

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet of South Norfolk District Council held at South Norfolk House, Long Stratton on Monday 14 October 2019 at 9.00am.

Members Present:

Cabinet: Councillors: J Fuller (Chairman), Y Bendle, K Kiddie, K Mason Billig, L Neal and A Thomas

Non-Appointed Councillors: D Bills, V Clifford-Jackson, T Laidlaw, G Minshull and V Thomson

Officers in Attendance: The Director of People and Communities (J Sutterby), the Director of Place (P Courtier), the Director of Resources (D Lorimer) the Assistant Director Governance and Business Support (E Hodds), the Chief of Staff (H Ralph), the Strategic Economic Growth and Funding Manager (N Cunningham) and the Emergency Planning Officer (J Bloomfield)

2742 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 9 September 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2743 NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK LOCAL INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

Members considered the report of the Strategic Economic Growth and Funding Manager, which sought Cabinet endorsement of the draft Norfolk and Suffolk Local Industrial Strategy.

The Strategic Economic Growth and Funding Manager explained that the Norfolk and Suffolk Local Industrial Strategy had been developed by the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (NALEP), in partnership with local authorities and leaders from business and education and had been advised by an expert panel. The Strategy reflected on the strengths and opportunities of Norfolk and Suffolk's economy, and set out how the area would contribute to UK Plc to provide Clan Growth solutions and the infrastructure needed by businesses and communities.

The Strategic Growth and Funding Manager outlined the key opportunities identified in the Strategy and referred to a number of proposed actions directly relating to South Norfolk.

Members expressed their support for the Strategy and felt that the proposed actions provided some great opportunities and projects for the South Norfolk area.

Particular mention was given to Agri-Food, the proposed Food Innovation Centre, and the infrastructure already in place at the John Innes Centre. Reference was also made to the success and future potential of the Norwich Research Park and how Norwich was now able to compliment Cambridge, in terms of the science base and associated industries.

In response to a query regarding the need to promote Norfolk as an attractive place to live, work and invest, the Strategic Economic Growth and Funding Manager explained that “Invest in Greater Norwich” and “Norfolk and Suffolk Unlimited” were working in tandem , to do just that.

Discussion turned to Easton College, and members noted that Easton would be merging with Norwich City College, and Otley with Suffolk New College, from 2020. Cabinet agreed that Easton College needed to increase its disciplines and concentrate more on the food and drink industry and suggested that this be referred to in the Strategy.

The Chairman was surprised that there was no mention of the hydrogen economy, a low carbon energy source, and Cabinet agreed that it should be referred to under the Clean Energy sector offer.

It was then

- RESOLVED:** To endorse the draft Norfolk and Suffolk Local Industrial Strategy, subject to the following additions:
- a) To include support for Easton College to develop its offer within the Agri food sector offer;
 - b) That reference is made to hydrogen economy, within the Clean Energy sector offer.

The Reason for the Decision

To ensure that the Strategy includes the shared vision, and all challenges and sector opportunities up to 2036.

Other Options Considered

None.

2744 BREXIT PLANNING

Members considered the report of the Emergency Planning Manager and Emergency Planning Officer, which provided an overview on Brexit planning within South Norfolk.

The Chief of Staff presented the report, drawing members’ attention to the key issues.

In response to queries, the Emergency Planning Officer confirmed that the Council did not keep a comprehensive list of vulnerable people, and if required, would rely on other agencies who keep their own lists. She made particular reference to the

Priority Services Register used by utility companies to ensure that the correct support was given to their most vulnerable customers.

The Strategic Economic Growth and Funding Manager explained that support and advice would be provided to local businesses in their Brexit preparations. In response to a question, she informed members that the Government had guaranteed funding for new and existing European Social Fund projects until programme closure.

It was

RESOLVED: To note South Norfolk Council's preparations for Brexit on 31 October 2019.

The Reason for the Decision

To ensure that the Council is making adequate preparations for Brexit.

Other Options Considered

None.

2745 CABINET CORE AGENDA

Members noted the latest version of the Cabinet Core Agenda.

The Director of Resources confirmed that the Review of Discretionary Rate Reliefs would not be considered until the December meeting of the Cabinet. This would provide ample time for changes to be made before the bills were produced next March.

Members noted that a report regarding Citizens' Advice Bureaux would be considered at a meeting of the Scrutiny Committee, and officers would check whether it would also need to come before Cabinet.

(The meeting concluded at 9.50 am)

Chairman