

**Norfolk County Council
Minutes of the Meeting Held at 10 am on
Monday 28 March 2022**

Present:		
	ADAMS Tony	LONG Brian
	ANNISON Carl	MACKIE Ian
	AQUARONE Steffan	MASON BILLIG Kay
	BAMBRIDGE Lesley	MAXFIELD Ed
	BENSLY James	MIDDLETON Graham
	BILLS David	MORIARTY Jim
	BIRMINGHAM Alison	MORPHEW Steve
	BLUNDELL Sharon	NEALE Paul
	BORRETT Bill	OSBORN Jamie
	BOWES Claire	PECK Greg
	BROCIEK-COULTON Julie	PENFOLD Saul
	CARPENTER Penny	PLANT Graham
	COLMAN Ed	PRICE Ben
	COLWELL Robert	PROCTOR Andrew
	DALBY Michael	RICHMOND Will
	DARK Stuart	REILLY Matthew
	DAUBNEY Nick	ROPER Dan
	DAWSON Christopher	RUMSBY Chrissie
	DIXON Nigel	SANDS Mike
	DUFFIN Barry	SAVAGE Robert
	DUIGAN Phillip	SHIRES Lucy
	EAGLE Fabian	SMITH Carl
	ELMER Daniel	SMITH-CLARE Mike
	FISHER John	STONE Barry
	FITZPATRICK Tom	STOREY Martin
	GRANT Andy	THOMSON Vic
	GURNEY Shelagh	VARDY Eric
	HEMPSALL Lana	VINCENT Karen
	HORSBRUGH Michael Chenery of	WALKER Colleen
	JAMES Jane	WARD John
	JAMIESON Andrew	WATKINS Brian
	JERMY Terry	WEBB Maxine
	JONES Brenda	WHITE Tony
	KEMP Alexandra	WHYMARK Fran
	KIDDLE-MORRIS Mark	WILBY Martin
	KIRK Julian	

Present: 71

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Timothy Adams, Cllr Stephen Askew, Cllr Graham Carpenter, Cllr Stuart Clancy, Cllr Ed Connolly, Cllr Emma Corlett, Cllr Margaret Dewsbury, Cllr Keith Kiddie, Cllr Judy Oliver, Cllr Rhodri Oliver, Cllr Richard Price, Cllr Steve Riley, and Cllr Alison Thomas.

Length of the meeting

The Chair said that she intended to adjourn the meeting after about an hour and a half for a half hour break. The meeting would not extend beyond 3 hours unless in accordance with rule 4.2 of the constitution there was a resolution of the Council at that point in the proceedings to extend the meeting.

Cllr Alexandra Kemp moved seconded by Cllr Steffan Aquarone

That the meeting be extended by as long as was necessary to complete all the business on the agenda.

On being put to the vote the motion was **LOST** on a show of hands.

1. Minutes

- 1.1** The minutes of the Council meeting held on 21 February 2022 were confirmed as an accurate record of the meeting.

In confirming the minutes of the previous meeting Council noted:
Kick the Dust is the NMS youth engagement programme working with young people aged 11-25 and is delivered in partnership with a range of organisations including YMCA Norfolk. Principally funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

2 Chair's Announcements

- 2.1** The Chair announced the sad passing of ex-County Councillor Rosalie Monbiot who was a Conservative County Councillor from 2001 to 2009 for Docking Division. She was elected in June 2001 and re-elected again in 2005 until 2009 when she chose to stand down. She was also an active Cabinet Member for Children and Young People in Norfolk. Members of the Council paid tribute to her work whilst a County Councillor and had a minute's silence in her memory.
- 2.2** The Chair said that on 28th February 2022 she had attended the Priscilla Bacon Ground Breaking Ceremony for the new Priscilla Bacon Lodge and would be taking part in a sponsored walk with Cllr Florence Ellis, Chair of South Norfolk Council, on Sunday 10th April to raise money for the Priscilla Bacon Hospice. Councillors were asked to respond by email if they wished to sponsor the Chair in this endeavour.
- 2.3** The Chair added that it had been a pleasure to have continued to receive invitations to in-person events as Coronavirus restrictions had eased. All the engagements could be found listed on the Norfolk County Council website, on the Chair's page.

- 2.4 The Chair read out a statement that she wished to make on behalf of the County Council regarding the war in the Ukraine, which followed the withdrawal in advance of the publication of the agenda papers of two motions on this matter. The statement could be found at Appendix A to these minutes.
- 2.5 At the end of this statement each Group Leader (or their representative) spoke in common course in support of a swift end to the war in the Ukraine and the work that was being done in Norfolk through the People from Abroad Team and other refuge support programmes to support those suffering from the biggest humanitarian crisis in Europe since World War 2.
- 2.6 All Councillors and everyone else in the meeting joined Cllr Andrew Proctor, Leader of the Council, in standing in support of those who were suffering from the war in the Ukraine.

3 **Declarations of Interest**

- 3.1 Cllr Lucy Shies declared an other interest in the motion on member champions at item 13 because she was a member champion with another Local Authority.

4 **Any items of business which the Chair decides should be considered as a matter of urgency**

- 4.1 There were no items of urgent business

5 **To receive a petition from Friends of the Earth calling on the Council “to declare a climate emergency and adopt an ambitious climate action plan which rapidly reduces carbon emissions and creates a fairer, greener Norfolk”**

- 5A.1 The Chair pointed out that the petition met the threshold of over 4,500 signatures for it to be debated in full Council. The petition organiser had confirmed that they would like this to be debated.
- 5A.2 The petition speaker, Mr Dave Evans, then formally presented the petition to the Cabinet Member, Cllr Andy Grant.
- 5A.3 Mr Evans explained what was meant by a climate emergency that was declared by Parliament in 2019 and by more than 80% of all Councils in the country; a global challenge that required local solutions and clearly defined baselines against which progress could be measured locally.
- 5A.4 In reply, Cllr Andy Grant thanked Friends of the Earth for submitting the petition. He briefly explained the ambitious programme of work that was started by Norfolk County Council in 2019 following the adoption of the Council’s Environmental Policy which included working with Suffolk County Council and the Broads Authority to collectively achieve net zero carbon emissions on their estates by 2030 and work with the wider community to help others achieve carbon neutrality by 2030. One of the next steps was for the Council to work as part of a National 100 initiative (a think tank that brought together LAs across the country to share knowledge and petition the UK government by the use of collective power on environmental issues). Another next step would be for the Cabinet in April 2022 to agree on a climate action plan for

Norfolk that included making better use of the skills and knowledge of all the County Council's partners. Cllr Andy Grant did not, however, support declaring a climate emergency which he said in practical terms would not add to what was being achieved.

- 5A.5 Labour, Liberal Democrat, Green and Independent Group Spokespersons then spoke in support of the declaration of a climate emergency and of an action plan being introduced by the Council as a matter of urgency.
- 5A.6 Following a brief period of Council debate and further comments by Cllr Andy Grant, a motion was moved, without notice in accordance with Council procedures, by Cllr Steve Morpew, duly seconded by Cllr Brian Watkins, that would allow for motion 10 on today's agenda to be considered at this point in the proceedings.
- 5A.7 The Leader pointed out that he did not support the motion because all appropriate action was already being taken.
- 5A.8 On being put to a recorded vote (Appendix A) with 21 votes in favour, 49 votes against and 3 abstentions, the motion was **LOST**.
- 5B **Request to suspend Standing Orders to allow for a motion to be put to the Council about a proposed incinerator at Wisbech.**
- 5B.1 At this point in the proceedings Cllr Alexandra Kemp moved, duly seconded by Cllr Jamie Osborn, that under Article 7 paragraph 19.1 of the Council's Constitution standing orders be suspended to allow for a motion to be put to the Council about a proposed incinerator at Wisbech. A written copy of the motion was handed to the Chair.
- 5B.2 At the request of the Chair the Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer then read out to the Council the following motion (on which Council was asked to consider if it wished to suspend Council procedure rules for the motion to be considered):
- "This Council opposes the Wisbech incinerator as there is an oversupply and it would go against the proximity principle. Time is of the essence, the full planning application is expected any day and this Council must represent West Norfolk and not miss the consultation period again."
- 5B.3 On being asked to suspend standing orders for the motion to be put to the Council (Appendix B) this was **LOST** (there were 23 votes in favour, 45 votes against and 2 abstentions).
- 5B.4 Cllr Dan Roper said that in accordance with Council standing orders it was important for the monitors in the Council Chamber to show how Councillors had voted as this had not been the case for the previous vote.

6 **Questions to Leader of the Council**

6.1 **Question from Cllr Steve Morpew**

Cllr Steve Morpew said that the proposal to restructure the Council that was due to be considered by Cabinet at its next meeting was based on the failure of the

Administration to manage duplication and apparent excess structures of management over some time: how much smaller would the budget gap have been had the Leader acted in a timely manner and would he begin the review by apologising to Norfolk for the pressure on services caused as a result?

In reply the Leader said that this would be the first comprehensive review of the Council's senior management structures for 10 years, The reasoning behind the review was set out in the Cabinet report. This was the right time to carry out that review. The Administration was getting to grips with the budget challenge for 2023/24 which would be larger than any that the Council had faced in the past. The review would help get the Council in a position where it was match fit to respond to the challenges of the future.

6.2 Question from Cllr Robert Colwell

Cllr Robert Colwell said that given the number of protesters outside of County Hall and the number of people in the public gallery who were against the proposed incinerator at Wisbech, as well as the decision taken today to not discuss this issue at this meeting, would it be right to assume that the Administration were in favour of more incineration of waste?

In reply the Leader said that this issue was debated at the Council meeting in September 2021. The proposed energy from waste plant concerned a proposed national infrastructure project that was subject to a development consent order. The Council would have to carefully consider its response as and when it was formally asked to do so rather than fettering and compromising its response by responding now.

6.3 Question from Cllr Jamie Osborn

Cllr Jamie Osborn said that it had taken 28 months for the Administration to take the initial steps to prepare a report going to Cabinet in April 2022 since the Council had agreed an Environmental Policy. Did the Leader agree that much faster action than this was needed, and that it was important for action to take account of Norfolk County wide emissions as well as those of the County Council?

In reply the Leader said that various recent initiatives on environmental issues were mentioned by Cllr Andy Grant earlier in the meeting including the Norfolk Climate Change Partnership. The report to the Cabinet was about an action plan that included the work of the County Council's partners. The key word in the report was "action".

6.4 Question from Cllr Ian Mackie

Cllr Ian Mackie said that as we continue to recover from the pandemic this year's Royal Norfolk Show would be a major part of the life of the county, helping to rebuild some of the county's social normality and provide support to the local economy. Could the Leader confirm that the County Council would have an engaging and educational presence at this year's show?

In reply the Leader said that this year's Royal Norfolk Show would be held on 29th and 30 June 2022 and showcase a very wide range of county wide issues that included what was being done around the rural economy, county farms and issues

mentioned within the environmental plan. Government Ministers and other special guests were invited to attend.

6.5 Question from Cllr Alexandra Kemp

Cllr Alexandra Kemp asked why the Administration was effectively supporting multi-national companies rather than the interests of those living in west Norfolk by not opposing the building of an incinerator at Wisbech?

The Leader responded by saying that this was not the case: he had answered this question when he had answered the question from Cllr Robert Colwell.

6.6 Question from Cllr Julie Brociek-Coulton

Cllr Julie Brociek-Coulton said that the food and fuel crisis was driving people into absolute poverty. Help from the Norfolk Assistance Scheme and the excellent staff who ran it, and that supplied through other channels, could only do so much, even though it provided much help to those in the Sewell division and nearby. Cllr Julie Brociek-Coulton said that recently a young woman had come to the foodbank in Sewell Norwich from Gt Plumstead and another man from Hainford who had said there was just no provision for them to get help for their families. Did the Leader agree this was the worst time to stop school holiday vouchers for those on free school meals and what extra support could he offer to those losing out through vouchers stopping and those facing poverty because of spiralling cost of living increases?

In reply the Leader said that the County Council had put a lot of time and effort into supporting the Norfolk Assistance Scheme. The County Council was looking to develop a further initiative to provide more support and assistance to those who needed this but he could not pre-empt matters by providing details at this stage.

6.7 Question from Cllr Saul Penfold

Cllr Saul Penfold asked if the Leader was disappointed that Brandon Lewis MP for Great Yarmouth had allegedly taken money from Russian donors who had links to President Putin of Russia?

In reply the leader said that Brandon Lewis MP had provided a response on this matter and he had nothing further to add.

6.8 Question from Cllr Paul Neale

Cllr Paul Neale said that the Government had ended free school meals during school holidays but with the cost-of-living crisis expected to ramp up in April, at the same time at the Easter holidays, many school children would be left without access to adequate food. What was the County Council going to do to ensure that children did not go hungry in Norfolk?

In reply the Leader said that the County Council was expected to get its fair share (approx. £7m) of funding through the Government Hardship Fund and, as he had pointed out in response to an earlier question, steps were being taken to introduce a new local initiative in Norfolk, details of which were not yet available.

6.9 **Question from Cllr Fran Whymark**

Cllr Fran Whymark asked if the Leader would agree with him that the Norfolk Assistance scheme was making a huge difference to people's lives in Norfolk?

In reply the Leader said that a few years ago very few people had heard of the Norfolk Assistance Scheme. There were currently some 350 people a week coming forward for help. Some £45,000 to £50,000 a month was being spent on the scheme which when taken together with other Norfolk partnership schemes was providing more support than only the need for food.

7 **Recommendations from Cabinet**

7.1 The recommendations from the Cabinet meetings held on 31 January 2022 and 7 March 2022 were moved by Cllr Andrew Proctor, Chair of Cabinet.

7.2 **Meeting held on 31 January 2022:**

Council RESOLVED

To agree the uplift to the capital programme by a net £2.125m in December 21 to address forecasted overspend in the Household Waste Recycling Centre Projects as set out in detail in Capital Appendix 3, paragraph 4.3 of the cabinet report.

7.3 **Meeting held on 7 March 2022:**

Council RESOLVED

To agree the addition of £3.766m to the capital programme to address capital funding requirements funded from various external sources as set out in detail in capital Appendix 3, paragraph 4.1 as follows:

- **£1m ASC Transformation Programme funded from capital receipts**
- **£0.880 DfT funding received for the Norwich Western Link**
- **£0.301m DfT funding received for the St Williams Way Cycle Lane**
- **£0.225 DfT funding received for the King Street Walking scheme**
- **£0.116m Local Authority funding received for the Harleston & Redenhall Town Centre Refurbishment**
- **£0.832m increase in various projects funded by local developer contributions**
- **£0.412m increase in the Academies expansion project funded by Academies contributions.**

8 **Recommendations from Select Committees**

8.1 **Recommendation from Corporate Select Committee**

8.2 Cllr Ed Colman introduced the report and moved the recommendations at paragraphs 1.2 and 6.1 of the report of the meeting held on 14 March 2022.

Council RESOLVED

To agree the changes in contract standing orders as set out on pages 26 to 29 of the Corporate Select Committee agenda for the meeting of 14 March 2022 (which can be found via the link to the Committee's web pages site at page A2 of the supplementary agenda for this Council meeting).

To agree the amendments to the Council's constitution as set out in the report at page 70 of the Corporate Select Committee agenda for the meeting of 14 March 2022 (which can be found via the link to the Committee's web pages site at page A2 of the supplementary agenda for this Council meeting).

9 Cabinet Report (Questions to Cabinet Members)

- 9.1 Cllr Andrew Proctor, Leader and Chair of Cabinet, moved the report of the Cabinet meetings held on 6 December 2021, 12 January 2022, 31 January 2022 and 6 March 2022.

Council **RESOLVED** to **AGREE** the report.

9.2 Question from Cllr Chrissie Rumsby to Cllr Martin Wilby Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport

Cllr Chrissie Rumsby said that as the decisions on the Transport for Norwich, Aylsham Road scheme were made improperly and no decision notice was issued, she was not given the opportunity to call it in to Scrutiny and ask for a rethink based on the concerns of those affected. The scheme remained unpopular, and many residents and businesses would like to see it gone. As the decision was taken improperly, what opportunity would the Cabinet Member provide Cllr Chrissie Rumsby to make the case for the decision to be reversed and the scheme scrapped?

In reply, Cllr Martin Wilby said that the scheme in question was implemented following a Joint Committee decision and was being carefully monitored.

9.3 Question from Cllr Brian Watkins to Cllr Martin Wilby Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport

Cllr Brian Watkins asked how many of the Transport for Norwich Schemes were in danger due to the Members of the Joint Committee being misled about their role and what did this say to the Department for Transport about the County Council's ability to provide governance on its major highway schemes?

In reply, Cllr Martin Wilby said that the joint committee worked very well, and all its decisions were implemented correctly. There would be a report to the next meeting to formalise how the Joint Committee worked from now on.

9.4 Question from Cllr Jamie Osborn to Cllr Martin Wilby Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport

Cllr Jamie Osborn said that there were a wide range of highway accessibility issues in Mancroft Division that impacted on the lives of disabled people and the £10,000 local member budget was not enough to deal with any one of these issues and yet the County Council was committing millions of pounds to the Norwich Western Link.

Would the response in future to such residents be that there was no money because it was all being spent on the Norwich Western Link?

In reply, Cllr Martin Wilby said that the Norwich Western Link had strong support. All Councillors had a local member budget and it was for Councillors to decide how this was used.

9.5 Question from Cllr Lana Hemsall to Cllr Andrew Jamieson, Cabinet Member for Finance

Cllr Lana Hemsall asked if Cllr Andrew Jamieson would reflect on what the Spring Budget Statement meant for Norfolk residents.

In reply, Cllr Andrew Jamieson said that for local government the direct effects of the budget statement were limited. There was an expansion of the household support fund nationally from £500,000 to £1 m and some re-announced business rates measures but longer-term arrangements for local government funding remained unchanged. There remained a concern that the fair funding review might not take place before 2024/25.

9.6 Question from Cllr Alexandra Kemp to Cllr Andy Grant Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste

Cllr Alexandra Kemp asked if Cllr Andy Grant would follow advice from the County Council's Head of Planning (which had been obtained in response to a freedom of information request) that there was nothing to stop Norfolk County Council following the approach taken by Cambridge, Fenland and King's Lynn and West Norfolk and putting in an objection to the proposal for an incinerator in Wisbech?

In reply, Cllr Andy Grant said that he would investigate this matter and get back to Cllr Alexandra Kemp.

9.7 Question from Cllr Maxine Webb to Cllr John Fisher, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Cllr Maxine Webb said that it was inspiring to read last week about the achievements of Sam Couzen and how short breaks helped to fund his accessible skiing lessons. Enabling participation in activities was one aspect of short breaks, the other being the provision of services that offer families a break from caring. Government guidance says for some parents, provision of short breaks simply means the difference between being able to cope with a disabled child and not being able to cope and this was acknowledged yesterday by the Minister for Children and Families ahead of the publication of the SEND review paper tomorrow. Could Cllr Fisher tell us how much of the £30 million short breaks money announced in the Levelling Up White Paper was coming to Norfolk and what the Council was doing about the huge shortage of commissioned services so that families with children with disabilities could get a break and when was the fourth special school expected to be built? As a follow up question Cllr Maxine Webb also asked if the Council had put forward a request for some of that funding?

In reply, Cllr John Fisher said that the County Council was still in the process of

deciding on a precise location for the fourth special school. A full statement regarding the other issues would need to be provided after the meeting.

9.8 Question from Cllr Saul Penfold to Cllr Andrew Jamieson, Cabinet Member for Finance

Cllr Saul Penfold asked if Cllr Andrew Jamieson felt ashamed that the County Council was not ending its contract with Total Energies given the company's continued association with Russian investments and that the Norfolk Pension Fund had an exposure to the Russian and Belarussian markets?

In reply, Cllr Andrew Jamieson said that the long-term contract that the Council had with Total was at a price lower than the current cost of gas. If the Council were to cancel this contract this would mean a sizeable windfall for Total who would be let off having to supply gas at the contracted price and would be able to quickly sell the gas on the open market at a far higher price. The Norfolk Pension Fund was part of a pooled pension fund which was looking at this issue.

9.9 Question from Cllr Ben Price to Cllr Andy Grant Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste

Cllr Ben Price said that the county much needed a retrofitting revolution with almost all homes needing to be insulated but, so far, there were only low numbers a year. Did the Cabinet Member agree that the rate of retrofitting was far too low and that a coordinated effort was needed, led by Local Authorities, to establish a retrofitting skills training programme and task force to scale up retrofitting?

In reply, Cllr Andy Grant said that he agreed with Cllr Ben Price on this matter. The Council was working with the District Councils, as part of the Norfolk Climate Action Partnership, to put in place a much bigger and more ambitious programme for retrofitting. There were some 3,500 properties last year and some 4,100 properties planned for retrofitting this year and hopefully it would be possible to double this year's figure next year, subject to government funding. The Council was working with Housing Associations and the LEP on the matter to help provide a college training programme. The Cabinet Member added that he was also hopeful of being able to provide opportunities for more small Norfolk businesses to get their workforces trained up on retrofitting and to be able to set up a Retrofitting Group across Norfolk.

9.10 Question from Cllr Graham Middleton to Cllr Tom FitzPatrick, Cabinet Member for Innovation, Transformation and Performance

Cllr Graham Middleton said that the County Council was recognised for making Norfolk a better place to live at the Public Sector Transformation Awards Ceremony. Could the Cabinet Member reassure the County Council that this great work would continue?

In reply, Cllr Tom FitzPatrick said that the work to innovate and improve the Council would continue. the County Council had won a bronze award earlier this month at the Public Sector Transformation Awards for Asset Management and Regeneration for the Norfolk and Suffolk Innovation Network. This important award was obtained from Norfolk's peers in recognition of what was being done for Norfolk's residents in innovative ways in delivering things like social care and improvements in broadband.

9.11 Question from Cllr Brenda Jones to Cllr Bill Borrett, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention

Cllr Brenda Jones said that given the difficulty in recruiting and keeping care staff, what compensation would be given to care workers who were having to fund the increase in fuel costs from their own pockets and how would the Cabinet Member ensure that the actual costs for each individual were met?

In reply, Cllr Bill Borrett said that a decision was taken through delegated powers to increase the amount of money for people providing home care to help with their fuel bills and that he would provide Cllr Brenda Jones with the details after the meeting. This was a substantial sum of money.

9.12 Question from Cllr Sharon Blundell to Cllr Greg Peck Cabinet Member for Commercial Services and Asset Management

Cllr Sharon Blundell asked why the external lights were currently switched on at County Hall?

In reply, Cllr Greg Peck said that this was because of lighting maintenance work currently taking place.

9.13 Question from Cllr Paul Neale to Cllr John Fisher, Cabinet Member for Children's Services

Cllr Paul Neale asked if the Cabinet Member agreed with him that all Councillors should play their part in supporting unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and therefore join him in writing to the Home Office to request the National Transfer Scheme was made permanently mandatory and that funding should be increased for services for refugee children?

In reply, Cllr John Fisher said that Norfolk had a good record in supporting unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and while the current scheme was not permanent it was recently made mandatory. Representations were being made by lead Members and Directors of Children's Services from across the Eastern Region and the Cabinet Member was happy to follow this up with the Secretary of State and share any response with Cllr Neale.

9.14 Question from Cllr Jim Moriarty to Cllr Andy Grant Cabinet Member for Environment and Waste

Cllr Jim Moriarty said that Norfolk Climate Change Partnership did not have a work plan on their website and asked what the Cabinet Member would be doing about that?

In reply, Cllr Andy Grant said that the partnership had held their first meeting only two weeks ago; the partnership was District led, supported by the County Council, and within the partnership everyone was looking to support each other.

9.15 Question from Cllr Carl Annison to Cllr Martin Wilby Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure and Transport

Cllr Carl Annison asked as the greater Norwich area celebrated the second year of the city's Beryl bike hire scheme, could the Cabinet Member outline any further projects aimed at supporting cycling and sustainable transport throughout Norfolk?

In reply, Cllr Martin Wilby explained the work to further develop cycling, walking, and other sustainable transport schemes throughout Norfolk. Cllr Wilby said that he was particularly pleased to be able to announce that electric buses would be coming to Norwich following £3.3m of funding from the DFT. This money would allow the County Council by working closely with First Bus, to replace 15 single decker buses with 15 electric single decker buses on existing bus routes.

10 **Committee Reports**

10.1 **Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 24 November 2021, 15 December 2021, 27 January 2022 and 16 February 2022**

Cllr Steve Morphew, Chair, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

10.2 **Corporate Select Committee meetings held on 15 November 2021, 17 January 2022 and 14 March 2022 (supplementary agenda)**

Cllr Ed Colman, Chair, moved the reports. Following questions, Council **RESOLVED** to note the reports.

10.3 **Infrastructure & Development Select Committee meetings held on 17 November 2021, 19 January 2022 and 16 March 2022 (supplementary agenda)**

Cllr Barry Stone, Chair, moved the reports.

In reply to a question, Cllr Stone said that a report would come to a future meeting of Committee about the use of alternatives to phosphates for the control of weeds. Council then **RESOLVED** to note the reports.

10.4 **People and Communities Select Committee meetings held on 19 November 2021, 21 January 2022 and 18 March 2022 (supplementary agenda)**

Cllr Fabian Eagle moved the reports. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report

10.5 **Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings held on 4 November 2021 and 10 March 2022**

In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee who had given their apologies for the meeting, the Chair of the County Council, Cllr Penny Carpenter, moved the report.

Cllr Jamie Osborn said that eating disorders was one of the key issues is the transition from CAMHS to the adult service. Was this considered by the Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee or would it be considered by the Committee? (The answer given after the meeting can be found at the end of these minutes)

Cllr Lucy Shires said that (NHS dentistry) people were pulling their own teeth because of lack of access. Was sending the same letter to the new Secretary of State as was sent to the previous Secretary of State going to help? (The answer given after the meeting can be found at the end of these minutes)

Cllr Paul Neale said that (NHS dentistry) the situation had reached crisis point. What proactive provisions and actions were the County Council planning to take to alleviate these problems? (The answer given after the meeting can be found at the end of these minutes)

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

10.6 **Health and Wellbeing Board meetings held on 29 September 2021 and 1 December 2021**

Cllr Bill Borrett, Chair, moved the report. Following questions, Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

10.7 **Audit Committee meetings held on 14 October 2021 and 3 February 2022**

Cllr Ian Mackie, Chair, moved the report. Following questions, Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

10.8 **Norfolk Records Committee meetings held on 29 October 2021 and 28 January 2022**

Cllr Chenery of Horsburgh moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

10.9 **Joint Museums Committee meetings held on 29 October 2021 and 28 January 2022**

Cllr John Ward, Chair, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

10.10 **Planning (Regulatory) Committee meetings held on 24 September 2021, 5 November 2021 and 4 February 2022**

Cllr, Brian Long, Chair, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

10.11 **Employment Committee meeting held on 28 October 2021**

Cllr Andrew Proctor, Chair, moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

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

Council **RESOLVED** to note the following changes made under delegated powers since the last meeting:

- Cllr Phillip Duigan replaced Cllr Nick Daubney on the Scrutiny Committee.
- Cllr Andrew Jamieson replaced Cllr David Bills on the Norfolk Parking Partnership Joint Committee

12 **Annual Pay Policy Statement 2022-23**

12.1 The Leader of the Council, Andrew Proctor, moved the report.

12.2 Council **RESOLVED** to approve the pay Policy Statement for 2022/23 that was an appendix to the report.

13 **Notice of Motions**

13.1 The following motion was proposed by Cllr Brenda Jones, seconded by Cllr Lucy Shires (during which time as part of the time allocated for the seconder to speak, at the request of the seconder the Council stood in silence to those who had lost their lives to suicide since the Council no longer appointed to the role of Mental Health Champion):

Council notes the decision of the Leader to appoint Members champions drawn solely from Conservative members of council. Council recognises the excellent work done previously when Members champions were drawn from across political groups and the credibility those members had among other councillors and those involved with the issues they championed because they were representing all councillors rather than the administration.

Council notes that the abolition of the Mental Health Champion means the council will no longer be able to comply with the terms of the decision made by council in 2014 to sign up to the Mental Health Challenge and regards that as a retrograde step.

Council further notes that as yet the requirements of Appendix 24 of our Constitution have not yet been met as the Leader has not consulted other group leaders nor made an announcement of the Members Champions at cabinet.

Council therefore requests

1. The Leader to fulfil his obligations under the constitution to consult the leaders of other groups on the council before making an announcement to council of his decision, together with an explanation of his reasons

2. To reinstate the position of Mental health Champion so that council can continue to be a signatory to the Mental Health Challenge as determined unanimously at the council meeting on 20 January 2014

3. Requests the Corporate Select Committee to review the constitutional arrangements of Member champions to clarify their roles, responsibility and accountability and make recommendations to council accordingly

13.2 Following debate, on a show of hands, it was **agreed** to hold a recorded vote on the motion.

13.3 Upon being put to the vote the motion was **LOST**, there being 22 votes in favour, 43 votes against and 2 abstentions. (Appendix C).

13.4 It was then moved by Cllr Alexandra Kemp, seconded by Cllr Jamie Osborn, to allow for the meeting to be extended for a further hour, which on a show of hands was **LOST**.

14 **Chair's Concluding Remarks**

The Chair said that given there was insufficient time left in this meeting to consider further motions, following earlier discussion with the Group Leaders she would be calling an extraordinary Council meeting for 11 April 2022; the only business on the agenda would be the motions remaining from today's agenda.

The meeting ended at 1.25 pm.

Chair



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Norfolk County Council

Date: 28 March 2022

RECORDED VOTE A (Climate Change) ITEM NUMBER: 5A

	For	Against	Abstain
ADAMS Timothy	Absent		
ADAMS Tony		X	
ANNISON Carl		X	
AQUARONE Steffan	X		
ASKEW Stephen	Absent		
BAMBRIDGE Lesley		X	
BENSLY James		X	
BILLS David		X	
BIRMINGHAM Alison	X		
BLUNDELL Sharon	X		
BORRETT Bill		X	
BOWES Claire		X	
BRODIEK-COULTON Julie	X		
CARPENTER Graham	Absent		
CARPENTER Penny			X
CLANCY Stuart	Absent		
COLMAN Ed		X	
COLWELL Robert	X		
CONNOLLY Ed	Absent		
CORLETT Emma	Absent		
DALBY Michael		X	
DARK Stuart		X	
DAUBNEY Nick		X	
DAWSON Christopher		X	
DEWSBURY Margaret	Absent		
DIXON Nigel		X	
DUFFIN Barry		X	
DUIGAN Phillip		X	
EAGLE Fabian		X	
ELMER Daniel		X	
FISHER John		X	
FITZPATRICK Tom		X	
GRANT Andy		X	
GURNEY Shelagh		X	
HEMPSALL Lana		X	
HORSBRUGH Michael		X	
Chenery of			
JAMES Jane		X	
JAMIESON Andrew		X	
JERMY Terry	X		
JONES Brenda	X		
KEMP Alexandra	X		
KIDDIE Keith	Absent		

	For	Against	Abstain
KIDDLE-MORRIS Mark		X	
KIRK Julian		X	
LONG Brian		X	
MACKIE Ian		X	
MASON BILLIG Kay		X	
MAXFIELD Ed	X		
MIDDLETON Graham		X	
MORIARTY Jim	X		
MORPHEW Steve	X		
NEALE Paul	X		
OLIVER Judy	Absent		
OLIVER Rhodri	Absent		
OSBORN Jamie	X		
PECK Greg		X	
PENFOLD Saul	X		
PLANT Graham		X	
PRICE Ben	X		
PRICE Richard	Absent		
PROCTOR Andrew		X	
RICHMOND Will		X	
Reilly Matthew	X		
RILEY Steve	Absent		
ROPER Dan	X		
Rumsby Chrissie	X		
SANDS Mike	X		
SAVAGE Robert		X	
SHIRES Lucy	Absent		
SMITH Carl		X	
SMITH-CLARE Mike	X		
STONE Barry		X	
STOREY Martin		X	
THOMAS Alison	Absent		
THOMSON Vic		X	
VARDY Eric		X	
VINCENT Karen			X
WALKER Colleen	X		
WARD John		X	
WATKINS Brian	X		
WEBB Maxine	X		
WHITE Tony		X	
WHYMARK Fran		X	
WILBY Martin		X	

For
Against
Abstentions

23
45
2

Norfolk County Council

Date: 28 March 2022

RECORDED VOTE B (Incinerator, Wisbech) ITEM NUMBER: 5B

	For	Against	Abstain
ADAMS Timothy	Absent		
ADAMS Tony		X	
ANNISON Carl		X	
AQUARONE Steffan	X		
ASKEW Stephen	Absent		
BAMBRIDGE Lesley		X	
BENSLY James		X	
BILLS David		X	
BIRMINGHAM Alison	X		
BLUNDELL Sharon	X		
BORRETT Bill		X	
BOWES Claire		X	
BRODIEK-COULTON Julie	X		
CARPENTER Graham	Absent		
CARPENTER Penny			X
CLANCY Stuart	Absent		
COLMAN Ed		X	
COLWELL Robert	X		
CONNOLLY Ed	Absent		
CORLETT Emma	Absent		
DALBY Michael		X	
DARK Stuart		X	
DAUBNEY Nick		X	
DAWSON Christopher		X	
DEWSBURY Margaret	Absent		
DIXON Nigel		X	
DUFFIN Barry		X	
DUIGAN Phillip		X	
EAGLE Fabian		X	
ELMER Daniel		X	
FISHER John		X	
FITZPATRICK Tom		X	
GRANT Andy		X	
GURNEY Shelagh		X	
HEMPSALL Lana		X	
HORSBRUGH Michael Chenery of		X	
JAMES Jane		X	
JAMIESON Andrew		X	
JERMY Terry	X		
JONES Brenda	X		
KEMP Alexandra	X		
KIDDIE Keith	Absent		

	For	Against	Abstain
KIDDLE-MORRIS Mark		X	
KIRK Julian		X	
LONG Brian		X	
MACKIE Ian		X	
MASON BILLIG Kay		X	
MAXFIELD Ed	X		
MIDDLETON Graham		X	
MORIARTY Jim	X		
MORPHEW Steve	X		
NEALE Paul	X		
OLIVER Judy	Absent		
OLIVER Rhodri	Absent		
OSBORN Jamie	X		
PECK Greg		X	
PENFOLD Saul	X		
PLANT Graham		X	
PRICE Ben	X		
PRICE Richard	Absent		
PROCTOR Andrew		X	
RICHMOND Will		X	
Reilly Matthew	X		
RILEY Steve	Absent		
ROPER Dan	X		
Rumsby Chrissie	X		
SANDS Mike	X		
SAVAGE Robert		X	
SHIRES Lucy	Absent		
SMITH Carl		X	
SMITH-CLARE Mike	X		
STONE Barry		X	
STOREY Martin		X	
THOMAS Alison	Absent		
THOMSON Vic		X	
VARDY Eric		X	
VINCENT Karen			X
WALKER Colleen	X		
WARD John		X	
WATKINS Brian	X		
WEBB Maxine	X		
WHITE Tony		X	
WHYMARK Fran		X	
WILBY Martin		X	

For
Against
Abstentions

23
45
2

Norfolk County Council

Date: 28 March 2022

RECORDED VOTE C (Mental Health Member Champion) ITEM No: 13

	For	Against	Abstain
ADAMS Timothy	Absent		
ADAMS Tony	Absent		
ANNISON Carl		X	
AQUARONE Steffan	X		
ASKEW Stephen	Absent		
BAMBRIDGE Lesley		X	
BENSLY James		X	
BILLS David		X	
BIRMINGHAM Alison	X		
BLUNDELL Sharon	X		
BORRETT Bill		X	
BOWES Claire		X	
BRODIEK-COULTON Julie	X		
CARPENTER Graham	Absent		
CARPENTER Penny			X
CLANCY Stuart	Absent		
COLMAN Ed		X	
COLWELL Robert	X		
CONNOLLY Ed	Absent		
CORLETT Emma	Absent		
DALBY Michael		X	
DARK Stuart		X	
DAUBNEY Nick		X	
DAWSON Christopher		X	
DEWSBURY Margaret	Absent		
DIXON Nigel	Absent		
DUFFIN Barry		X	
DUIGAN Phillip		X	
EAGLE Fabian		X	
ELMER Daniel		X	
FISHER John		X	
FITZPATRICK Tom		X	
GRANT Andy		X	
GURNEY Shelagh		X	
HEMPSALL Lana		X	
HORSBRUGH Michael Chenery of		X	
JAMES Jane		X	
JAMIESON Andrew		X	
JERMY Terry	X		
JONES Brenda	X		
KEMP Alexandra	X		
KIDDIE Keith	Absent		

	For	Against	Abstain
KIDDLE-MORRIS Mark		X	
KIRK Julian		X	
LONG Brian		X	
MACKIE Ian		X	
MASON BILLIG Kay		X	
MAXFIELD Ed	X		
MIDDLETON Graham		X	
MORIARTY Jim	X		
MORPHEW Steve	X		
NEALE Paul	X		
OLIVER Judy	Absent		
OLIVER Rhodri	Absent		
OSBORN Jamie	X		
PECK Greg		X	
PENFOLD Saul	X		
PLANT Graham		X	
PRICE Ben	X		
PRICE Richard	Absent		
PROCTOR Andrew		X	
RICHMOND Will		X	
Reilly Matthew	X		
RILEY Steve	Absent		
ROPER Dan	Absent		
Rumsby Chrissie	X		
SANDS Mike	X		
SAVAGE Robert		X	
SHIRES Lucy	X		
SMITH Carl		X	
SMITH-CLARE Mike	X		
STONE Barry		X	
STOREY Martin		X	
THOMAS Alison	Absent		
THOMSON Vic		X	
VARDY Eric		X	
VINCENT Karen			X
WALKER Colleen	X		
WARD John		X	
WATKINS Brian	X		
WEBB Maxine	X		
WHITE Tony		X	
WHYMARK Fran		X	
WILBY Martin		X	

For
Against
Abstentions

23
43
2

Appendix to the minutes of 28 March 2022

Question from Cllr. Webb:

“It was inspiring to read last week about the achievements of Sam Couzens and how short breaks helped to fund his accessible skiing lessons. Enabling participation in activities is one aspect of short breaks, the other being the provision of services that offer families a break from caring.

Government guidance says for some parents, provision of short breaks simply means the difference between being able to cope with a disabled child and not being able to cope and this was acknowledged yesterday by the Minister for Children and Families ahead of the publication of the SEND review paper tomorrow.

Can you tell us how much of the £30 million short breaks money announced in the Levelling Up White Paper is coming to Norfolk and what the Council is doing about the huge shortage of commissioned services so that families with children with disabilities can actually get a break and when is the fourth special school expected to be built?”

The follow up question was:

“Has the Council actually put forward a request for some of that funding?”

Response:

The coproduction of an inclusive and proactive Short Breaks Strategy is a key priority for Children’s Services’ Complex and Specialist Commissioning Team in 2022/23. Over the last few months we have reviewed, analysed and scoped the work needed to develop a comprehensive strategy that meets the needs of children, young people and their parent carers in Norfolk.

The £30 million for short breaks is available over 3 years. In the first year £5 million is available for at least 5 projects and local authorities were invited to submit bids for this funding. Norfolk coproduced a bid for £1 million in partnership with Family Voice Norfolk, Education, Health and Social Care colleagues that was submitted by 6th March 2022.

If successful, the bid will support children with a Social Emotional Mental Health (SEMH) need including children presenting with behaviours that challenge. Recognising the importance of respite provision for these children and families the bid focused on new innovative provision for both prevention/early intervention and specialist provision. We should hear the outcome of the bid from Department for Education in the next week.

We are currently progressing a feasibility study to assess the viability / need for a 4th special school. We need to balance the ongoing pressure on special school places, in favour of a 4th school, but also to ensure that the location and model of the special

school will complement other aspects of our overall SEND strategic improvement programme. We hope to be able to report further on this later in the year.

(The response is by the Cabinet Member, John Fisher and the Executive Director, Sara Tough).

The report of the NHOSC. Item 10.5

Question from Cllr Jamie Osborne

Eating Disorders – one of the key issues is the transition from CAMHS to the adult service. Was this considered by the committee or will it be considered by the committee?

Answer

The report received by NHOSC on 4 Nov 2021 covered both children's and adults' eating disorder (ED) services and touched on the transition between the two. It was clear that all services were facing significant challenges with workforce and with rising demand particularly for children's ED services.

There had historically been disparity between the investment in children's and adult services to meet a required level of staffing and skill mix. A recommended level was in place for children's, which the Norfolk and Waveney (N&W) system had committed funds to support. However, in adults' services recommended staffing levels & mix had only recently been outlined. N&W Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) had provided a 50% increase in the adults service funding in 2021/22 compared to 2020/21. This was accompanied by the inclusion of eating disorders as a priority group in the transformation of community mental health services.

Specifically on the question of transition from children's to adults' services, N&W CCG highlighted a local protocol between services which is started 6 months in advance wherever possible to support an individual's transition.

In Nov 2020 a Regional All-Age Eating Disorders Strategic Oversight Board started to develop a single regional strategy for the transformation of all-age ED services across the east of England. This included oversight of the whole pathway approach for ED including early intervention and primary care, CAMHS, Specialist Community Eating Disorder Services, Adult Community Services, Acute Care, Inpatient Services, The Provider Collaborative and Third Sector care provision. One of the aims was to ensure that pathways are designed around the individual and support their transition between services.

NHOSC is expecting to receive a written update from the commissioners in the June 2022 NHOSC Briefing. I will ask them to include any new information specifically on the transition between children's and adults' services.

Question from Cllr Lucy Shires

NHS Dentistry – people are pulling their own teeth because of lack of access. Is sending the same letter to the new Secretary of State as was sent to the previous Secretary of State going to help?

Answer

Significant issues that have contributed to a shortage of NHS dentists in Norfolk and many other parts of the country can only be resolved at national level. There is no organisation at local level that can resolve these underlying matters and no action that Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee can take other than to ask the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care to act. That is why the committee agreed to once more raise the need for reform of the dental services contract with the Secretary of State. In doing so we add our voice to others who have recently raised the subject at national level, including Healthwatch England and numerous MPs. This time we are also pointing out that a dental school in Norfolk could help the workforce situation here and that when central government takes back responsibility for fluoridation of drinking water, as planned in the Health and Care Bill, there will be a need for myth-busting to achieve public acceptance of this dental health measure.

A copy of the letter is attached.

Question from Cllr Paul Neale

NHS Dentistry – the situation has reached crisis point. What proactive provisions and actions are the County Council planning to take to alleviate these problems?

Answer

Currently local NHS dental services are commissioned by NHS England at regional level; it is not a County Council responsibility and all the funding is within the NHS at national and regional level.

Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee wrote to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care in September 2020 about significant issues that have contributed to a shortage of NHS dentists in Norfolk and many other parts of the country which can only be resolved at national level. These included the need for reform of the dental services contract and the related subject of workforce shortages. The pandemic has compounded the situation and the committee agreed to write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care again. In doing so we add our voice to others who have recently raised the subject at national level, including Healthwatch England and numerous MPs. This time we are also pointing out that a dental school in Norfolk could help the workforce situation here and that when central government takes back responsibility for fluoridation of drinking water, as planned in the Health and Care Bill, there will be a need for myth-busting to achieve public acceptance of this dental health measure.

A copy of the letter is attached.

Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

County Hall
Martineau Lane
Norwich
Norfolk
NR1 2DH

Letter sent by email

Direct Dialling Number: (01603) 228912

Email: councillorsupport@norfolk.gov.uk

29 March 2022

Dear Mr Javid

Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee – access to NHS dentistry

Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (NHOSC) asked me to write to you following a meeting on 10 March 2022 when we examined 'Access to NHS dentistry in Norfolk and Waveney' with representatives from NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE&I) and the Local Dental Network.

The committee wrote to your predecessor in September 2020 about the under-provision of NHS dentistry in Norfolk and Waveney. Although access to dentists had been made more difficult by the pandemic councillors were clear that the problems pre-dated Covid by a long way. Reform of the dental contract and more support for recruitment and retention of dentists were seen as the main ways to tackle the roots of the problems. Both needed action at national level.

The Minister, Jo Churchill MP, replied in March 2021 that the department was working on the contract with NHS England and NHS Improvement and the Office of the Chief Dental Officer. She also outlined all that was being done to address recruitment and retention issues. We appreciate that the last few years have been extremely difficult for the NHS and the Government but we see no evidence of improvement to the issues that underlie lack of access to dentistry in our area. The fundamental problems with the contract remain; NHS dentistry is not attractive to dentists and there is an increasing workforce shortage.

During the pandemic NHS dentistry has been largely limited to dealing only with urgent needs but I must emphasise that in our area even people in pain have found it very difficult to access an NHS dentist within a reasonable timescale. The NHSE&I East of England Dental Strategy plans for delivery of preventative dentistry but with the chronic under-provision of NHS dental practices in our area we cannot see how this will be made available to the whole population, especially those living in areas of deprivation.

Four new NHS dental practices are scheduled to open in Norfolk and Waveney in July 2022 with another three to follow but we are concerned that even this may not be enough to fill the gap that has developed over years. We do not believe that the commissioners have enough information on dental health needs and unmet needs in our local population. Most of the information presented to us concerned only urgent dental health needs and some was based on pre-pandemic data three or more years old. The anecdotal evidence we hear from residents suggests a large and growing unmet need.

I know that MPs from Norfolk and Waveney and other parts of the country have been pressing hard for national action to improve the situation. As we see it support for recruitment and retention of dentists and reform of the dental contract are still the top

priorities. We would also like to see a dental school established in this area, which could help attract dentists to stay in Norfolk and Waveney in the longer term.

We note that the Health and Care Bill currently passing through Parliament will give you the power to directly introduce water fluoridation schemes. Such action would certainly improve dental health and eventually ease some of the pressure on NHS dentistry. It would also address some of the inequalities we currently see across our communities. We would urge the Government to smooth the path towards this with a campaign of 'myth-busting' around water fluoridation as people have been nervous about the effects.

I hope you will be able to give NHS dentistry your urgent attention and I look forward to hearing what will be done at national level to help our residents who need to see a dentist and cannot get one within a reasonable timeframe.

Yours sincerely

Alison Thomas
Chair of Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Copies to Norfolk & Waveney MPs