in paragraph 2.2.3 of the report be amended to read Mr Ian Newton. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

**7.8 Report of the Audit Committee meeting held on 16 June 2016**

Mr I Mackie moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

7.9 **Report of the Planning (Regulatory) Committee meetings held on 10 June and 15 July 2016**

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

7.10 **Report of the Personnel Committee meetings held on 21 June and 11 July 2016.**

7.10.1 Mr C Jordan moved the report.

Following debate and upon being put to a vote, with 46 votes in favour, 3 votes against and 14 abstentions, Council **RESOLVED** to note the report and to **AGREE** that the post of Executive Director of Resources be deleted with effect from 18 September 2016.

7.11 **Report of the Joint Museums Committee meeting held on 1 July 2016**

Mr J Ward moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

7.12 **Report of the Records Committee meeting held on 1 July 2016.**

Mr J Ward moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

8 **Norse – Appointment of Director of Norse Commercial Services – Report of Decision taken under Urgency Procedure.**

8.1 Council received the report by the Managing Director, setting out the appointment to the post of Managing Director of Norse Commercial Services made under the urgency provision set out in Part 7.1 of the Constitution, given the need to make an appointment in a timely manner.

8.2 Council **RESOLVED** to:

Note the decision taken under the urgency procedure by the Managing Director (following consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee) to approve the appointment of Martin Hopkins as Managing Director of Norse Commercial Services (NCS).

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

Council **agreed** that Ms S Whitaker replace Mr M Castle on the ESPO Joint Committee.

10 **To answer questions under Rule 8.3 of the Council Procedure Rules**

There were none.

The meeting concluded at 2.20pm

## **Chairman**



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# Appendix A

## Norfolk County Council 25 July 2016

**RECORDED VOTE – ITEM NUMBER: 5.1 – Motion proposed by Mr S Morphew, seconded by Mr G Nobbs.**

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

With 34 votes in favour, 38 votes against and 3 abstentions to motion was **LOST**.