

**Norfolk County Council
Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Held at 10am on
Monday 20 July 2020**

Present:		
	Cllr Anthony Adams	Cllr Keith Kiddie
	Cllr Timothy Adams	Cllr Mark Kiddle-Morris
	Cllr Steffan Aquarone	Cllr Brian Long
	Cllr Stephen Askew	Cllr Ian Mackie
	Cllr Jess Barnard	Cllr Ed Maxfield
	Cllr David Bills	Cllr Steve Morphew
	Cllr Bill Borrett	Cllr George Nobbs
	Cllr Claire Bowes	Cllr Judy Oliver
	Cllr Roy Brame	Cllr Rhodri Oliver
	Cllr Julie Brociek-Coulton	Cllr Greg Peck
	Cllr Sarah Butikofer	Cllr Graham Plant
	Cllr Penny Carpenter	Cllr Richard Price
	Cllr Mick Castle	Cllr Andrew Proctor
	Cllr Kim Clipsham	Cllr William Richmond
	Cllr David Collis	Cllr Dan Roper
	Cllr Ed Colman	Cllr David Rowntree
	Cllr Ed Connolly	Cllr Chrissie Rumsby
	Cllr Emma Corlett	Cllr Mike Sands
	Cllr Stuart Dark	Cllr Eric Seward
	Cllr Margaret Dewsbury	Cllr Carl Smith
	Cllr Nigel Dixon	Cllr Thomas Smith
	Cllr Danny Douglas	Cllr Mike Smith-Clare
	Cllr Phillip Duigan	Cllr Bev Spratt
	Cllr Fabian Eagle	Cllr Sandra Squire
	Cllr Tim East	Cllr Barry Stone
	Cllr John Fisher	Cllr Margaret Stone
	Cllr Tom FitzPatrick	Cllr Martin Storey
	Cllr Colin Foulger	Cllr Marie Strong
	Cllr Andy Grant	Cllr Haydn Thirtle
	Cllr Shelagh Gurney	Cllr Alison Thomas
	Cllr Ron Hanton	Cllr Vic Thomson
	Cllr David Harrison	Cllr John Timewell
	Cllr Chenery of Horsburgh	Cllr Karen Vincent
	Cllr Harry Humphrey	Cllr Colleen Walker
	Cllr Brian Iles	Cllr John Ward
	Cllr Andrew Jamieson	Cllr Brian Watkins
	Cllr Terry Jermy	Cllr Tony White
	Cllr Brenda Jones	Cllr Fran Whymark
	Cllr Chris Jones	Cllr Martin Wilby
	Cllr Alexandra Kemp	Cllr Sheila Young

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Stuart Clancy; Graham Middleton and Cllr Joe Mooney.

(Cllr Harry Humphrey in the Chair)

1 Election of Chair

1.1 Cllr Andrew Proctor moved, seconded by Cllr Roy Brame, that Cllr K Kiddie be elected Chair of the County Council for the ensuing year.

1.2 There being no other nominations, it was **RESOLVED** that

Cllr Keith Kiddie be elected Chair of the County Council for the ensuing year.

1.3 Cllr Kiddie, having made the statutory declaration of acceptance of office, thanked the Council for the honour and privilege conferred upon him and formally took the Chair.

1.4 (Cllr Keith Kiddie in the Chair)

2 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

2.1 The minutes of the County Council meeting held on 17 February 2020 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

2.2 Cllr Emma Corlett raised a matter which related to the County Council meeting held in February 2020 where a false allegation had been made that the Labour Group had trousered excess councillor allowances. Cllr Corlett said that the meeting had been recorded in full and that the recording was still available on the website and remained a public record of that meeting. She asked the Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer for advice as to whether the statement made by Cllr Thomas Smith could be retracted in this public meeting to ensure there was a verbal record of the correction in the same way the erroneous comment had been made.

In response, the Director of Governance & Monitoring officer stated that the record of a meeting was the formal minutes of that meeting and the statement referred to had not been included in those minutes. She added that Council was being asked to take points of accuracy only on the formal minutes that had been published, therefore it wasn't an amendment that needed to be made to the formal minutes.

3 Election of Vice-Chair

3.1 Cllr Graham Plant moved, seconded by Cllr Shelagh Gurney, that Cllr Penny Carpenter be elected Vice-Chair of the Council for the ensuing year.

3.2 There being no other nominations, it was **RESOLVED** that

Cllr Penny Carpenter be elected Vice-Chair of the Council for the ensuing year.

4 Vote of Thanks to the Outgoing Chair

- 4.1 As Leader of Norfolk County Council, Cllr Andrew Proctor proposed a vote of thanks to the outgoing Chair, Cllr Harry Humphrey, thanking him for his representation of Norfolk County Council throughout the unprecedented situation during his term of office caused by the covid-19 pandemic. He added that Cllr Humphrey had attended events and carried out his role with dedication and integrity and had wholeheartedly championed the Norfolk Carers Charter as his theme for his year in office.
- 4.2 Cllr Steve Morphew, Leader of the Labour Group, seconded the motion. Cllr Steffan Aquarone, Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group, and Cllr Sandra Squire, Leader of the Independent Group, also paid tribute to the hard work of Cllr Humphrey, particularly during this year in which the country had suffered and worked through the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 4.3 Following the motion being carried, it was

RESOLVED

That the Council place on record its grateful thanks to Cllr Harry Humphrey and that he had been an excellent ambassador for the County.

- 4.4 In reply to the vote of thanks, Cllr Humphrey addressed the Council saying that it had been an honour and a privilege to serve as Chair of Norfolk County Council, thanking Councillors for appointing him. Cllr Humphrey thanked his Executive Assistant, Sue Aylmer; the Chaplain, Revd Liviu Barbu; and the driver who had made sure he and his wife arrived at events on time. Cllr Humphrey particularly thanked his wife, Brenda, for her support throughout his term of office and also thanked the County Council staff who had worked so hard as a result of the pandemic to support the community and keep services running.

Cllr Humphrey referred to the many receptions he had enjoyed throughout the year and said he had met many people and made many new friends. Events he had attended included Royal Visits; hosting a reception at Gressenhall to mark the retirement of the Lord Lieutenant, Richard Jewson and welcoming the new Lord Lieutenant, Lady Dannett.

Cllr Humphrey also thanked Debbie Bartlett and Don Leggett for their help in the development of his theme for the year - the Norfolk Carers Charter and said he hoped that, by attending various events as Chairman, it showed the Council's support for carers throughout the county. He also stated that the pandemic over the past few months had shown the incredible dedication of carers in all professions, who often went beyond their duty and put themselves at risk to protect others, adding that everyone owed them a debt of gratitude.

5 Chair's Announcements

- 5.1 Cllr Kiddie thanked Council for the honour and privilege conferred upon him and assured Council that he would do his best to represent the Council and the

people of Norfolk during his year of office. The Chair outlined the main theme for the year which was the promotion of the Armed Forces Covenant. A copy of the full Chair's announcement is attached at Appendix A to these minutes.

The Chair added his thanks to all Councillors, who in the difficult circumstances caused by the pandemic, had looked after their constituents. He also thanked the officers who had continued to deliver the County Council services to Norfolk residents.

6 Declarations of Interest

6.1 There were no declarations of interest made.

7 Questions to the Leader

7.1 Question from Cllr Steve Morpew

Cllr Morpew stated that the messages from government continued to be complex, contradictory and confusing. He asked the Leader what messages he would give to those thinking of going shopping, wondering whether to return to work, shop workers and delivery workers in particular to help them keep everyone safe while trying to adapt to living and working in the wake of covid-19.

The Leader responded that looking back to March, the situation had changed very quickly, which had led to a number of guidelines being published. The Leader said he did not agree that the information was confusing, as the environment had totally changed for everyone. He added that people in Norfolk had responded well to the pandemic, which was the reason the infection rate had remained low in the county and although, tragically, there had been deaths the number had been relatively low.

The Leader continued that people now had more confidence in what they needed to do and that his own view was that the guidelines should be followed and where legal approaches were put in place such as wearing masks in shops, they should be followed. He added that if everyone followed the guidelines and the legal approaches we could protect ourselves, protect others and protect Norfolk.

7.2 Question from Cllr Steffan Aquarone

Cllr Aquarone asked the Leader what work he had done or was working on regarding possible devolution deals for Norfolk.

The Leader responded that Cllr Squire had raised a similar question in writing before the meeting and that he would respond to both questions at the same time.

Regarding Cllr Squire's question in which she had asked about the work being done with Norfolk Councils and Blue Marble, the Leader said that Blue Marble had been commissioned by all local Authorities, not just Norfolk County Council, through the East of England Local Government Association, to find a suitable organisation for Leaders and Chief Executives to work together on strategic thinking and working better, together for Norfolk's future. He added

that Blue Marble had carried out similar work in Essex and Hertfordshire and although the work was not yet finished, it was coming to a close.

Regarding the devolution aspect, the Leader said the work being carried out by Blue Marble with Leaders and Chief Executives, was to create a vision for Norfolk about what the future could look like and what we would expect from the Government to make that happen and although devolution wasn't the original intent, it had been incorporated into the work

The Leader continued that the initial thinking regarding devolution was that the best approach was to secure a deal over the right geography to help leverage more money and power into the area. He referred to the failed devolution situation four years ago and said he hoped this would not happen again, adding that any reorganisation could be a result of devolution and would be considered on that basis if and when it happened.

The Leader went on to say that the Bill was not due to be heard until September 2020 and that the Government had hinted that reorganisation should take place before devolution. He added that he thought devolution should be considered first and then hold a reorganisation as a consequence, also adding that he wished to see the best future arrangement for Norfolk, which offered real benefits with real choices and that any work progressed should be carried out with unanimity across Norfolk, although he recognised that may be hard to achieve.

The Leader also added that he had no issues with devolution work being carried out, or unitary governance, although any reorganisation would need to ensure savings were made, and any costs should not fall on individual Councils.

The Chair asked Cllr Sandra Squire to confirm that her written question had been adequately responded to, which Cllr Squire did.

7.3 **Question from Cllr Carl Smith**

Cllr Smith asked what the Leader's views were on the work done to keep vital services to Norfolk's communities going over the past few months.

The Leader responded that Norfolk had benefited from a huge community and partnership effort which had been spearheaded by local government, who had responded, with partners, swiftly and very effectively. He added that a huge amount of work had been done and changes made in helping to shield people with health conditions; changing the use of buildings and transport; school closures to all except vulnerable children and children of key workers whilst maintaining a curriculum and supporting children; distribution of food; sourcing of personal protective equipment (PPE) at a time of high need; the collaboration work of the fire service; digital support through libraries; adult learning; the museums service, etc.

The Leader also recognised the work done by Councillors, who had continued to serve their communities, often through digital means, as well as the dedication and commitment shown by colleagues across the County Council, which, together with Partners, had made a real difference to everyone in

Norfolk during these extraordinary times, as well as how well residents of Norfolk had responded by making massive changes; the NHS which had responded so well, and also people working in the care sector. The Leader placed on record his sincere thanks to everyone he had mentioned, as well as Councillors, the Senior Management Team and the volunteers who had stepped into the breach and worked so hard.

The Leader continued that assessments were now taking place to reopen some of the services, including waste recycling centres, museums and libraries in a safe and responsible way. The Leader referred to the new traffic arrangements which had been put in place in Norwich and some market towns which would allow people to circulate more freely to carry out their shopping whilst keeping to social distancing rules.

The Leader agreed that lessons would need to be learned because of the pandemic, adding that Cabinet would be receiving a report at its meeting on 3 August to commence that process.

In conclusion, the Leader, on behalf of Councillors and staff at Norfolk County Council, offered his sincere condolences to all the families and friends who had lost loved ones and his best wishes to those who had contracted covid-19 for a speedy recovery.

7.4 **Question from Cllr Alexandra Kemp**

Cllr Kemp referred to Coronavirus and Resilience and called for an Immediate Public Health Enquiry, to increase health resilience in West Norfolk, with a Healthy Communities Action Plan. Cllr Kemp stated that West Norfolk had sadly seen the highest Covid-related death rates in Norfolk and had the 14th highest infection rate out of 317 local tier authorities, adding that our hearts went out to everyone who had lost a family member or friend in the pandemic. She continued by stating that Public Health Norfolk had said that a “strong possible explanation”, for West Norfolk’s vulnerability, was deprivation and age; and that all the Covid-related deaths in West Norfolk had an underlying health condition, including diabetes, obesity and lung disease.

Cllr Kemp asked if the Leader could set up a proper structure for an immediate Public Health local enquiry, to produce a local Health Community Action Plan, to increase resilience in West Norfolk before any future Covid outbreak. The enquiry to focus on the causes of ill-health and deprivation, including Nutrition, Air Pollution, healthy housing conditions, the improved management of complex conditions, and the sufficiency of green and outdoor spaces for people in urban areas, bringing together Public Health, Social Care, the NHS, Early Help, Environmental Health, Councillors, and to consider the latest research and Marmot principles to increase healthy life expectancy.

Cllr Kemp added that the Health and Wellbeing Board’s District Sub-Committee, which only met informally and did not publish its minutes, was not a suitable forum for a role of this importance and magnitude.

The Leader stated that he shared the concerns regarding the number of covid-related deaths in west Norfolk and echoed Cllr Kemp’s condolences to everyone who had lost a family member or a friend to the virus.

The Leader continued that it was more likely that a national inquiry would take place, rather than a local inquiry as many of the issues were likely to have been predicated elsewhere in the country. Therefore any local comments could be fed into that inquiry. He added that the work which was being carried out on the Local Outbreak Control Plan may provide an opportunity to consider further details of the west Norfolk situation, which may also help to prevent a recurrence in the future.

Regarding the point about addressing the wider determinants of health across the whole of Norfolk, the Leader said this came under the remit of the Health and Wellbeing Board, although he would speak to the Director of Public Health to see if any such work in relation to West Norfolk could be advanced.

7.5 **Question from Cllr Emma Corlett**

Cllr Corlett stated that week commencing 13 July, Norfolk County Council had come close to proceeding with unlawfully trapping heavily pregnant and lactating rare barbastelle bats. Cllr Corlett asked, to ensure the protection of Norfolk wildlife and avoid further damage to the reputation of the Council, what steps the Leader was taking to ensure the advice being provided to the Council on wildlife and environmental issues was reliable, evidence-based, quality assured and given with the proper understanding of the Norfolk context. Cllr Corlett also asked when she could expect a reply to her letter, dated 13 July, about this matter.

The Leader replied that he would respond to Cllr Corlett's letter. He continued, in the context of the question raised, that it was worth mentioning that Norfolk County Council had an excellent record of delivering infrastructure and that the Norwich Western Link had more supporters than opponents.

The Leader stated that the County Council had been assured by Natural England, who issue the licences for such work, that it could commence in mid-July and Norfolk County Council had therefore acted in good faith throughout, by using experts in the field who would have the safety of the bats as their main concern and approach.

The Leader continued that Norfolk County Council had been blindsided by Natural England's late change of stance, which had not yet been justified. He added that the survey work needed to be carried out and would be pursued but it would take into account the safety of the barbastelle bats. He added that he had every confidence that the officer team and the experts who had been appointed had behaved correctly and professionally throughout and would ensure that when the work was carried out, those high professional standards would be maintained.

8 Recommendations from Cabinet meetings held on 11 May, 8 June and 6 July 2020.

- 8.1 Cllr Andrew Proctor, Leader of the Council and Chairman of Cabinet, formally moved the recommendations from the report.

Council **RESOLVED:**

8.2 **Finance Monitoring Report 2019-20 outturn.**

To **agree** the additional borrowing of £0.515m to fund in-year Children's Services capital expenditure as set out in Appendix 2 paragraph 4 of the report.

8.3 **Annual Treasury Management Outturn Report 2019-20.**

To **Endorse** the Annual Treasury Management Outturn Report 2019-20 as set out in Annex 1 of the report;

To **Agree** an increase in the 2020-21 short-term borrowing facility available to Hethel Innovation Limited from £0.500m to £1.250m.

8.4 **Residual Waste Contract Award**

Upon this recommendation being put to a vote, with 59 votes in favour, 2 votes against and 19 abstentions, Council agreed:

To **approve** the award of a contract to Veolia for residual waste treatment and disposal services from 2021 to 2027

8.5 **Finance Monitoring Report 2020-21 P2: May 2020**

To **agree** an addition of £1m to the capital programme to fund investment in library stocks, as set out in capital appendix 2, paragraph 4.1 of the report.

9 **Cabinet Reports (Questions to Cabinet Members)**

9.1 Cllr Andrew Proctor formally moved the reports from the Cabinet meetings held on 13 January, 3 February, 2 March, 11 May, 8 June and 6 July 2020.

Council **RESOLVED** to note the reports.

9.2 **Question from Cllr Mike Smith-Clare to Cllr John Fisher (Cabinet Member for Children's Services)**

Cllr Smith-Clare asked if the Cabinet Member could inform Council how many Norfolk children had been admitted to hospital with malnutrition in the past year, whether they would all be regarded as safeguarding cases and the total safeguarding cases for children suffering from malnutrition that had been considered in Norfolk in the same time period.

The Cabinet Member for Children's Services responded that he would need to consult with NHS and Public Health partners to provide the information as the data was not yet available. He would forward any information he could ascertain to Cllr Smith-Clare.

Regarding cases of neglect, the Cabinet Member said that neglect of children was caused by many factors and was a priority of the Norfolk Safeguarding Partnership Board which had recently been established and which would be investigating the issue. He continued that throughout the pandemic community hubs had supported the County Council in supplying food parcels for families

and people shielding and the Norfolk assistance scheme had also contributed to supporting families suffering financial hardship; the early help hub and local food banks had been a major part of ensuring food was provided and available. He continued that in future, financial support would be provided by using some covid-19 funding to help fund food banks.

9.3 Question from Cllr Tim Adams to Cllr Bill Borrett (Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health & Prevention).

Cllr Adams asked how many errors in personal budgets direct payments had been made since the Minimum Income Guarantee was first implemented and how much had it cost the Council and members of the public.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health & Prevention responded that the Minimum Income Guarantee had been in place since 2012 when the Care Act was introduced. He added that the figures had not been recorded and would be difficult to retrieve over such a large timescale, although the Cabinet Member would discuss with the team to see if any figures could be made available.

9.4 Question from Cllr Margaret Stone to Cllr Bill Borrett (Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health & Prevention).

Cllr Stone asked if the Cabinet Member would join her in congratulating all County Council staff and those in our partner organisations and the NHS for all the fantastic work they had done throughout the pandemic.

The Cabinet Member responded that a debt of gratitude was owed to all the staff who worked for the County Council for the immense amount of work undertaken from the very start of lock-down. Staff had been quickly redeployed and had managed to contact thousands of vulnerable and shielding people to change the way services were delivered and although a lot of focus was, quite rightly on NHS colleagues, staff at Norfolk County Council were unsung heroes for their achievements. He added that he was personally very proud of the work carried out by staff at the County Council and felt that the low infection rate in Norfolk was partly due to the hard work carried out by everyone.

The Cabinet Member also congratulated health colleagues in the NHS, Norfolk Community Health & Care (NCH&C), district councils and the voluntary sector showing an incredible sense of joint enterprise across all bodies to ensure services were delivered by working together, adding that the achievement of the Health and Wellbeing board in establishing those relationships had made working together much easier. He also added that he would like to personally thank everyone involved and congratulate them and the people of Norfolk for all their achievements.

9.5 Question from Cllr Sandra Squire to Cllr Andy Grant (Cabinet Member for Environment & Waste).

Cllr Squire asked if the Cabinet Member would update Council on what was happening with the long-awaited Single Use Plastics Charter as a year ago everyone was concerned about plastics in the environment, particularly the marine environment and the pollution and damage they caused. She continued that after lockdown, with the amount of rubbish left on beaches and

at beauty spots it appeared this was no longer so important. Cllr Squire asked the Cabinet Member if he agreed that the Charter was needed more now than ever before and stated it could perhaps be used in conjunction with a more visible and hard-hitting anti-littering campaign such as the “Don’t be a Tosser” campaign successfully used elsewhere in the country.

Cllr Grant responded that the Charter was ready to be launched. The packs were ready to be circulated to schools and it had been hoped to carry out a trial earlier in the year, rolling out to all schools in September 2020. Unfortunately, due to lock-down, the trial had been postponed and it was now hoped to carry out the trial in September 2020, followed by roll-out in January 2021. The rest of the Charter had been expanded to cover all single use products rather than just plastics and this was nearly ready to be launched.

The Cabinet Member said, in terms of campaigns, he endorsed the “Love Norfolk, Hate Litter” campaign but agreed the “Don’t be a Tosser” campaign had been very successful in Essex, particularly around the Braintree area and endorsed its use as he believed in hard-hitting campaigns against litter.

9.6 Question from Cllr Alexandra Kemp to Cllr Graham Plant (Cabinet Member for Growing the Economy).

Nar Ouse Enterprise Zone

Cllr Kemp referred to the King’s Lynn Innovation Centre which was launched in June 2016 at a cost to the Borough of £4.45 million in the loans and grants given to NWES, but South Lynn’s Nar Ouse Enterprise Zone had since largely remained an expanse of empty fields. She asked if Norfolk County Council and its subsidiary Hethel Engineering, could assist the post-Covid recovery of West Norfolk’s economy by encouraging businesses and employers to relocate to King’s Lynn?

The Cabinet Member responded that the ownership of King’s Lynn Innovation Centre and the land at Nar Ouse Enterprise Zone was with the Borough Council of Kings Lynn and West Norfolk. The land was promoted by the Inward Investment Team located at NALEP as well as the Borough Council. The County Council was aware of the opportunity at the Enterprise Zone and promoted the site to interested parties.

9.7 Question from Cllr Mike Sands to Cllr Andrew Proctor (Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategy & Governance).

Cllr Sands referred to the new powers given by the Government to Councils to impose lockdowns where necessary. He asked if the Government had also provided the resources to protect the income and education of those people who may be affected by local lock-downs and if not, how would the Cabinet Member ensure that businesses survived, jobs were protected and affected children were both fed and educated.

The Leader and Cabinet Member for Strategy & Governance responded that Norfolk County Council had been involved, with all other local authorities, in the formulation of the Local Outbreak Control Plan. Norfolk County Council had submitted its plan at the end of June 2020 and had received £3.7m towards the work associated with the Plan.

Referring to the new powers announced recently regarding local lockdowns, the Cabinet Member had recently received some information from the Director of Governance and which needed further work as to how the plans could be put into place; who would put them in place and also about enforcement and compensation aspects. A Covid-19 Local Engagement Board had been established for Norfolk which included representatives from all Local Authorities, the police, health service and all the work associated with the Local Outbreak Control Plan was considered by that Board, to ensure the plans were right for Norfolk.

9.8 Question from Cllr Dan Roper to Cllr Martin Wilby (Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport).

Cllr Roper said many residents in Norfolk had concerns about the future of their bus services given the impact on the sector from the pandemic. He asked what action the County Council was taking to work with local bus operators to ensure current services were safeguarded into the future.

The Cabinet Member responded that the County Council worked closely with all bus operators across the county, assisting them in providing their services within the rural county of Norfolk to make sure passengers felt safe at all times. He added that the percentage of bus users had fallen considerably recently and that some work had been carried out with the bus companies throughout the pandemic, including providing funding to help them with operating costs. He personally thanked all the bus companies across the county for the outstanding work they had carried out during the pandemic to enable essential workers to get to and from work, and he added that work would continue with the bus companies to try to move to a new normality as soon as possible.

9.9 Question from Cllr Roy Brame to Cllr Andrew Jamieson (Cabinet Member for Finance).

Cllr Brame asked the Cabinet Member for Finance what the additional £6m funding from MHCLG announced last week would be used for.

The Cabinet Member replied that the money had already been spent, or allocated, adding that at Cabinet on 7 July he had announced that the budgetary pressures arising from covid-19 alone totalled £61.772m. Set against that two tranches of funding totalling £46.374m had been received, leaving a shortfall of £18m. Therefore, although welcome, the £6m would not close the budget gap faced in the current year.

The Cabinet Member continued that alongside the additional covid related cost pressures caused by additional purchases, such as the provision of additional support for healthcare providers, or the provision of additional PPE, there were also savings that would not be made as departments focused on the immediate crisis. He added that there were considerable additional pressures caused by lost income and a scheme whereby we were compensated to 75% of lost income from sales, fees and charges above 5% would enable the County Council to reduce the budget gap further. The detail of the additional £6m was still being negotiated with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

The Cabinet Member continued that it was also worth bearing in mind that any

deficits in the council finding savings over the next three years would be covered over three years rather than just one year, which was a useful insurance policy, as the bulk of the covid-19 pressure had fallen on adult social care.

The Cabinet Member thanked Cabinet Members and Executive Directors for their consistent lobbying of MPs, Cabinet Ministers and Westminster departments, either directly or in conjunction with the CCN and the LGA because this was what had enabled the County Council to articulate its specific case rather than just wait for handouts.

The Cabinet Member also highlighted the potential increase in costs as a result of a second peak, or the normalisation of services leading to a spike in demand under the strain of enhanced social distancing measures. He added that while an additional £3bn had been made available to the NHS, a case was being made for the social care sector to be treated fairly, given that was where the bulk of the costs would fall.

The Cabinet Member wished to place on record his thanks to the Finance Team in particular, who would be working throughout August to help departments access additional funding and balance their budgets.

9.10 **Question from Cllr Danny Douglas to Cllr Martin Wilby (Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport).**

Cllr Douglas stated that, from September, Norfolk's children would be taken to school on buses which were likely to be full to capacity, with no social distancing although this was different to the advice about what happened at school where social distancing should happen. Cllr Douglas asked what the Cabinet Member would say to parents to reassure them that the bus journey to and from school was safe.

The Cabinet Member replied that the bus companies and the County Council would be following the government guidelines to ensure the safety of everyone using the buses on their way to and from school.

9.11 **Question from Cllr Mick Castle to Cllr Martin Wilby (Cabinet Member for Highways, Infrastructure & Transport).**

Cllr Castle asked if the Cabinet Member would agree that Highways England was letting the county down again in terms of progressing the dualling of the Acle Straight, even though it remained a priority for the County Council and the Local Enterprise Partnership for RIS2. He also asked if the Cabinet Member would action the resolution of EDT Committee two years ago to get on with a desk top study to adopt alignment of carriageways to reinforce our commitment to get this scheme prioritised by the Government.

The Cabinet Member replied that it had been disappointing that the Council had not been successful in the RIS2 funding, especially regarding the Acle Straight which was a priority for the A47 Alliance. He continued that the Council had pushed, and would continue to push, for the dualling of the Acle Straight as well as dualling the whole of the A47 which was important in ensuring better infrastructure not only for Norfolk but also for the Eastern counties and the East of England as it was a key route into Great Yarmouth

and the energy coast.

Regarding the desktop study on the Acle Straight, the Cabinet Member agreed to raise the matter with officers to see if pressure regarding the dualling of the Acle Straight could continue.

9.12 **Question from Cllr David Harrison to Cllr Margaret Dewsbury (Cabinet Member for Communities & Partnerships).**

Cllr Harrison asked, with the increasing use of online library services, if the Cabinet Member could give Council a guarantee that this would not be used as an excuse to cut or get rid of the mobile library service.

The Cabinet Member clarified that during the covid-19 pandemic, many library services had moved online. Libraries were gradually reopening, with set routes around the libraries, and IT services through a booking system being put in operation, although not all services could be offered at the present time. The Cabinet Member clarified that once it was deemed safe for the mobile library service to recommence, it would do so.

9.13 **Question from Cllr Ian Mackie to Cllr John Fisher (Cabinet Member for Children's Services).**

Cllr Mackie asked if the Cabinet Member would provide Council with an update on the significant SEND capital build programme and whether the covid-19 pandemic had made any impact on that sizeable programme.

The Cabinet Member responded that covid-19 had impacted on the SEND programme as the work at the sites in progress had to cease in March, although work had now recommenced, with the target to get all three SRB's open for September 2020. He continued that SEND schools did not necessarily need to open at the start of the term, so it was hoped that some of these may be ready before September 2020. He continued that Redcastle and the Academy in Thetford and Cavell SRB's would be ready for September 2020, and although the work on the Great Yarmouth SEND school had paused, it was on track to open in September 2021. The complex needs school at Sheringham was also on target to open in September.

The Cabinet Member referred to the capital build programmes which were due to open in September and work was being carried out with the Head of Trowse and Wymondham schools to find temporary accommodation for those schools to allow all children to be accommodated in September 2020.

Council adjourned from 11.55am until 12.30pm.

10 Committee Reports

10.1 **Scrutiny Committee – Meetings held on 28 January, 20 February, 27 May and 29 June 2020.**

Cllr Steve Morphew, Chair of Scrutiny Committee formally introduced the reports.

Council **RESOLVED** to note the reports.

10.2 **Corporate Select Committee – Meetings held on 27 January and 9 March 2020.**

Cllr Karen Vincent, Chairman moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the reports.

10.2.1 Cllr Kemp asked if the Asset Working Group would look at the future of the Carnegie Library in King's Lynn and if so what was being considered.

The Chairman replied that the Working Group was currently considering, at a strategic level, what the framework could look like and was therefore not ready to consider the level of detail referred to by Cllr Kemp. She added that she would bear Cllr Kemp's points in mind when that aspect of the work was considered.

10.3 **People & Communities Select Committee – Meetings held on 31 January and 13 March 2020.**

Cllr Shelagh Gurney moved the reports. Council **RESOLVED** to note the reports.

10.4 **Infrastructure & Development Select Committee – Meetings held on 29 January and 11 March 2020.**

Cllr Barry Stone moved the reports. Council **RESOLVED** to note the reports.

10.4.1 Cllr Chris Jones asked what Committee would replace the Norwich Highways Agency Joint Committee (NHAC) which had ceased in April 2020, as the NHAC had been well attended by members of the public and local members and also, where could people raise their concerns and express their views regarding highways issues in Norwich in future.

The Chairman replied that the Transforming Cities Joint Committee had been established and any issues previously taken to NHAC could be raised at that meeting and through District Councillor representatives.

10.5 **Audit Committee meeting held on 30 January 2020**

Cllr Ian Mackie moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

10.6 **Health Overview & Scrutiny Committee – Meeting held on 13 February 2020.**

Cllr Penny Carpenter moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

10.7 **Health and Wellbeing Board meeting held on 4 March 2020.**

Cllr Bill Borrett moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to note the report.

10.7.1 Cllr Alexandra Kemp referred to the progression of the Children and Young

People Mental Health Services, highlighted by Ofsted in its January 2018 inspection of the Norfolk and Suffolk Foundation Trust. She added that recommissioning of the Thrive model was expected in October 2020, and now there was an even greater need with young people struggling with mental health issues related to covid-19, she asked the Chairman what he was doing to progress the matter so a fully recommissioned children's and young people's mental health service was established as soon as possible.

The Chairman replied that he shared Cllr Kemp's ambition, which was a key piece of work and which would be reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board, therefore Councillors would be updated as and when decisions were made through reports to that Committee.

10.8 **Planning (Regulatory) Committee – Meetings held on 24 January, 21 February and 5 June 2020.**

Cllr Colin Foulger moved the reports. Council **RESOLVED** to note the reports.

10.9 **Joint Museums Committee meeting held on 7 February 2020**

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

10.10 **Norfolk Records Committee meeting held on 7 February 2020**

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

11 **Decisions taken by the Head of Paid Service under emergency delegated powers.**

11.1 Council received the report by the Executive Director of Strategy & Governance detailing the decisions made by the Head of Paid Service using Emergency Powers, as set out in Appendix 5, Scheme of Delegated Powers to Officers of the Norfolk County Council Constitution. The decisions had been taken due to the covid-19 pandemic which led to the cancellation of the Council meetings due to be held on 23 March 2020 and 4 May 2020.

11.2 Cllr Andrew Proctor, Leader of the Council moved the report.

11.3 In response to a question about when appointments would be made to the posts of Head of Democratic Services and Assistant Head of Democratic Services, the Leader responded that work was going on to ensure any appointments were made in due course.

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

12 **Proportional Allocation of Seats on Committees**

12.1 Council received the report by the Executive Director of Strategy & Governance setting out that, following the resignation of Cllr Eyre, the political balance on the Council had changed and it was necessary to review the overall allocations of committee places to political groups.

12.2 Cllr A Proctor moved the report. Council **RESOLVED** to **agree** the report.

13 Appointments of Committees, Joint Committees, etc 2020/21.

13.1 The report by the Executive Director of Strategy & Governance was received (Appendix A) setting out the membership of the Council's Committees and Joint Committees. Council was asked to approve membership proposed by Group Leaders; appoint one of the two representatives on the ESPO Management Committee to also be on ESPO's Finance and Audit Committee.

13.2 Council **RESOLVED** to:

13.2.1 **Approve** the Membership of Committees & Joint Committees as set out in Appendix B of these minutes.

14 Appointment of the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Scrutiny, Select and other Committees

14.1 The Leader, Cllr Andrew Proctor proposed the following names for Chairs/Vice Chairs of Scrutiny & Select Committees

Scrutiny Committee

Chair: Mr S Morphew

Vice-Chair: Mrs A Thomas

Corporate Select Committee

Chair: Mrs K Vincent

Vice-Chair: Mr E Colman

Infrastructure & Development Select Committee

Chair: Mr B Stone

Vice-Chair: Mr G Middleton

People & Communities Select Committee

Chair: Mrs S Gurney

Vice-Chair: Mr F Eagle

Planning (Regulatory) Committee

Chair: Mr C Foulger

Vice-Chair: Mr B Long

Audit Committee

Chair: Mr I Mackie

Vice-Chair: Mrs J Oliver

Standards Committee

Chair: Mr M Kiddle-Morris

Vice-Chair: Mr A White

Employment Committee

Chair: Mr A Proctor

Vice-Chair: Mr G Plant

Pensions Committee

Chair: Mrs J Oliver

Vice-Chair: To be agreed (This is a District Council appointment)

14.2 There being no other nominations Council **RESOLVED** accordingly.

15 Appointments to Committees, Sub-Committees and Joint Committees (Standards Item).

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

- (a) Cllr Keith Kiddie and Cllr Edward Connolly replaced by Cllr Haydn Thirtle and Cllr Judy Oliver on the Scrutiny Committee.
- (b) Cllr Steve Askew replaced by Cllr Penny Carpenter on the Corporate Select Committee
- (c) Cllr Steffan Aquarone replaced by Cllr Ed Maxfield on Audit Committee.
- (d) Cllr Ed Maxfield replaced by Cllr Steffan Aquarone on Scrutiny Committee.

16 Notice of Motions

16.1 The Chairman asked Council to agree to allow an amendment to a motion of which notice had been given without discussion under Paragraph 11.7. Council **agreed** to allow the amended motion to be considered.

The following amended motion was proposed by Cllr Margaret Dewsbury and seconded by Cllr Emma Corlett.

16.1.1 Council is committed to tackling discrimination and prejudice in all of its forms and recognises our responsibility to lead by example. Council affirms its commitment to continue work to address disadvantage, promote equality and eradicate racism.

In particular Council welcomes the spotlight that the Black Lives Matter campaign has shone on racism. We recognise our role and responsibility, as councillors and Norfolk County Council as a whole, to tackle racism locally, nationally and internationally.

Council notes:

- Cabinet agreed on 6 July to Social Value in Procurement alongside the requirements of the Social Value Act and the public sector equality duty requiring public bodies to have due regard to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between different people when carrying out their duties.
- In December 2019 Cabinet agreed to conduct a review of how the Council works and communicates as an organisation in order to identify any unconscious or structural bias in the system.

In moving this work forwards Council resolves

To Challenge racism through our actions, how we communicate and how we treat those who use services we provide

1. To develop a training package on unconscious/structural bias, to equip elected members and staff with the tools to challenge all forms of prejudice and discrimination.
2. To incorporate learning and development on white privilege and racism as part of engaging all staff and elected members
3. Ask the Corporate Select Committee to undertake a systematic review of Norfolk County Council assets and links to ensure we are not unwittingly endorsing racist views
4. To review progress on the work set out in the Council's equality, diversity and inclusion objectives for 2020/23 with a report back to a full Council meeting before the end of 2020.
5. Promotion of the Stop Hate in Norfolk campaign
6. Request the cabinet member for communities initiate a project to identify those from diverse backgrounds who have contributed to Norfolk and act as exemplary role-models for today, together with ways they can be celebrated. This will be particularly important during Black History Month and beyond to embed as 'business as usual'.

16.1.3 Following debate and upon being put to a vote, with 1 abstention, the motion was **CARRIED**.

16.2 The following motion was proposed by Cllr Mike Smith-Clare and seconded by Cllr Dave Rowntree.

Laptops for Learners

Public Health England's Local Authority Health Profile 2019 for Norfolk shows that 21,670 children under 16 are living in low income families in the county. Insufficient information is currently evidenced by Norfolk County Council to identify whether poverty impacts on educational achievement, however the lockdown has highlighted the existing gap between educational opportunity and achievements of young learners from different backgrounds.

The gap that already exists has been widened by the access to remote learning and especially the lack of laptops and connectivity for children from less well-off backgrounds. Council welcomes the provision on 1800 laptops for children, but the fact that was far from enough to address the scale of the problem also highlights the extent of the need. This is a long term, systemic and urgent problem.

Council therefore resolves:

To request the Executive Leader to make provision to:

1. urgently fund a feasibility study and business plan for the creation of a not for profit business with charitable status that will refurbish corporate computers provided by businesses and organisations to be distributed to children to help support their learning and provide technical support to maintain them, with an initial target of 10,000
2. bring to council as part of the capital programme a grant proposal to support the capital costs of setting up such a business
3. provide for the revenue consequences of such a grant in the budget for 2021/2
4. provide short term support from council staff in setting up the necessary structure to enable the business to be formed.

Council further resolves to set a target date for the creation of the business of 1 October 2020

Council further recognises that connectivity continues to be a critical issue in enabling the effective use of online resources for young learners and urges the LEP and broadband providers to prioritise improvements and affordable connectivity for young learners from disadvantaged backgrounds

16.2.1 Following debate and upon being put to a recorded vote (Appendix C), with 27 votes in favour, 43 votes against and 3 abstentions the motion was **LOST**.

16.3 The following motion was proposed by Cllr Brenda Jones and seconded by Cllr Julie Brociek-Coulton.

Signing and translation

Council recognises that the considerable progress that has been made in making information more accessible has highlighted other areas where improvements should be made.

Council therefore resolves

- a) all future meetings streamed and available for subsequent viewing should include signing to enable accessible to residents with hearing impairment
- b) councillors be provided with access to translation services to help them communicate with residents with whom they don't have a shared language

16.3.1 Following debate and upon being put to a vote, with 25 votes in favour, 41 votes against and 1 abstention, the motion was **LOST**.

16.4 The following motion was **withdrawn** by Cllr Dan Roper.

Black Lives Matter

Council welcomes the spotlight that the Black Lives Matter campaign has shone on racism. We recognise our role and responsibility, as councillors and Norfolk County Council, to tackle racism locally, nationally and internationally. Council acknowledges that various studies conclude the UK continues to have

institutional racism in all structures of society.

Council recognises our responsibility to lead by example, acknowledge where we fall short and the urgent need to ensure that employees and councillors are representative of the communities that we serve.

Council further welcomes the opportunity to reflect on our history against the values of today. It is important we do not allow an individual's service to the county to prevent a reappraisal of either their conduct, or how any benefits they brought to the county were accrued, especially where they involved slavery or other exploitation.

Council believes it is important to distinguish between acknowledging a person's role in history and unquestioningly celebrating them. We must participate in a mature discussion about who we choose to commemorate and why, and provide objective context for those discussions to take place.

Council recognises that history requires moments when those once celebrated should be reclassified as museum artefacts and replaced by figures that more reflect contemporary values and celebrate our diverse community.

Council resolves to:

1. Challenge racism through our actions, how we communicate and how we treat those who use services we provide
2. Undertake urgently the work as set out in the Council's equality, diversity and inclusion objectives for 2020/23 and report back to the full council meeting on 23 November 2020
3. Provide unconscious bias training to all councillors
4. Ask the Corporate Select Committee to undertake a systematic review of Norfolk County Council assets and links to ensure we are not unwittingly endorsing racist views
5. Request others in Norfolk, including businesses, public bodies and community organisations, to do likewise
6. Request the cabinet member for communities initiate a project to identify those from diverse backgrounds who have promoted anti-racist views and act as exemplary role-models for today, together with ways they can be celebrated, and report back November 2020 meeting of full council.

16.5 The following motion was proposed by Cllr Chrissie Rumsby and seconded by Cllr Colleen Walker.

Food Poverty

Norfolk has experienced the profound multiple impacts of Covid-19 since the onset of the pandemic. Evidence shows that this impact has not been shared evenly, with those in the county's most deprived communities suffering hardest. One very visible example of this has been the rocketing use of foodbanks which have multiplied and provided critical support to those facing the difficulties of food crisis. As the city now begins to emerge from the pandemic special focus to provide support for those most at risk from hunger should be considered.

Council resolves to:

Ask the leader of the council to

- a) publicly thank the volunteers, groups, organisations and partners who have worked so tirelessly to provide emergency food, support of other provisions across the county, acknowledging the vital difference this has made.
 - b) write to the Secretary of State at the Department for Work and Pensions and the county's Members of Parliament to request, with specific reference to alleviating child poverty, that child benefit is immediately raised by £15.00 per week, per child as an alternative to parents using the current inefficient, ineffective and often inaccessible voucher service.
- (1) acknowledge the impact of a decade of deliberate structural austerity in driving people into hunger through the weakening of social security and other systemic measures which have fuelled poverty across Norfolk,
 - (2) use the powers available to ensure that the recovery of the county economy must address the root drivers of poverty with special reference to creating new, inclusive and sustainable growth, tackling endemic low pay and working with the newly formed Good Economy Commission; and
 - (3) Consider and implement the agreed Recovery Plan, working with partners, to enhance and develop strong and sustainable food networks to better provide support to those most at risk of hunger.
 - (4) Request that the Local Resilience Forum takes responsibility for continued monitoring of and support for food banks in Norfolk and that continued food supply through any second spike of Covid-19 and the exit from the European Union forms a key part of the Emergency Plan
 - (5) Ensure all schools and colleges are informed of foodbank provision across the county before the end of this term
 - (6) Ensure that volunteers from the newly emerged foodbanks can access safeguarding training
- 16.5.1 Following debate and upon being put to a recorded vote (Appendix D), with 26 votes in favour, 42 votes against and 1 abstention the motion was **LOST**.
- 16.6 The following motion was proposed by Cllr Steffan Aquarone and seconded by Cllr Dan Roper (on behalf of Cllr John Timewell):

Norfolk's Economic Future

The Economic Strategy for Norfolk and Suffolk, published in 2017, by New Anglia, Local Enterprise Partnership for Norfolk and Suffolk was already falling behind before coronavirus started impacting the local economy.

The Council's latest economic figures show that Norfolk's employment rate, skills levels and wage levels are below the regional level.

Irwin and Mitchell puts Norwich 22nd out of 46 UK cities for GVA well behind Oxford, Cambridge and Ipswich. Norwich's employment level is 33rd – even further behind. Meanwhile Lambert Smith and Hampton's UK 'Fastest Growing' vitality index has Colchester joining Cambridge and Oxford in the top 10 in fourth place, but there is no sight of Norwich.

Norfolk is one of the worst performing areas for enterprise and business formation with the business start up rate well below the national average. The average gross weekly earnings in Norfolk are consistently lower than both the regional and national average with earnings still below those that were experienced before the recession.

Norfolk's economy was already falling well behind, and whilst the recently-published Recovery Plan rightly acknowledges some successful initiatives that are already up and running, it fails to explain how the plan will support young people, or respond to redundancies, or help businesses adapt their business models. A new approach is urgently needed.

It is clear from those areas in the UK and internationally that are delivering real economic growth that the lead local authority is showing leadership through a compelling overarching vision; ambitious growth plans along with a active, hands-on engagement and partnership with local businesses – not just signposting to services or facilitating Government programmes.

Norfolk's model of a handful of politicians working with the Local Enterprise Partnership is too insular and uninspiring. Norfolk County Council needs to provide real direction, engagement and leadership to deliver the growth Norfolk needs.

This council believes that Norfolk is full of untapped potential and that it is the council's job to lead on a bold 21st century economic strategy that brings prosperity to all.

This Council resolves that

The Council creates a new economic strategy to be clearly led by Norfolk County Council following extensive consultation and partnership work with Norfolk local businesses, as well as the Local Enterprise Partnership, to help shape that strategy.

- 16.6.1 The following amendment, which was agreed by Cllr Steffan Aquarone, the proposer of the original motion, was proposed by Cllr Steve Morphew, and became the substantive motion:

Norfolk's Economic Future

The Economic Strategy for Norfolk and Suffolk, published in 2017, by New Anglia, Local Enterprise Partnership for Norfolk and Suffolk was already falling behind before coronavirus started impacting the local economy.

The Council's latest economic figures show that Norfolk's employment rate, skills levels and wage levels are below the regional level.

~~Irwin and Mitchell puts Norwich 22nd out of 46 UK cities for GVA well behind~~

~~Oxford, Cambridge and Ipswich. Norwich's employment level is 33rd — even further behind. Meanwhile Lambert Smith and Hampton's UK 'Fastest Growing' vitality index has Colchester joining Cambridge and Oxford in the top 10 in fourth place, but there is no sight of Norwich.~~

~~Norfolk is one of the worst performing areas for enterprise and business formation with the business start up rate well below the national average. The average gross weekly earnings in Norfolk are consistently lower than both the regional and national average with earnings still below those that were experienced before the recession.~~

~~Norfolk's economy was already falling well behind, and whilst the recently-published Recovery Plan rightly acknowledges some successful initiatives that are already up and running, it fails to explain how the plan will support young people, or respond to redundancies, or help businesses adapt their business models. A new approach is urgently needed.~~

~~It is clear from those areas in the UK and internationally that are delivering real economic growth that the lead local authority is showing leadership through a compelling overarching vision; ambitious growth plans along with a active, hands-on engagement and partnership with local businesses — not just signposting to services or facilitating Government programmes.~~

~~Norfolk's model of a handful of politicians working with the Local Enterprise Partnership is too insular and uninspiring. Norfolk County Council needs to provide real direction, engagement and leadership to deliver the growth Norfolk needs.~~

This council believes that Norfolk is full of untapped potential and that it is the council's job to lead on a bold 21st century economic strategy that brings prosperity to all, **offers a positive future for young people, helps tackle climate change and gives recognition to the importance of community resilience as well as big ticket schemes**

Council regrets the absence of recognition of the health and care sector on the Economic strategy and the lack of urgent action in the LEP Economic Recovery Plan despite acknowledging it as the largest sector in terms of employment, one of the foundations of our local economy, fragmented, low paid and suffering as a result of Brexit.

Council also regrets the absence of recognition or support for small shops and businesses whose commitment and agility has contributed so much to communities during the emergency.

Council further regrets the lack of a detailed action plan to support the Youth pledge that young person in Norfolk will have the support they need to get into high quality education, employment, training, or an apprenticeship

This Council resolves that

~~The Council creates a new economic strategy to be clearly led by Norfolk County Council following extensive consultation and partnership work with Norfolk local businesses, as well as the Local Enterprise Partnership, to help shape that strategy.~~

To request the Leader, portfolio holder for growing the Economy and LEP

to urgently revisit the Economic Recovery Plan to

- 1. give due priority to the health and care sector by including it in the Economy Strategy**
- 2. include local shops and other community businesses as a crucial part of resilience planning as part of Norfolk's economic recovery priorities**
- 3. publish an action plan for achieving the Youth Pledge**

show how the Recovery Plan has used changed public attitudes to rethink and reprioritise rather than rely on pre pandemic thinking.

16.6.2 Cllr Graham Plant raised a point of order in that in his view the amended motion was a re-write of the motion and not an amendment. The Director of Governance & Monitoring Officer advised that there was no limit as to how many words could be changed, as long as the amendment did not negate the motion. The Monitoring Officer ruled that the amendment did not negate the motion and could therefore be moved and seconded.

16.6.3 Following debate and upon being put to a vote, with 17 votes in favour, 38 votes against and 3 abstentions the motion was **LOST**.

16.7 The following motion was proposed by Cllr Brian Watkins and seconded by Cllr Tim East:

Tax relief for Public Transport

This Council notes that:

- In his article for the Daily Telegraph 'Tax Relief just the Ticket' (6 October 2013), then journalist Boris Johnson called for employees to be 'allowed to pay for their season tickets from their pre-tax income.'
- Mr Johnson advocated for the introduction of a new tax relief scheme, limited to the basic rate, whereby 'the employer would buy the season ticket and deduct the cost from his or her (employee's) pay packet – and only then would the employee be assessed for tax.'
- The impact of such a scheme would mean that employees would have less taxable income reducing their liability for income tax and national insurance and the employer would also save on national insurance contributions.
- The economy has been hit by the Coronavirus Pandemic. This would be an easing measure for people returning to public transport.
- An annual season ticket costs a commuter from Cromer to Norwich £2,008.00, from Kings Lynn to Norwich is £4,796.00 and an Anywhere Annual Ticket across the Konectbus network is £980.
- Such a tax-relief scheme would represent a significant financial saving for Norfolk commuters and be a real kickstart to the local economy.
- Council further notes that now Mr Johnson is Prime Minister he has it within his power to put his aspirations for tax relief on seasonal travel tickets into practice.

Council resolves to:

- ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer to request that this Government introduce such a tax-relief scheme.
- This would be on seasonal travel tickets (following the principles outlined in Mr Johnson's Telegraph article in 2013) making this effective as soon as possible.

16.7.1 The following amendment was proposed by Cllr Bill Borrett and seconded by Cllr Martin Wilby:

This Council notes that:

- **The Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer have moved very quickly to safeguard residents income with the furlough scheme and grants & tax relief for businesses.**
- **The government has been prompt in providing extra money to the nhs and for social care.**
- In his article for the Daily Telegraph 'Tax Relief just the Ticket' (6 October 2013), then journalist Boris Johnson called for employees to be 'allowed to pay for their season tickets from their pre-tax income.'
- Mr Johnson advocated for the introduction of a new tax relief scheme, limited to the basic rate, whereby 'the employer would buy the season ticket and deduct the cost from his or her (employee's) pay packet – and only then would the employee be assessed for tax.'
- The impact of such a scheme would mean that employees would have less taxable income reducing their liability for income tax and national insurance and the employer would also save on national insurance contributions.
- The economy has been hit by the Coronavirus Pandemic. This would be an easing measure for people returning to public transport.
- An annual season ticket costs a commuter from Cromer to Norwich £2,008.00, from Kings Lynn to Norwich is £4,796.00 and an Anywhere Annual Ticket across the Konectbus network is £980.
- Such a tax-relief scheme would represent a significant financial saving for Norfolk commuters and be a real kickstart to the local economy.
- Council further notes that now Mr Johnson is Prime Minister he has it within his power to put his aspirations for tax relief on seasonal travel tickets into practice.

Council resolves to:

- Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer **thanking them for their hard work and foresight during the pandemic and for ensuring that Norfolk's residents have been supported** and to request that this Government introduce such a tax-relief scheme **as part of their comprehensive economic response to the current pandemic.**
- This would be on seasonal travel tickets (following the principles outlined in Mr Johnson's Telegraph article in 2013) making this effective as soon as possible.

16.7.2 As proposer of the original Motion, Cllr Watkins did not accept the amendment and asked for it to be withdrawn. The Director of Governance & Monitoring Officer advised that the Constitution ruled that once a motion had been moved and seconded, it could be withdrawn with the consent of the seconder. As an amendment had already been proposed and seconded, the amendment should be debated and, if agreed, then the amendment would become the substantive motion and Council would proceed on that basis. If the amendment fell, then debate would return to the original motion at which point the proposer would have the ability to withdraw it, providing the seconder agreed. As an amendment had been proposed and seconded, the original motion could not be withdrawn at this point in the debate.

16.7.3 The Chairman asked Cllr Borrett to confirm if he wished for the amended motion to be withdrawn.

In reply, Cllr Borrett confirmed that, as the amended motion had been proposed and seconded by Cllr Wilby, he wished for the vote on the amendment to be taken.

16.7.4 Upon being put to a vote, with 36 votes in favour, 17 votes against and 4 abstentions the amended motion was **CARRIED** and became the substantive motion.

16.7.5 Upon the substantive motion being put to a vote, with 38 votes in favour, 15 votes against and 5 abstentions, the substantive motion was **CARRIED**.

This Council notes that:

- The Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer have moved very quickly to safeguard residents income with the furlough scheme and grants & tax relief for businesses.
- The government has been prompt in providing extra money to the NHS and for social care.
- In his article for the Daily Telegraph 'Tax Relief just the Ticket' (6 October 2013), then journalist Boris Johnson called for employees to be 'allowed to pay for their season tickets from their pre-tax income.'
- Mr Johnson advocated for the introduction of a new tax relief scheme, limited to the basic rate, whereby 'the employer would buy the season ticket and deduct the cost from his or her (employee's) pay packet – and only then would the employee be assessed for tax.'
- The impact of such a scheme would mean that employees would have less taxable income reducing their liability for income tax and national insurance and the employer would also save on national insurance contributions.
- The economy has been hit by the Coronavirus Pandemic. This would be an easing measure for people returning to public transport.
- An annual season ticket costs a commuter from Cromer to Norwich £2,008.00, from Kings Lynn to Norwich is £4,796.00 and an Anywhere Annual Ticket across the Konectbus network is £980.
- Such a tax-relief scheme would represent a significant financial saving for Norfolk commuters and be a real kickstart to the local economy.

- Council further notes that now Mr Johnson is Prime Minister he has it within his power to put his aspirations for tax relief on seasonal travel tickets into practice.

Council resolves to:

- Ask the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer thanking them for their hard work and foresight during the pandemic and for ensuring that Norfolk's residents have been supported and to request that this Government introduce such a tax-relief scheme as part of their comprehensive economic response to the current pandemic.
- This would be on seasonal travel tickets (following the principles outlined in Mr Johnson's Telegraph article in 2013) making this effective as soon as possible.

16.7.6 As proposer of the original motion, Cllr Brian Watkins stated that he would still like the substantive motion to be withdrawn. In response, the Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer ruled that the amended motion had become the substantive motion and therefore the original motion could not be withdrawn, although the minutes would reflect that it was Cllr Watkins' preference to withdraw the motion.

17 To answer questions under Rule 8.3 of the Council Procedure Rules (if any received).

No questions were received.

The meeting ended at 4.15pm.

Chairman



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Appendix A

I am truly honoured to be elected Chairman of the Council and I thank you for bestowing this role upon me.

2020 is proving to be a challenging year, one which has pushed the Council to respond to the Covid-19 emergency with all its resources. I am proud to see how effective elected members, senior managers and employees across the organisation have been in reconfiguring services, supporting colleagues and working with partners and community groups.

For me, as a former serving Lt Col in the British Army, the Council's engagement and joint working with the military, Service charities and veteran volunteers has demonstrated just how willing and capable the armed forces community are in Norfolk. Their desire to support one another and to ensure the broader community have what they need to get through the pandemic, is remarkable.

It is for this reason, my chosen theme this year is: "To promote the Armed Forces Covenant". The Covenant recognises the sacrifice of those serving their country and their families; it seeks to ensure they are treated fairly and are not disadvantaged because of their service. It also gives special consideration to those who have given the most: the wounded, injured, sick and bereaved.

The Council signed the Armed Forces Covenant in 2012 and established the Norfolk Armed Forces Covenant Board. This is a partnership between public sector bodies, the military and service charities. It strives to improve understanding of the armed forces community, to provide them with expert help and advice and to deliver an annual action plan.

To give you some examples:

- The Covenant Board negotiated the opening of a dental practice for serving families and civilians at Marham.
- The Board is currently working with the renewable energy sector in Norfolk to provide career opportunities for those transitioning out of Service life and for veterans and family members looking for a new job.
- It is also developing a toolkit to help schools and parents understand what support is available for Service Children.

As Elected Members, I ask you to encourage local businesses you come into contact with, to sign the Armed Forces Covenant and make a pledge to support the armed forces community in Norfolk.

I look forward to serving you as Chairman for the coming year.

Thank you.

Cllr Keith Kiddie
Chairman
Norfolk County Council

Norfolk County Council
20 July 2020
Item No. 13

APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES AND JOINT COMMITTEES 2020/21

Council is required to confirm the membership of committee, joint committees, etc membership for 2020/21. This can only be completed once the main committee political group allocations have been agreed by council

Group Leaders have been asked to identify their group representatives on the committees.

Recommendation

1. To approve the memberships proposed by the Group Leaders
2. To appoint 1 of the 2 representatives on the ESPO Management Committee to also be on ESPO's Finance and Audit Committee and 1 of the 2 representatives to be the Shareholder representative on the Shareholder Board.

Committee Membership 2020/21

Scrutiny Committee - 13 Members plus 2 Church representatives and 2 Parent Governor Representatives

Conservative (8)

Roy Brame
Philip Duigan
Ron Hanton
Joe Mooney
Judy Oliver
Richard Price
Alison Thomas

Labour (3)

Emma Corlett
Chris Jones
Steve Morphew (Ch)

Liberal Democrat (2)

Steffan Aquarone
Dan Roper (Spks)

Corporate Select Committee - 13

Conservative (9)

Penny Carpenter
Ed Colman
Nigel Dixon
Colin Foulger
Ian Mackie
Brian Long
Rhodri Oliver
Karen Vincent
John Ward

Labour (1)

Terry Jermy
Chris Jones

Liberal Democrat (1)

John Timewell (Spks)

Independent (1)

Sandra Squire

Proposed Infrastructure and Development Select Committee – 13 (Subject to Council's agreement at item 12 on the agenda).

Conservative (8)

Claire Bowes
Stuart Clancy
Brian Iles
Mark Kiddle-Morris
Graham Middleton
Bev Spratt
Barry Stone
Vic Thomson

Labour (2)

Jess Barnard
Colleen Walker

Liberal Democrat (2)

Tim East
Brian Watkins (Spks)

Independent Group (1)

To be confirmed

People and Communities Select Committee – 13**Conservative (8)**

David Bills
Penny Carpenter
Ed Connolly
Fabian Eagle
Shelagh Gurney
Thomas Smith
Fran Whymark
Sheila Young

Labour (3)

Brenda Jones
Mike Smith-Clare
Chrissie Rumsby

Liberal Democrat (2)

Tim Adams (Spks)
David Harrison

Planning (Regulatory) Committee - 13**Conservative (8)**

Steven Askew
Roy Brame
Colin Foulger
Brian Iles
Brian Long
Will Richmond
Martin Storey
Tony White

Labour (3)

David Collis
Danny Douglas
Mike Sands

Liberal Democrat (1)

Eric Seward (Spks)

Independent (1)

Mick Castle

Panel of Substitutes for Regulatory Committees - 13

Conservative (8)

David Bills
Bev Spratt
Vic Thomson

Labour (3)

Chris Jones

Liberal Democrat (1)

David Harrison

Independent (1)

Sandra Squire

OTHER COMMITTEES

Norfolk Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee 8

Conservative (5)

Penny Carpenter
Michael Chenery
Fabian Eagle
Richard Price
Sheila Young

Named Substitutes (5)

Roy Brame
Ian Mackie
Graham
Middleton
Haydn Thirtle
Alison Thomas

Labour (2)

Brenda Jones
Chris Jones

Named Substitutes (2)

Julie Brociek-Coulton
Emma Corlett

Liberal Democrat (1)

David Harrison (Spks)

Named Substitute (1)

Tim Adams

Audit Committee 7

Conservative (5)

Colin Foulger
Ian Mackie
Judy Oliver
Haydn Thirtle
Karen Vincent

Labour (1)

Chris Jones

Liberal Democrat (1)

Ed Maxfield (Spks)

Standards Committee - 7

Conservative (5)

Claire Bowes
Mark Kiddle-Morris
Graham Middleton
John Ward
Tony White

Named Substitutes (5)

Ed Colman
Alison Thomas
Karen Vincent
Bev Spratt

Labour (1)

George Nobbs

Named Substitute (1)

Emma Corlett

Liberal Democrat (1)

Sarah Butikofer (Spks)

Named Substitute (1)

Dan Roper

N.B The Standards Committee has agreed to have a panel of named substitutes and Council is asked to appoint to these positions on the same proportionality, i.e 5 Conservative, 1 Labour and 1 Liberal Democrat

Pensions Committee 5

Conservative (3)

Tom FitzPatrick
Judy Oliver
Martin Storey

Labour (1)

Danny Douglas

Liberal Democrat (1)

Brian Watkins (Spks)

Employment Committee – 7 (to include Leader and Deputy Leader of the Council and the Leader of the majority opposition group)

Conservative (5)

Penny Carpenter
Stuart Clancy
Ed Colman
Graham Plant (VCh)
Andrew Proctor (Ch)

Labour (1)

Steve Morpew

Liberal Democrat (1)

Dan Roper (Spks)

SECTION 2

Employment Appeals Panel – 11

When the Panel meets, it has a membership of 3 appointed by the Head of Human Resources and drawn from the wider Panel of 11

Conservative (7)

Tony Adams
Bill Borrett
Penny Carpenter
Colin Foulger
Graham Middleton
Alison Thomas
Tony White

Labour (2)

Emma Corlett
George Nobbs

Liberal Democrat (2)

Ed Maxfield
Marie Strong (Spks)

Health and Wellbeing Board (3)

- * Cabinet Member for Adults, Public Health and Prevention
- * Cabinet Member for Children and Education
- Leader of the Council or their nominee – Stuart Dark

*Statutory member of the Board

SECTION 3

JOINT COMMITTEES

Norfolk Joint Museums Committee – 9

Conservative (6)

Philip Duigan
Harry Humphrey
Thomas Smith
Margaret Stone
Martin Storey
John Ward

Labour (2)

Julie Brociek-Coulton
George Nobbs

Liberal Democrat (1)

David Harrison (Spks)

Norfolk Records Committee – 3

Conservative (2)

Michael Chenery
Philip Duigan

Labour (1)

David Rowntree

Eastern Inshore Fisheries Conservation Authority – 3

Conservative (2)

Michael Chenery
Tom FitzPatrick

Labour (1)

David Collis

Norfolk Police & Crime Panel – 3

Conservative (2)

Labour (0)

Liberal Democrat (1)

Conservative

Will Richmond

Martin Storey

Liberal Democrat Group

Sarah Butikofer

Plus each group has one named substitute

N.B The political group allocations to the Police and Crime Panel are calculated with reference to the requirement for the Panel to be politically balanced based upon the overall political balance of Council seats in Norfolk. The 7 district councils each appoint 1 representative and the County Council makes its 3 appointments to ensure that the overall political balance is achieved. The County Council group allocations to the Panel will be confirmed once the results of the District Council elections have been analysed and District Council appointments to the Panel made.

Transforming Cities Joint Committee – 4

Conservative (2)

Martin Wilby (Ch)

Barry Stone (VCh)

Labour (1)

Steve Morphew

Lib Dem (1)

Brian Watkins

Eastern Shires Purchasing Organisation Joint Committee - 2

Conservative (1)

Stuart Clancy (ESPO Finance and Audit Committee and Shareholder representative on the Shareholder Board)

Labour (1)

Mike Smith-Clare

Council is required to appoint 1 of the 2 representatives on the ESPO Management Committee to also be on ESPO's Finance and Audit Committee and 1 of the 2 representatives to be the Shareholder representative on the Shareholder Board.

Norfolk Parking Partnership Joint Committee (1 Member of the Council plus one named substitute)

Martin Wilby
Barry Stone (Substitute)

Planning and Traffic Regulation Outside London Joint Committee (1 Member of the Council plus one named substitute)

Tony White
Bev Spratt (Substitute)

National Bus Lane Adjudication Committee (1 Member of the Council plus one named substitute)

Tony White
Bev Spratt (Substitute)

**Norfolk County Council
20 July 2020**

RECORDED VOTE

Agenda item 16 – Motion 2 (Laptops for Learners).

	For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
ADAMS Tony		X		KIDDIE Keith			X
ADAMS Timothy	X			KIDDLE-MORRIS Mark		X	
AQUARONE Steffan	X			LONG Brian		X	
ASKEW Stephen		X		MACKIE Ian		X	
BARNARD Jess	X			MAXFIELD Edward			
BILLS David		X		MIDDLETON Graham			
BORRETT Bill		X		MOONEY Joe			
BOWES Claire		X		MORPHEW Steve	X		
BRAME Roy		X		NOBBS George	X		
BROCIEK-COULTON Julie	X			OLIVER Judy		X	
BUTIKOFER Sarah				OLIVER Rhodri		X	
CARPENTER Penny		X		PECK Greg		X	
CASTLE Mick	X			PLANT Graham		X	
CLANCY Stuart				PRICE Richard		X	
CLIPSHAM Kim	X			PROCTOR Andrew		X	
COLLIS David	X			RICHMOND William		X	
COLMAN Ed				ROPER Dan	X		
CONNOLLY Edward		X		ROWNTREE David	X		
CORLETT Emma	X			RUMSBY Chrissie	X		
DARK Stuart		X		SANDS Mike	X		
DEWSBURY Margaret		X		SEWARD Eric	X		
DIXON Nigel		X		SMITH Carl		X	
DOUGLAS Danny	X			SMITH Thomas		X	
DUIGAN Phillip		X		SMITH-CLARE Mike	X		
EAGLE Fabian				SPRATT Bev		X	
EAST Tim	X			SQUIRE Sandra	X		
FISHER John		X		STONE Barry		X	
FITZPATRICK Tom		X		STONE Margaret		X	
FOULGER Colin		X		STOREY Martin			X
GRANT Andy				STRONG Marie	X		
GURNEY Shelagh		X		THIRTLE Haydn		X	
HANTON Ron		X		THOMAS Alison		X	
HARRISON David	X			THOMSON Victor		X	
HORSBRUGH Michael Chenery of		X		TIMEWELL John			
HUMPHREY Harry		X		VINCENT Karen			X
ILES Brian		X		WALKER Colleen	X		
JAMIESON Andrew		X		WARD John		X	
JERMY Terry	X			WATKINS Brian	X		
JONES Brenda	X			WHITE Tony			
JONES Chris	X			WHYMARK Fran		X	
KEMP Alexandra	X			WILBY Martin		X	
				YOUNG Sheila		X	

With 27 votes in favour, 43 votes against and 3 abstentions the motion was LOST.

**Norfolk County Council
20 July 2020**

Appendix D

**RECORDED VOTE
Agenda item 16 – Motion 5 – Food Poverty**

	For	Against	Abstain		For	Against	Abstain
ADAMS Tony		X		KIDDIE Keith			X
ADAMS Timothy	X			KIDDLE-MORRIS Mark		X	
AQUARONE Steffan	X			LONG Brian		X	
ASKEW Stephen		X		MACKIE Ian		X	
BARNARD Jess	X			MAXFIELD Edward			
BILLS David		X		MIDDLETON Graham			
BORRETT Bill		X		MOONEY Joe			
BOWES Claire		X		MORPHEW Steve	X		
BRAME Roy		X		NOBBS George	X		
BROCIEK-COULTON Julie	X			OLIVER Judy		X	
BUTIKOFER Sarah				OLIVER Rhodri		X	
CARPENTER Penny		X		PECK Greg		X	
CASTLE Mick	X			PLANT Graham		X	
CLANCY Stuart				PRICE Richard		X	
CLIPSHAM Kim	X			PROCTOR Andrew		X	
COLLIS David	X			RICHMOND William		X	
COLMAN Ed				ROPER Dan	X		
CONNOLLY Edward		X		ROWNTREE David	X		
CORLETT Emma	X			RUMSBY Chrissie	X		
DARK Stuart		X		SANDS Mike	X		
DEWSBURY Margaret		X		SEWARD Eric			
DIXON Nigel				SMITH Carl		X	
DOUGLAS Danny	X			SMITH Thomas		X	
DUIGAN Phillip		X		SMITH-CLARE Mike	X		
EAGLE Fabian				SPRATT Bev		X	
EAST Tim	X			SQUIRE Sandra	X		
FISHER John		X		STONE Barry		X	
FITZPATRICK Tom		X		STONE Margaret		X	
FOULGER Colin		X		STOREY Martin		X	
GRANT Andy				STRONG Marie	X		
GURNEY Shelagh		X		THIRTLE Haydn		X	
HANTON Ron		X		THOMAS Alison			
HARRISON David	X			THOMSON Victor			
HORSBRUGH Michael Chenery of		X		TIMEWELL John			
HUMPHREY Harry		X		VINCENT Karen			
ILES Brian		X		WALKER Colleen	X		
JAMIESON Andrew		X		WARD John		X	
JERMY Terry	X			WATKINS Brian	X		
JONES Brenda	X			WHITE Tony		X	
JONES Chris	X			WHYMARK Fran		X	
KEMP Alexandra	X			WILBY Martin		X	
				YOUNG Sheila		X	

With 26 votes in favour, 42 votes against and 1 abstention the motion was **LOST**.

Questions requiring responses from the Council Meeting – Monday 20 July 2020

	Question and response:
<p>Question From Cllr Tim Adams to Cllr Bill Borrett, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health & Prevention.</p>	<p>How many errors in personal budgets direct payments have been made since the Minimum Income Guarantee was first implemented and how much has that cost the council and the members of the public?</p> <p>Response: The financial and employment support for individuals receiving direct payments transferred from 7 external providers back into Norfolk County Council – the Direct Payment Support Service (DPSS) on 1st April 2019. This was a detailed piece of work which involved liaising with providers and communicating with individuals about the change. There were a number of anomalies experienced regarding payroll and these were resolved with the individuals as soon as they were identified. DPSS transferred 1264 service users payrolls and 2475 personal assistant records and dealt with a number of errors of which 47 resulted in formal complaints during period 1st April 2019 – 31st December 2020. However the number of errors has reduced significantly and to date since December we have received 7 complaints. The costs of these were contained within existing budgets. Resulting from the change, the Direct Payment Support Service established a DPSS Advisory Group with representation from service users and external organisations so we had a forum to hear feedback, share updates and then work collaboratively to identify service improvements.</p>