

Norfolk County Council

Annual General Meeting

Date: **Tuesday 10 May 2022**

Time: **10 am**

Venue: **Council Chamber, County Hall, Martineau Lane,
Norwich NR1 2DH**

To: All members of the Council. You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Council for the purpose of transacting the business set out in this agenda.

Advice for members of the public:

This meeting will be held in public and in person. It will be live streamed on YouTube and members of the public can watch remotely by clicking on the following link:

[Norfolk County Council - Democratic Services YouTube](#)

However, if you wish to attend the meeting in person it would be most helpful if, you could indicate in advance that it is your intention to do so. This can be done by emailing committees@norfolk.gov.uk where we will ask you to provide your name, address and details of how we can contact you (in the event of a Covid-19 outbreak). Please note that public seating will be limited.

To ensure that the meeting is held safely we ask that if you have any of the symptoms of Covid then for the safety of others please do not attend. For further information on Covid please visit the County Council's website [here](#)

Prayers

AGENDA

- 1 Apologies**
- 2 To elect a Chair for the ensuing year**
- 3 Minutes**
To confirm the minutes of the meetings of the Council held on 28 March 2022 and 11 April 2022
- 4 To elect a Vice-Chair for the ensuing year**
- 5 Vote of thanks to the outgoing Chair**

Page 5

6 To receive any announcements from the Chair

7 To receive any Declarations of Interest from Members

In either case you may remain in the room where the meeting is taking place. If you consider that it would be inappropriate in the circumstances to remain in the room, you may leave the room while the matter is dealt with.

If you do not have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest you may nevertheless have an Other Interest in a matter to be discussed if it affects to a greater extent than others in your division:

- Your wellbeing or financial position, or
- that of your family or close friends
- Any body –
 - Exercising functions of a public nature.
 - Directed to charitable purposes; or
 - One of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union);

of which you are in a position of general control or management.

If that is the case then you must declare such an interest but can speak and vote on the matter.

8 Any items of business the Chair decides should be considered as a matter of urgency.

9 Appointments to Committees, Joint Committees and Outside Bodies and Appointments of Chairs and Vice Chairs for Committees for the ensuing year

To Follow

Report by the Head of Governance

10 Questions to the Leader

Procedure Note attached

Page 33

11 Cabinet Recommendations

Page 35

Recommendations from meeting held on 4 April 2022

12 Cabinet Report (Questions to Cabinet Members)

Page 37

Meeting held on 4 April 2022

Procedure Note attached

Page 41

- 13 Committee Reports**
- 13.1 Scrutiny Committee** **Page 42**
Meetings held on 23 March 2022, 30 March 2022 and 20 April 2022
- 13.2 Health and Wellbeing Board** **To Follow**
Meeting held on 28 April 2022
- 13.3 Audit Committee** **Page 46**
Meeting held on 21 April 2022
- 13.4 Norfolk Records Committee** **Page 49**
Meeting held on 1 April 2022
- 13.5 Joint Museums Committee** **Page 51**
Meeting held on 1 April 2022
- 13.6 Planning (Regulatory) Committee** **Page 54**
Meeting held on 25 March 2022
- 13.7 Standards Committee** **Page 55**
Meeting held on 29 March 2022
- 14 Notice of Motions** **Page 56**
- 15 To answer Questions under Rule 8.3 of the Council Procedure Rules (if any received)**

Tom McCabe
Head of Paid Service
County Hall
Martineau Lane
NORWICH
NR1 2DH



Agenda Published: 29 April 2022

**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 Leaders (or their representatives? I can't remember who spoke here Tim 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 Morphew, 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 Morphew

Cllr Steve Morphew 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 refuge 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 Mophew, 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 Horsbrugh 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



If you need this document in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact Customer Services on 0344 800 8020 or 18001 0344 800 8020 (textphone) and we will do our best to help.

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	
BROCIK-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	
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	
BROCIK-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 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	
BROCIK-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		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	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

**Norfolk County Council
Minutes of the Meeting Held at 10 am on
Monday 11 April 2022**

Present:		
	ADAMS Timothy	LONG Brian
	ADAMS Tony	MACKIE Ian
	ANNISON Carl	MASON BILLIG Kay
	AQUARONE Steffan	MORPHEW Steve
	BAMBRIDGE Lesley	NEALE Paul
	BILLS David	OSBORN Jamie
	BIRMINGHAM Alison	PECK Greg
	BLUNDELL Sharon	PENFOLD Saul
	BORRETT Bill	PLANT Graham
	BROCIEK-COULTON Julie	PROCTOR Andrew
	CARPENTER Graham	RICHMOND Will
	CARPENTER Penny	REILLY Matthew
	COLWELL Robert	RILEY Steve
	CONNOLLY Ed	ROPER Dan
	CORLETT Emma	RUMSBY Chrissie
	DALBY Michael	SANDS Mike
	DEWSBURY Margret	SAVAGE Robert
	DAWSON Christopher	SHIRES Lucy
	DUFFIN Barry	SMITH Carl
	DUIGAN Phillip	SMITH-CLARE Mike
	EAGLE Fabian	STONE Barry
	ELMER Daniel	THOMAS Alison
	FISHER John	THOMSON Vic
	FITZPATRICK Tom	VARDY Eric
	GURNEY Shelagh	VINCENT Karen
	HEMPSALL Lana	WALKER Colleen
	HORSBRUGH Michael Chenery of	WARD John
	JERMY Terry	WATKINS Brian
	JONES Brenda	WEBB Maxine
	KEMP Alexandra	WHITE Tony
	KIDDLE-MORRIS Mark	WILBY Martin
	KIRK Julian	

Present: 63

1A. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Stephen Askew, Cllr James Bensley, Cllr Claire Bowes, Cllr Stuart Clancy, Cllr Ed Colman, Cllr Stuart Dark, Cllr Nick Daubney, Cllr Nigel Dixon, Cllr Andy Grant, Cllr Jane James, Cllr Andrew Jameson, Cllr Keith Kiddie, Cllr Ed Maxfield, Cllr Graham Middleton, Cllr Jim Moriarty, Cllr Judy Oliver, Cllr Rhodri Oliver, Cllr Ben Price, Cllr Richard Price, Cllr Martin Storey, and Cllr Fran Whymark.

1B Chair's Announcements

The Chair placed on record the Council's congratulations to Helen Edwards, Director of Governance, whom had been elected President of the Lawyers in Local Government.

2 Declarations of Interest

2.1 Cllr Ed Connolly declared an "other interest" in that he was a member of the Norfolk Foster Panel.

Cllr Dan Roper declared an "other interest" in that he was a member of the Norfolk Foster Panel.

Cllr Alexandra Kemp declared an "other interest" in that she had helped set up a scheme for free meals for children at the Baptist Church in south Lynn for two days a week.

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

3.1 The Chair said that there were no items of urgent business.

3.2 Cllr Steve Morphew said he considered it wrong for the Council to not consider as an item of urgent business the reinstatement of vouchers for children who were normally entitled to free school meals; the motions from Members of the Labour Group were then withdrawn and Members of the Labour Group left the meeting.

3.3 Cllr Brian Watkins withdrew motions from Members of the Liberal Democrat Group and Cllr Jamie Osborn withdrew motions from Members of the Green Group and together with Cllr Alexandra Kemp they left the meeting in turn after explaining why they considered the reinstatement of the vouchers for children entitled to free school meals should have been taken as urgent business.

3.4 The Chair said that the meeting remained quorate and would continue.

4 Notice of Motions

4.1 The Director of Governance said that withdrawn motions could be resubmitted on notice at a subsequent meeting.

4.2 The first motion to be considered was **motion 5 (offshore wind benefits to**

Norfolk).

- 4.3 Cllr Graham Plant withdrew motion 5 (offshore wind benefits to Norfolk) because the Government had recently published the British energy security strategy which covered everything that was being sought of the Government from the motion.

Following brief further comment about the motions that were withdrawn the Chair declared the meeting at an end.

The meeting ended at 10.25 pm.

Chair



If you need this document in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact Customer Services on 0344 800 8020 or 18001 0344 800 8020 (textphone) and we will do our best to help.

Procedure for Leader's Question Time

In order to give as many people as possible the opportunity to put a question to the Leader, questions should be asked succinctly and in a business-like manner. They should not be preceded by lengthy preambles. Similarly, answers should be given succinctly, to make sure there is sufficient time for a reasonable number of questions to be dealt with. The Chair will be prepared to intervene if they consider this principle is not being adhered to.

Agenda Item 5 – Questions to the Leader of the Council

Questions to the Leader will be a 15-minute session for questions relating only to the role of Leader.

1. Questions to the Leader must be relevant to matters for which the Council has powers or duties. Members do not need to give prior notice of what they plan to ask and the Chair's ruling as to relevance of questions will be final. If the Leader cannot give an immediate answer or feels that a written answer would be more helpful or appropriate, then the questioner will receive a written reply and this will be published to all members and to the public via the minutes. The Leader may ask Cabinet Members to answer questions where appropriate.
2. The Chair will begin Leader's Question Time by inviting the Leader of the Labour Group to ask the first question. All Group Leaders may delegate the asking of their question to another member of their Group. There is no right to ask a supplementary question.
3. After the first question has been answered, the Chair will invite the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group to ask a question.
4. When the second question has been answered the Chair will invite the Leader of the Green Group to ask a question.
5. When the third question has been answered, the Chair will invite and select a member of the Independent Group to ask a question.
6. When the fourth question has been answered, the Chair will invite a Member of the Conservative Group to ask a question.
7. When the fifth question has been answered, the Chair will invite Cllr Alexandra Kemp (Non-aligned Member) to ask a question.
8. If the 15 minutes has not expired, the Chair will then invite questions from Group Members in the following order:

Labour Group
Liberal Democrat Group
Green Group
Independent Group

Conservative Group

Following round:

Labour Group

Liberal Democrat Group

Green Group

Conservative Group

9. The session will be timed by Democratic Services officers. If a question is being asked at the point time is up, the Chair will allow the question to be completed and the answer to be given.

Recommendations from the Cabinet Meeting held on 4 April 2022

A: Meeting held on Monday 4 April 2022

1. Finance Monitoring Report 2021-22 P11: February 2022

1.1 Cabinet received the report giving a summary of the forecast financial position for the 2021-22 Revenue and Capital Budgets, General Balances, and the Council's Reserves at 31 March 2022, together with related financial information.

1.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED**

1. To recommend to County Council the addition of **£0.337m** 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:
 - £0.237m schools revenue contributions to the Schools Capital programmes partially offset by adjustments from DfE
 - £0.100 SiF Internal funding revenue contributions received for the Technology Improvement project
2. Subject to County Council approval of recommendation 1 to delegate:
 - 2.1) To the Director of Procurement authority to undertake the necessary procurement processes including the determination of the minimum standards and selection criteria (if any) and the award criteria; to shortlist bidders; to make provisional award decisions (in consultation with the Chief Officer responsible for each scheme); to award contracts; to negotiate where the procurement procedure so permits; and to terminate award procedures if necessary;
 - 2.2) To the Director of Property authority (notwithstanding the limits set out at 5.13.6 and 5.13.7 of Financial Regulations) to negotiate or tender for or otherwise acquire the required land to deliver the schemes (including temporary land required for delivery of the works) and to dispose of land so acquired that is no longer required upon completion of the scheme;
 - 2.3) To each responsible chief officer authority to:
 - (in the case of two-stage design and build contracts) agree the price for the works upon completion of the design stage and direct that the works proceed; or alternatively direct that the works be recompleted
 - approve purchase orders, employer's instructions, compensation events or other contractual instructions necessary to effect changes in contracts that are necessitated by discoveries, unexpected ground
 - conditions, planning conditions, requirements arising from detailed design or minor changes in scope
 - subject always to the forecast cost including works, land, fees and disbursements remaining within the agreed scheme or programme budget.

- That the officers exercising the delegated authorities set out above shall do so in accordance with the council's Policy Framework, with the approach to Social Value in Procurement endorsed by Cabinet at its meeting of 6 July 2020, and with the approach set out in the paper entitled "Sourcing strategy for council services" approved by Policy & Resources Committee at its meeting of 16 July 2018.
3. To recognise the period 11 general fund forecast revenue **of a balanced budget**, noting also that Executive Directors will continue to take measures to reduce or eliminate potential over-spends where these occur within services;
 4. To note the COVID-19 funding available of **£100.452m**, including £28.353m brought forward from 2020-21;
 5. To recognise the period 11 forecast of 90% savings delivery in 2021-22, noting also that Executive Directors will continue to take measures to mitigate potential savings shortfalls through alternative savings or underspends;
 6. To note the forecast General Balances at 31 March 2022 of **£23.763m**.
 7. To note the expenditure and funding of the revised current and future 2021-25 capital programmes.

[Please click here to view the reports considered by Cabinet at its meeting on 4 April 2022 and the minutes of that meeting](#)

Cllr Andrew Proctor
Chairman, Cabinet

**Report from the Cabinet
meeting held on 4 April 2022**

A: Meeting held on Monday 4 April 2022

1. The Chairman read a statement about the County Council's support for people during the pandemic, and about how additional funding received from Government to support the next 6 months of hardship funding would be used. Please refer to the minutes to read the full statement: [4 April 2022 Cabinet minutes](#)
2. **Matters referred to Cabinet by the Scrutiny Committee, Select Committees or by full Council: Fostering Review**
 - 2.1 Cabinet received the report and addendum report outlining the recommendations from Scrutiny Committee to Cabinet following consideration of the call-in of the Cabinet decision of 7 March 2022 at Scrutiny Committee on 23 March 2022.
 - 2.2 The Cabinet Member for Children's Services went through the five recommendations to Cabinet from Scrutiny Committee
 - 2.3 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to add into the proposals of the Fostering Review report agreed at Cabinet on 7 March 2022 that "any assessment of a child should not adversely impact on payments to foster carers".
3. **Flourishing in Norfolk**
 - 3.1 Cabinet received the report introducing Flourish as the shared ambition of Norfolk's Children and Young People Strategic Alliance, together with the Strategic Alliance's partnership strategy 'Flourishing in Norfolk'.
 - 3.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED** that
 1. Cabinet formally commits to adopt the Children and Young People Strategic Alliance's shared ambition that Norfolk is a place where all children and young people can flourish.
 2. Cabinet endorses departments embedding Flourish within the County Council's activities where these impact on children and young people and requests an annual update on progress.
 3. Cabinet commends the progress made through the Children and Young People Strategic Alliance to develop a children and young people's partnership strategy: Flourishing in Norfolk
4. **Trading Standards Service Plan 2022/23**
 - 4.1 Cabinet received the report setting out the Trading Standards Service Plan and its associated annexes, and the Trading Standards Business Services Policy for adoption by Cabinet following review.

- 4.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED**
1. To agree and adopt the Trading Standards Service Plan and associated Annexes set out in Appendices 1 to 4 of the report.
 2. To agree and adopt the Trading Standards Business Services Policy set out in Appendix 5 of the report.
5. **Changing Places**
- 5.1 Cabinet received a report providing an update on the prioritised locations for further Changing Places in Norfolk following feedback from engagement with disabled people and their families.
- 5.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to
1. Note the feedback from the engagement
 2. Note progress to date on identifying priority locations for proposed sites for new Norfolk County Council Changing Places facilities set out in section 2.1 of the report.
 3. Agree our proposals to encourage applications to our Norfolk Social Infrastructure Fund for Changing Places facilities as set out in section 2.3 of the report.
6. **Net Zero and Natural Norfolk Progress Update**
- 6.1 Cabinet received the report providing an update on progress towards delivery of commitments relating to the Environmental Policy, which were set out in the November 2021 cabinet paper “Natural Norfolk: Progress on delivering the Environmental Policy”.
- 6.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to
1. Acknowledge the progress being made as set out in this paper in relation to net zero and Natural Norfolk.
 2. Commission the Executive Director for Community and Environmental Services to produce a Climate Action Plan for Norfolk.
 3. Agree for Norfolk County Council to become a member of the UK100 Network. Membership will be reviewed on a biannual basis to ensure that Norfolk County Council are contributing, collaborating and benefitting from the network.
 4. Approve the set-up approach for delivery of Norfolk’s Nature Recovery Strategy through a Natural Norfolk Map, which will use demonstrator initiatives such as the AONB, Marine Site and National Trails, to better integrate geospatial data analysis into nature recovery networks.
 5. Approve the Norwich, Great Yarmouth and King’s Lynn Local Cycling and Walking Plan documents.
 6. Acknowledge that a further paper will be required which outlines how the Environment Bill will require Norfolk County Council to act in the future.
7. **Strategic Review**
- 7.2 Cabinet received the report setting out proposals to review a number of aspects of the design of Norfolk County Council.
- 7.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED**

1. To agree the Council's broader ambition to prepare the organisation for significant future transformation.
2. To progress a review, with an initial focus on the role and number of management layers and spans of control, to identify areas of duplication, simplification of role design and identify and deliver any resulting savings.
3. To delegate to the Head of Paid Service, in consultation with the Director of Procurement and the Leader, the decision to award a contract to provide external support to this transformation activity.
4. To direct the Head of Paid Service to ensure the necessary internal resources are secured in order to successfully implement the review and to ensure that ways of working are established that enable effective knowledge transfer from, and partnership working with, the external provider.

8. **Better Together, for Norfolk 2021-2025 – delivering our strategy**

- 8.1 Cabinet received the report seeking Cabinet's approval of the 2022/23 the Corporate Delivery Plan, and to provide an update on the progress being made on the Communications and Workforce strategies.
- 8.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED** to
1. Approve the 2022/23 Corporate Delivery Plan.
 2. Provide feedback on the work being done to develop the Communication and Workforce strategies, and the proposed timescale for delivery.

9. **Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 and Investigatory Powers Act 2016**

- 9.1 Cabinet received the report detailing the use of RIPA and the IPA by the Council for 2021 and seeking approval of the current policies, which have been reviewed and slightly amended (RIPA policy only).
- 9.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED**
1. To note the use of RIPA and the IPA by the Council for 2021, as set out in Appendix A of the minutes; and
 2. To approve the revised policy documentation provided at Appendix B and Appendix C of the minutes.

10. **Strategic and financial planning 2023-24**

- 10.1 Cabinet received the report setting out the framework for how the Council will approach budget setting for 2023-24 and should be read in conjunction with the reports Better Together, for Norfolk – delivering our strategy and Norfolk County Council – Strategic Review earlier on the agenda. Taken together, these three reports represent key elements that will contribute to setting the strategy and direction for the Council over the next few years.
- 10.2 Cabinet **RESOLVED**
1. To consider the overall budget gap of £96.676m included in the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) set by Full Council in February 2022, and agree:
 - a) the gap of £59.927m to be closed for 2023-24; and
 - b) the extension of the MTFS by a further year (to 2026-27) and the resulting overall gap for planning purposes of £115.814m. (Section 4).

2. To review the key budget risks and uncertainties as set out in this report. (Section 4).
3. To consider the principles of the proposed approach to budget setting for 2023-24, noting that there may be a need for flexibility within both the process itself and the assumptions applied, and agree:
 - a) the process and indicative timetable set out in Section 5, including the proposed two stage consultation process for 2023-24 to support in the early securing of deliverable saving proposals.
 - b) the savings targets allocated to each Department to be found (Table 10), and that these will be kept under review through the budget process.

11. Finance Monitoring Report 2021-22 P11: February 2022

- 11.1 Please refer to the “Cabinet recommendations to Council” report.

12. Disposal, Acquisition & Exploitation of Property

- 12.1 Cabinet received the report setting out proposals aimed at supporting Norfolk County Council priorities by exploiting properties surplus to operational requirements, pro-actively releasing property assets with latent value where the operational needs can be met from elsewhere and strategically acquiring property to drive economic growth and wellbeing in the County.

12.2 Cabinet RESOLVED

1. To agree to the letting of the house at Council Farm, Church Road, Carleton Rode NR16 1RP (7023/100) to Tenant UJ on the terms agreed as detailed in Appendix A.
2. To formally declare the land at Priory Nursery Yard (Part), Great Yarmouth (6009/194) surplus to County Council requirements and instruct the Director of Property to dispose of the property to the adjoining owner.
3. To formally declare the land at Old Sunway, King’s Lynn surplus to County Council requirements and instruct the Director of Property to dispose of the property to the adjoining owner. In the event of no agreement then the Director of Property is authorised to sell by auction or tender.
4. To agree to the letting of the bungalow and field at Nelson Place, South Walsham Road. North Burlingham Lingwood and Burlingham NR13 4EH (5014/100) to Tenant AI on the terms agreed as detailed in Appendix A.
5. To formally declare the Land at Wood Lane, Mautby (6013/104) surplus to County Council requirements and instruct the Director of Property to agree terms and dispose of the land to the adjoining owner. In the event of no agreement then the Director of Property is authorised to sell by auction or tender
6. To agree to the letting of the house at Rodwell Farm, Mill Lane Whissonsett NR20 5SR (3111/100) to Tenant ID and Partner JD on the terms agreed as detailed in Appendix A.

**Cllr Andrew Proctor
Chairman, Cabinet**

Procedure for Questions to Cabinet Members

Questions to the Cabinet Members for

- Strategy & Governance
- Growing the Economy
- Adult Social Care, Public Health and Prevention
- Children's Services
- Commercial Services & Asset Management
- Communities and Partnerships
- Environment & Waste
- Finance
- Highways, Infrastructure & Transportation
- Innovation, Transformation & Performance

A maximum overall period of 30 minutes shall be allowed for questions to Cabinet Members, to be extendable at the discretion of the Chair. Questions to Cabinet Members can relate to anything within the remit of the Cabinet Member's portfolio and are not limited to items in the Cabinet reports.

1. The Chair will begin Questions by inviting members to indicate if they wish to ask a question.
2. The Chair will select a member to ask their question and all other members wait until the Chair next invites questions. Questions will not be taken in a prescribed portfolio order and can be to any Cabinet Member.
3. For the first round, the Chair will follow the principle of selecting the first questioner from the Labour Group, followed by the Liberal Democrat Group, the Green Group, the Independent Group, the Conservative Group, then the Non-aligned Member. For the second round, the Chair will then revert to the Labour Group, the Liberal Democrat Group, the Green Group, the Independent Group and the Conservative Group. For the third round, the Chair will revert to the Labour Group, the Liberal Democrat Group, the Green Group and the Conservative Group, etc.
4. The session will be timed by Democratic Services officers, who will notify the Chair that the time is up. If a question is being asked at the point at which time is up, the Chair will allow the question to be completed and the answer to be given.
5. Questions should be asked succinctly and in a business-like manner. They should not be preceded by lengthy preambles. Similarly, answers should be given succinctly, so that there is sufficient time for a reasonable number of questions to be dealt with. The Chair of the Council will be prepared to intervene if they consider this principle is not being adhered to.

**Report of the
Scrutiny Committee meetings
held on 23 March 2022, 30 March 2022 and 20 April 2022**

Items from the meeting of 23 March 2022

1 Call-In of Cabinet Decision of Fostering Review.

1.1 It was RESOLVED

After carefully considering this matter, Committee referred the decision back to Cabinet and in doing so recommended the following advisory points were considered:

- 1. Any reassessment of a child's needs should not adversely affect the payments to the foster carer by reduction of need.**
- 2. All existing placements that would be adversely impacted by the new policy should continue at the same level of payment until the placement ends to provide certainty for the foster carer.**
- 3. The new proposals should be re-examined by either an in house or independent legal team to ensure nothing has been missed or overlooked to ensure Norfolk County Council's position as an innovator of progressive change is robust.**
- 4. To consider an informal peer review by other relevant local authorities to help spot or advise on unforeseen consequences or changes that would need to be addressed.**
- 5. To establish a rolling programme of review so that fosters carers are aware of when and how changes to fees and allowances are considered and implemented. The programme should also address the governance framework of the review and clearly set out the consultation process and the governance components that would be involved.**

2 Call in of Multiple Decisions Associated with the Norwich Western Link.

2.1 The Committee considered whether to refer back to Cabinet (12. Highways Capital Programme 2022/23/24 and Transport Asset Management Plan);(14. *Norwich Western Link Update Cabinet RESOLVED to note the work undertaken to progress the NWL and the plan for a further update report to be presented to its meeting on 6 June 2022*) (18. *Risk Management Cabinet RESOLVED:1. To consider and agree the key messages in paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 and Appendix A containing key changes to corporate risks since the last risk management report in December 2021. 2. To consider and agree the corporate risks as at March 2022 (Appendix C)*)

2.2 It was RESOLVED (after considering each Cabinet decision):

To note the call-ins but take no further action.

3 **Call in of Cabinet Member Delegated Decision: Norwich – Ipswich Road – Active Travel Fund**

The Committee received a report about the call-in of Cabinet Member Delegated decision of 7 March 2022 concerning issues relating to the Ipswich Road Active Travel Fund.

The Committee agreed to note the call in but take no further action.

4 **Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme**

4.1 **RESOLVED**

That the Committee:

Note the revised forward work programme as set out in the appendix to the report.

Items from the meeting of 30 March 2022

5 **Mental Health Services for Children and Young People**

5.1 The report provided an update on Mental Health Services for Children and Young People as part of the work programme agreed in 2021, and included an introduction to the service, an outline of partnership working arrangements and how moving out of the pandemic the delivery of services and key challenges would be addressed.

5.2 **RESOLVED**

That the Committee:

- 1. Refer the future scrutiny of Mental Health Services for Children and Young People to the Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) and ensure that capacity is determined to place this item on HOSC's forward work programme.**
- 2. To request that the Peoples and Communities Select committee consider the Children and Young People's Mental Health Charter.**
- 3. Consider whether the Performance Review Panel would have a role to play in the future assessment of the Charter.**

6 **Performance Review Panels – 6 Month Review**

6.1 Cllrs Elmer and Gurney, the chairs of the panels, were present to answer questions about the performance review panels meetings and the actions that were being taken as a result of the issues raised. Members of the Scrutiny Committee discussed progress made by the panels, providing feedback and recommendations around future activity, and the content of further quarterly reports to Scrutiny.

RESOLVED

That the Committee:

- 1. note the reports and the ongoing work to monitor service**

performance.

2. ask the panels to consider how they might be more open and transparent without it detracting from the vital work it undertook.
3. request future reports to be clearer and simpler to help identify issues raised, actions proposed and outcomes achieved.

7 Update from the Chair of the Norfolk Countywide Community Safety Partnership (NCCSP) Scrutiny Sub Panel.

7.1 The Committee received a report which provided an update on the Safer Norfolk Plan 2021-24. The Committee **agreed** to endorse the report and the progress being made by the Scrutiny Sub Panel.

8 Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme

8.1 RESOLVED

That the Committee:

Note the revised forward work programme as set out in the appendix to the report.

Items from the meeting of 20 April 2022

9 Better together for Norfolk: Delivering our Strategy

9.1 The Committee received a report that explained the role expected of the Scrutiny Committee with regards to providing challenge and oversight of items that formed part of the Council's Policy Framework for the delivery of the Better Together for Norfolk strategy.

RESOLVED

1. That Scrutiny Committee note the report (including the report presented to Cabinet and the 2022-23 Corporate delivery Plan) and the feedback to officers that was set out in the minutes.
2. That, at its work programming meeting scheduled for 16 May 2022, Scrutiny Committee consider its role in supporting delivery of the Better Together for Norfolk 2021-25 strategy, discussing arrangements for further challenge and oversight.

10 Strategic and Financial Planning 2023-24

10.1 The Committee received a report that provided an opportunity to scrutinise the Council's process for developing the 2023-24 Budget, to consider the overall timeline and activity required to prepare for that budget and to help identify savings.

10.2 RESOLVED

That the Committee:

1. Note the proposed strategic and financial planning timeline set out in the report and the feedback to officers that is set out above.

2. Place on record thanks to the Cabinet Member and Executive Director for their help in answering Councillors detailed questions.

11 Monitoring of NCC Environmental Policy – Development of a Digital Dashboard

11.1 The Committee received a report that provided an update on progress towards the development of a digital emissions dashboard to monitor progress against key environmental targets. The report reviewed the benefits and drawbacks in terms of form, functionality and deliverability of a dashboard developed through different reporting platform options. The Committee also received on the screens in the Council Chamber a (work in progress) demonstration from Jonathan Franklin, Policy Officer in the Procurement Team, of the high-level digital dashboard currently in development.

11.2 RESOLVED

That the Committee:

- 1. Acknowledge the progress being made in the development of a digital emissions dashboard.**
- 2. Place on record thanks to Al Collier, Director of Procurement and Jonathan Franklin, Policy Officer in the Procurement Team, for their help in answering Councillors detailed questions.**

13 County Farms – Updates on Actions Following Scrutiny

13.1 The Committee received a report that provided an update on actions taken on the County Farms Estate since the Scrutiny Committee had previously considered this matter in September 2021.

13.2 RESOLVED

That the Committee:

Note the report and the actions that are being taken.

14 Scrutiny Committee Forward Work Programme

14.1 It was noted that following comments made earlier in the meeting, a standard scene setting item for the annual budget setting process would be added to the forward work programme July 2022.

14.2 RESOLVED

That the Committee:

Note the current forward work programme as set out in the appendix to the report which was subject to a revised work programme being distributed to Members.

**Steve Morphew
Chair**

Report of the Audit Committee Meeting held on 21 April 2022

1 Urgent Business.

- 1.1 The Chairman advised he had a couple of items to bring to the committee's attention:

1. Question from Local Member

The Chairman advised that a question, concerning access to the Big Holiday Fun Scheme, had been received in line with the constitution appendix 8 (6.1) and the response was published on the Council website and circulated at the meeting. The question and the response are attached to this report at **Appendix A**. In attending the meeting Cllr Corlett thanked the Chairman for such a comprehensive answer and asked the following supplementary question: How might any learnings be captured in the interim period to the scheduled audit date in Spring 2023? The Chairman responded by saying that he would expect officers to take forward any learnings from the scheme that had run over the Easter school holidays and to apply these during the school holiday periods throughout the remainder of 2022 and beyond.

The Chairman allowed a further question on the matter from Cllr Jermy who requested that members of the committee are involved in the wider audit of the scheme to allow feedback following issues experienced by residents and their families. The Chairman advised members that the audit programme for 22/23 had been agreed at the previous committee meeting and if any members wished to express concerns, they should do so via Children's Services department in the normal way.

2. East of England Audit Chairman's Forum

The Chairman advised the Committee that the first East of England Audit Chairman's Forum meeting had taken place via Microsoft Teams and had been well received. The Forum was looking forward to its first meeting face to face on 7th July 2022 at County Hall in Norwich. Norfolk County Council were leading on the forum and John Pye from the Combined Authority of Cambridgeshire and Peterborough had been appointed to the Vice Chairman role.

2. Governance, Control and Risk Management of Treasury Management 2021-22

- 2.1 The Committee received a report by the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services which assured Councillors that there were effective governance, control and risk management arrangements in place in respect of Treasury Management.

- 2.2 The Committee **RESOLVED** to agree the report, noting that it provided assurance to the Audit Committee as to the adequacy and effectiveness of the governance, control and risk management arrangements for Treasury Management.
- 3 External Audit Update**
- 3.1 The Committee welcomed Mark Hodgson and Sappho Powell who attended the meeting from Ernst & Young to present an update and answer questions. A presentation was undertaken a copy of which is attached to this report at **Appendix B**.
- 3.2 The committee noted the report and thanked the External Auditors for their work and for attending the meeting.
- 4. Audit Committee Terms of Reference**
- 4.1 The Committee received a report by the Executive Director of Finance & Commercial Services which set out the Committee's terms of reference and recommended changes which were considered to be consequential.
- 4.2 The Committee **RESOLVED to** agree the terms of reference for the Audit Committee with the recommended changes.
- 5 Norfolk County Council's Insurance Cover**
- 5.1 The Committee received a report by the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services which provided the Committee with assurance as to how the insurance provision was delivered for the County Council and how claims against the Council were managed by the Insurance Team.
- 5.2 The Committee **RESOLVED to agree to a** proper insurance provision existed where appropriate, as confirmed by external and internal reviews and accept the report.
- 6 Norfolk Audit Services Report for the Quarter ending 31 March 2022**
- 6.1 The Committee received the report by the Executive Director of Finance & Commercial Services supporting the remit of the Audit Committee in providing proactive leadership and direction on audit governance and risk management issues. The report updated the Committee on the progress of the delivery of the internal audit work and advised on the overall opinion of the effectiveness of risk management and internal control which was considered to be adequate and sound.
- 6.2 **The Committee RESOLVED to agree the key messages featured in the quarterly report, that the work and assurance meet their requirements and advise if further information is required.**
- 7 Risk Management Report**
- 7.1 The committee received the report by the Executive Director of Finance & Commercial Services referencing the corporate risk register as it stood in April 2022 following the latest risk management report presented to cabinet in March 2022.
- The Committee Resolved to agree:**
- a. The key messages as per paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 of this report**
 - b. The key changes to the corporate risk register (Appendix A);**
 - c. The corporate risk heat map (Appendix B);**
 - d. The latest generic corporate risks (Appendix C);**
 - e. Scrutiny options for managing corporate risks (Appendix D);**
 - f. Background Information (Appendix E)**
- 8 Work Programme**

- 8.1 The Committee received the report by the Executive Director of Finance and Commercial Services setting out the work programme. The Committee considered and **noted** the report.

Ian Mackie
Chairman, Audit Committee

Report of the Norfolk Records Committee Meeting held on 1 April 2022

1. Finance and Risk

1.1 The Committee received a report outlining the Norwich Record Office revenue budget for 2021/22, capital programme and reserves and provisions and an update on the service risk register.

1.2 The following points were discussed and noted:

- The Record Office was currently forecast to achieve a balanced budget position for 2021/22.
- Since the previous meeting, two of the risks listed in the risk register were reduced to “Amber” (there were: RM13959 ‘Loss of or reduction in funding and RM14165 ‘Failure to collect, preserve and make accessible new formats of archive’).
- It was noted that digitally born records were kept in a widely accessible format using processes that met with international standards. While the numbers of digitally generated records were currently small, there were expected to quickly increase in number.
- In reply to questions it was pointed out that the Record Office provided guides on its websites about the kinds of records that should be stored with the Record Office. These guides were particularly helpful to organisations and individuals who were unfamiliar with the process for depositing records.

1.3 The Committee **CONSIDERED** and **COMMENTED** on:

1. Forecast position of the revenue budget, capital programme, reserves and provisions.

2. Management of risk for 2021/22.

2 Performance Report

2.1 The Committee received a report that outlined progress towards delivering the Norfolk Record Office (NRO) Service Plan between 1 October 2021 and 31 March 2022. The Committee was also presented with a short film on the screens in the Council Chamber about the Change Minds partnership project.

2.2 The following points were discussed and noted:

- The County Archivist explained the wide range of work that continued to be done to make the Norfolk Record Office more accessible to new audiences.
- It was pointed out that the programme of events during the previous six months had included new hybrid events, along with some in-person and online events work with volunteers.
- Archive Skills sessions that gave people the skills to discover, read and understand archives for themselves had proven to be particularly popular.

- Since the previous meeting the Change Minds partnership between the Restoration Trust and the Norfolk Record Office was awarded a £249K National Lottery Heritage Fund grant for the Scaling Up Change Minds project. A project officer had recently been appointed to work on the project along with evaluation, web development and educational consultants.
- The Committee was pleased to be able to note that Richard Johnson, who has been a part of Change Minds since 2018, had won the Heritage Alliance's Heritage Hero Award. Richard Johnson first participated in Change Minds in 2018, when he became profoundly impressed by the life, work and character of Dr William Hills, Medical Superintendent of Norfolk County Asylum from 1861 to 1887 and began research that revealed new evidence about the history of mental health treatment. In reply to questions from a member, the County Archivist agreed to speak to Richard Johnson about the possibility of his work being published by the Norfolk Record Society.
- A short film about the work of the Change Minds project that featured the work of Richard Johnson was shown in the Council Chamber.
- Members were pleased to hear that as Covid-19 restrictions were relaxed: on-demand document ordering had resumed; the searchroom service had been extended and the King's Lynn Borough Archive had reopened to the public.
- In reply to questions, the County Archivist explained how the volunteers were managed through the work of a senior archivist.
- The Committee asked that a letter be sent to Rachel Farmer, the ex-Support Services Manager, who had recently retired from the Record Office after more than three decades of service. Rachel's post was replaced with a new role: Remote and Support Services Manager and other members of the NRO management team had taken on new responsibilities for building management, health and safety, and public services management.

2.3 The Committee CONSIDERED and COMMENTED on the contents of the report and the actions taken by the Record Office to provide a service during this period between 1 October 2021 and 31 March 2022.

**Michael Chenery of Horsbrugh, Chair,
Norfolk Records Committee**

Report of the Norfolk Joint Museums Committee meeting held on 10 May 2022

1 **Guests in attendance at the meeting**

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed the representatives of the British Museum International Training Programme and the Norfolk Museums Service Teaching Museum Trainees and Teaching Museum Manager who were present for the meeting.

2 **Area Museums Committees**

- 2.1 The Joint Committee received updates about Museums activities in Breckland, King's Lynn and West Norfolk and Norwich.
- 2.2 The Joint Committee praised the excellent work of the King's Lynn Museums staff for their efforts in putting together the loan of the Seahenge timbers that are on display at the British Museum until 17 July 2022 as part of their major new Stonehenge exhibition. The loan has received a lot of local and national media interest which has provided an opportunity to promote the Lynn Museum and the town.

3 **Norfolk Museums Service - Finance Monitoring Report for 2021/22**

- 3.1 The Joint Committee received a report that covered the Norfolk Museums Service (NMS) forecast budget out-turn for 2021/22 and details about the latest monitoring position of the revenue budget, capital programme, reserves and provisions.

3.2 **The Joint Committee resolved:**

To note the latest monitoring position of the revenue budget, capital programme, reserves and provisions and forecast out-turn for 2021/22.

4 **Norfolk Museums Service - Risk Management Report**

- 4.1 The Joint Committee received a report that provided Members with the latest Norfolk Museums Service Risk Register. The Norfolk Museums Service risk register was last reported to the Joint Museums Committee in January 2022.

4.2 The Committee's attention was drawn to the following issues:

- There were no material changes to the risk register since this matter was last reported to the Committee. There was, however, an upcoming risk pertaining to future funding by Arts Council England (ACE), which would be reported with further detail at the next meeting closer to the point at which the Museum's new ACE funding applications would be announced.
- The Committee received an oral update on the Norwich Castle: Royal Palace Reborn Project. Robust arrangements were in place for the oversight of the contract management for the project. The rating in the risk register for the residual risk of failure of the project took account of mitigation measures and was subject to continual review.

- It was noted that there remained financial implications for revenue generation resulting from the effects of previous site closures owing to COVID-19, and reduced visitor numbers to museums. This was noted in risk RM14162 (Failure to generate additional income streams for 2021/22 in accordance with service plan).
- Officers were asked to consider options for generating income from the use of high quality digital on-line content and from public attendance at NMS on-line events. Officers spoke about how generating income from this emerging area of work was a complex issue and one to which the Committee would need to return at a future meeting.

4.3 **The Joint Committee resolved:**

To agree the active and dormant risks as per appendices A and B of the report, noting latest updates associated with the COVID-19 pandemic.

5 **Norfolk Museums Service - Collections Management Strategy 2022-2027**

5.1 The Joint Committee received a report that included an updated Collections Management Strategy for the next five-year period from 2022-2027. In addition to the report, the Committee received a presentation (that could be found on the Committee pages website) about the wide range of work undertaken by the Collections Management Team and their involvement in all activities that supported NMS collections.

5.2 Members' attention was drawn to the work that involved the management of digital collections related data and the new collections web site facility which could be found at <https://www.museums.norfolk.gov.uk/collections>

5.3 **RESOLVED**

That the Joint Committee note the NMS Collections Management Strategy 2022-2027 as set out at Appendix A to the report.

6 **Norfolk Museums Service – Performance & Strategic Update Report**

6.1 The Joint Committee received a report that provided progress with performance of Norfolk Museums Service over the current financial year 2021/22 including the Service's award-winning learning programmes and the Service's work with groups including Looked After Children, carers and foster families and vulnerable older residents across the County. The report also provided an update on all major projects, including the Norwich Castle: Gateway to Medieval England project and the National Lottery Heritage Fund supported youth development programme, Kick the Dust Norfolk.

6.2 The following points were discussed and noted:

- Planning was underway to put in place the next steps for Kick the Dust that included the potential to build in cross-county partnership working with another Kick the Dust project in Leicester. The National Lottery Heritage Fund had had initial discussions with the Service regarding working with another Kick the Dust project before submitting a funding application (either as a lead applicant or as a project partner) for a new project that built on the successes of current

projects. The total value of the project could be anywhere between £1m and £2m.

- The first stage in the application process was to submit an expression of interest to the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Officers would then report back to the Joint Committee before submitting the full application. The YMCA would remain a key partner for the project throughout the application process.
- The Director of Culture & Heritage explained other strategic developments in the Service which were fully set out in the report. These included NMS-wide Social Media Campaigns, work to support the Government's Levelling Up Agenda, progress regarding the development of the Norwich Castle: Gateway to Medieval England project (considered by the Joint Committee at item 9), progress in terms of key Arts Council England and National Lottery Heritage Fund programmes for 2021/22 and the Service's planning relating to its future Arts Council England funding. and NMS' intention to apply to join Arts Council England's National Portfolio for 2023-26 (which was the subject of a detailed presentation given at the end of the meeting).

6.3 The Joint Committee resolved:

1. **To note progress on the 2021/22 position in light of the continued impact of Covid-19.**
2. **To note progress regarding development of the Norwich Castle: Gateway to Medieval England project.**
3. **To note progress in terms of our key Arts Council England and National Lottery Heritage Fund programmes for 2021/22 and the Service's planning relating to its future Arts Council England funding.**
4. **To note NMS' status as a National Portfolio Organisation since 2018.**
5. **To approve NMS' intention to apply to join Arts Council England's National Portfolio for 2023-26.**
6. **To approve submission of an Expression of Interest and Round 1 application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, either as lead applicant or project partner to continue the Service's work with young people currently delivered through Kick the Dust.**

7 To receive a presentation about NMS' intention to apply to join Arts Council England's National portfolio for 2023-26

7.1 Steve Miller, Director of Culture & Heritage, gave a PowerPoint presentation about the NMS' intention to apply to join Arts Council England's National portfolio for 2023-26 which was made available after the meeting on the Committee pages website.

7.2 After discussion of the many benefits that working as part of the Arts Council England's Strategy for 2020-2030 would bring for the people of Norfolk, the Joint Committee thanked the Director for the presentation and reaffirmed the decision that was made earlier in the meeting to fully approve NMS' intention to apply to join Arts Council England's National Portfolio for 2023-26.

**John Ward
Chair**

Report of the Planning (Regulatory) Committee Meeting held on 25 March 2022

1. Application “FUL/2021/0061 Land A47 Bypass Site, C489 Main Road, North Tuddenham, Dereham, Norfolk, NR20 3DE” had been withdrawn by the applicant and was therefore not considered at the meeting
2. **FUL/2021/0015: Aldeby Landfill Site, Common Road, Aldeby**
 - 2.1 The Committee received the application for a for a PV (Photo Voltaic) array on part of the closed landfill site at Aldeby. It would provide an annual energy production of approximately 4900 MWhrs over its 35-year life span after which it would be decommissioned.
 - 2.2 The Committee unanimously **AGREED** that the Executive Director of Community and Environmental Services be authorised to:
 - I. Grant planning permission subject to the conditions outlined in section 11.
 - II. Discharge conditions where those detailed below require the submission and implementation of a scheme, or further details, either before development commences, or within a specified date of planning permission being granted.
 - III. Delegate powers to officers to deal with any non-material amendments to the application that may be submitted.

Brian Long
Chair, Planning (Regulatory) Committee

**Report of the Standards Committee
Meeting held on 29 March 2022**

1. Performance and Monitoring Report

- 1.1 The Committee received a report from the Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer updating it on matters of standards and conduct since the last meeting.
- 1.2 The Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to **note** the Council's performance in relation to Member standards and conduct during the period 1 January 2021 to 21 March 2022.

2. Local Government Association Model Councillor Code of Conduct – Training Pack

- 2.1 The Committee received a report from the Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer which updated them on the LGA training pack and how to incorporate this into training for Norfolk County Council members.
- 2.2 The Committee considered the report and **RESOLVED** to **note** the LGA Model Code of Conduct Training Pack and consider how members wish to incorporate that into training for Norfolk Members, and also whether training should also be opened to any Norfolk councillors including District councillors.

3. Local Government Association Model Councillor Code of Conduct 2020

- 3.1 The Committee received the report by the Director of Governance and Monitoring Officer which assisted Members of the Standards Committee to consider and understand the government's position in relation to ethical standards.
- 3.2 The Committee considered the government's response and determined the actions that they wish the Monitoring Officer to take.

**Mark Kiddle-Morris
Chair, Standards Committee**

Notice of Motions

Notice of the following motions has been given in accordance with the Council Procedure Rules:

1 All-Parliamentary Group on Air Pollution on incinerators

Proposer: Cllr Alexandra Kemp

Secunder:

This Council shares the concerns of the All-Parliamentary Group on Air Pollution on incinerators and the risks to human health and to food on nearby farms.

2. Climate Emergency

Proposer: Saul Penfold

Secunder: Steffan Aquarone

In light of this year's extreme weather events across the globe, the latest IPCC report on the impact of climate change on humanity, and the possibility of a rise in sea levels that would leave significant parts of Norfolk underwater within decades, this Council resolves to declare a Climate Emergency.

3 Environmental Policy

Proposer: Cllr Steffan Aquarone

Secunder: Cllr Saul Penfold

Greta Thunberg has called the recent COP26 a failure describing it as a PR event, "where leaders are giving beautiful speeches and announcing fancy commitments and targets, while behind the curtains governments of the Global North countries are still refusing to take any drastic climate action." Council agreed its Environmental Policy in November 2019. Since then it's become clear that Norfolk needs leadership in order to respond to climate change at the necessary speed. Will the Cabinet member for Environment and Waste commit to expanding the ambition of carbon neutrality by 2030 to cover the whole of Norfolk, and urgently take the lead on creating a local climate action plan in collaboration with local partners and stakeholders for presentation to the next full council meeting.

4 Reduction of Sewage Discharges

Proposer: Cllr Rob Colwell

Secunder: Cllr Tim Adams

On 23 September 2019 the Council agreed to call on the Government to fast track legislation to better protect and restore our waterways and invest in effective monitoring and enforcement to ensure that all our rivers are once again clean and healthy.

In 2019 the Environment Agency stated that 8% of rivers in the Anglian river basin met a good ecological status. Now we find out that in 2020 Anglian water had 180,326 hours of storm overflows that had discharged sewage into local rivers.

The recent government fiasco on this issue was shameful but for the government to turn to mean anything urgent enforcement is needed to ensure that the public can once again have confidence to be able to use East Anglian's rivers safely.

The Council resolves to:

1. request the Leader of the Council to write to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs asking that the legal duty on water companies to progressively reduce the adverse impacts of storm overflow discharges is robustly enforced to ensure that this practise is stopped as soon as possible
2. request the Leader of the Council to write to the Chief Executive of Anglian Water to ask that the information on how often they use storm overflow discharge is made publicly available on a regular basis so that the public can have confidence that there is a reduction in the discharges.

5 Mental Health Champion
Proposer – Cllr Brenda Jones
Seconder – Cllr Lucy Shires

In accordance with Appendix 24 of the Constitution Council urges the Leader to consult with Group Leaders and as part of his review of Member Champions and announce at the first Cabinet meeting after the AGM the return in the role of Member Champion for Mental Health.

Note to Council:

In accordance with Appendix 7 of the Constitution (Council procedure rules, paragraph 12.2):

‘a motion or amendment in similar terms to one that has been rejected at a meeting of Council in the past seven months cannot be moved unless the notice of motion or amendment is signed by at least 21 Members’.

The above motion is similar to a motion rejected at the Council meeting on 28th March 2022 however notice has been signed by 21 Members of Council in order for it to be considered.

6 Norfolk and Suffolk Foundation Trust – CQC Report
Proposer – Cllr Emma Corlett
Seconder – Cllr Brenda Jones

Council notes the content of the Care Quality Commission report on Norfolk and Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust (NSFT).

Council recognises Norfolk County Council's responsibilities as a system partner with NSFT in the provision of health care across the County and that mental health is a key issue in the Council's commitment to levelling up health in its overarching strategy, Better Together for Norfolk.