

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Review of Cabinet Agenda

Members of the Committee

Cllr M Murrell (Chairman)
Cllr S Riley (Vice Chairman)
Cllr N Brennan
Cllr P Bulman
Cllr S Catchpole
Cllr J Davis
Cllr N Harpley
Cllr S Holland

Cllr C Karimi-Ghovanlou
Cllr K Kelly
Cllr K Leggett MBE
Cllr G Nurden
Cllr R Potter
Cllr S Prutton

Date & Time:

Tuesday 25 October 2022 at 10.00am

Place:

Council Chamber Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich

Contact:

Leah Arthurton tel (01508) 533610
Email: Leah.arthurton@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk
Website: www.southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

This meeting will be live streamed for public viewing via the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCZciRgwo84-iPyRImsTCIng>

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE:

If a member of the public would like to attend to speak on an agenda item, please email your request to committee.bdc@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk, no later than 5.00pm on Thursday 20 October 2022.

AGENDA

- 1. To receive declarations of interest under Procedural Rule no 8** **4**
- 2. Apologies for absence**
- 3. Minutes of meetings held on 6 September 2022 and 20 September 2022** **5 & 13**
- 4. Matters arising therefrom (if any)**
- 5. Chairman's Announcements**
- 6. Public Speaking**

To consider representation from the members of the public who have expressed the wish to convey their views on items on this agenda.

In accordance with the Constitution a period of 3 minutes is allowed per member of the public.

7. Cabinet Reports

To consider the Cabinet reports in respect of the 1 November 2022 meeting.

Members are asked to refer to the Cabinet Agenda, which will be published on the Council's website no later than Thursday 20 October 2022.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AT MEETINGS

When declaring an interest at a meeting Members are asked to indicate whether their interest in the matter is pecuniary, or if the matter relates to, or affects a pecuniary interest they have, or if it is another type of interest. Members are required to identify the nature of the interest and the agenda item to which it relates. In the case of other interests, the member may speak and vote. If it is a pecuniary interest, the member must withdraw from the meeting when it is discussed. If it affects or relates to a pecuniary interest the member has, they have the right to make representations to the meeting as a member of the public but must then withdraw from the meeting. Members are also requested when appropriate to make any declarations under the Code of Practice on Planning and Judicial matters.

Have you declared the interest in the register of interests as a pecuniary interest? If Yes, you will need to withdraw from the room when it is discussed.

Does the interest directly:

1. affect yours, or your spouse / partner's financial position?
2. relate to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to you or your spouse / partner?
3. Relate to a contract you, or your spouse / partner have with the Council
4. Affect land you or your spouse / partner own
5. Affect a company that you or your partner own, or have a shareholding in

If the answer is "yes" to any of the above, it is likely to be pecuniary.

Please refer to the guidance given on declaring pecuniary interests in the register of interest forms. If you have a pecuniary interest, you will need to inform the meeting and then withdraw from the room when it is discussed. If it has not been previously declared, you will also need to notify the Monitoring Officer within 28 days.

Does the interest indirectly affect or relate any pecuniary interest you have already declared, or an interest you have identified at 1-5 above?

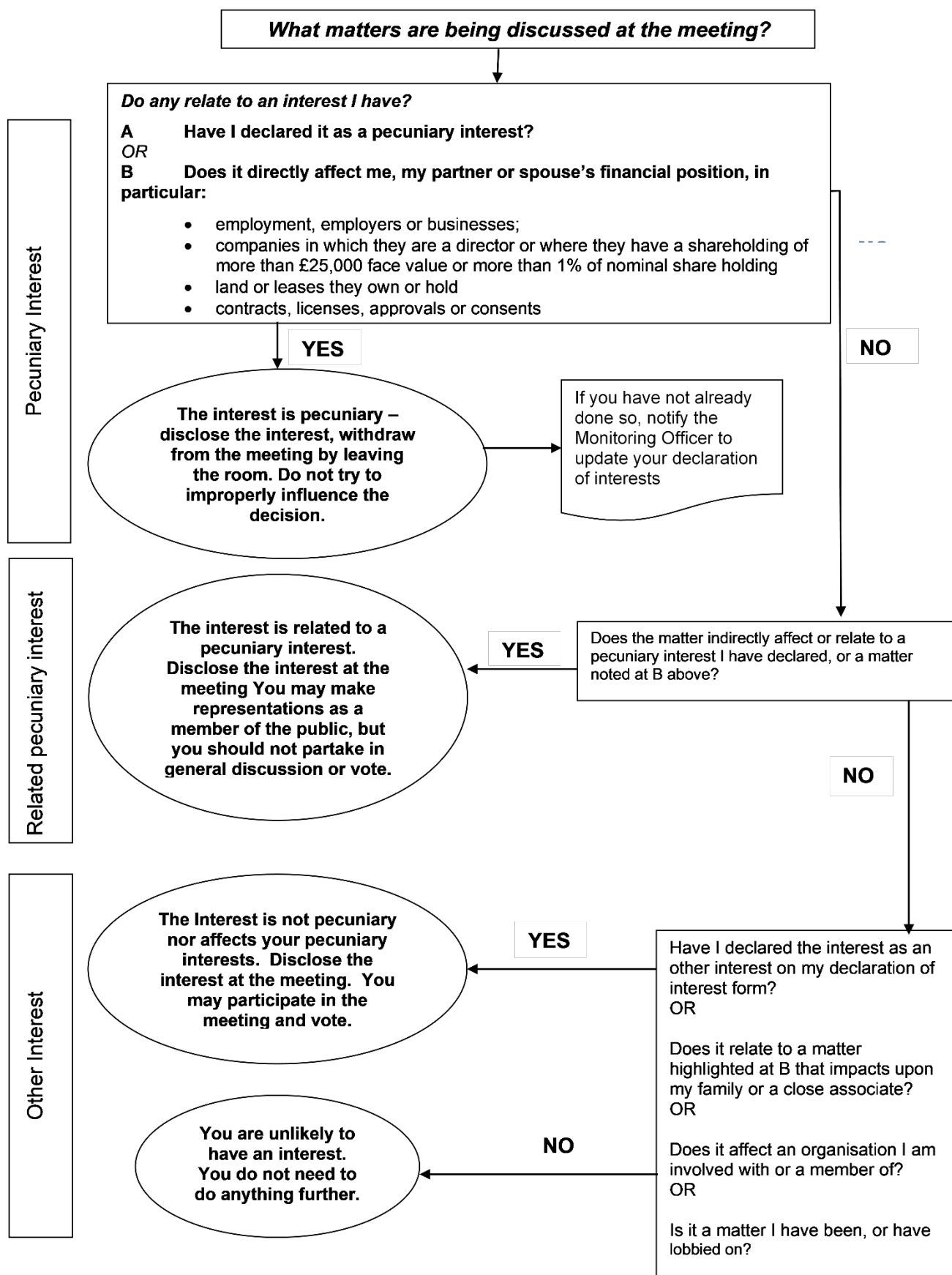
If yes, you need to inform the meeting. When it is discussed, you will have the right to make representations to the meeting as a member of the public, but you should not partake in general discussion or vote.

Is the interest not related to any of the above? If so, it is likely to be an other interest. You will need to declare the interest, but may participate in discussion and voting on the item.

Have you made any statements or undertaken any actions that would indicate that you have a closed mind on a matter under discussion? If so, you may be predetermined on the issue; you will need to inform the meeting, and when it is discussed, you will have the right to make representations to the meeting as a member of the public, but must then withdraw from the meeting.

**FOR GUIDANCE REFER TO THE FLOWCHART OVERLEAF.
PLEASE REFER ANY QUERIES TO THE MONITORING OFFICER IN THE FIRST
INSTANCE**

DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of Broadland District Council, held at Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich on Tuesday 6 September 2022 at 10.00 am when there were present:

Committee Members Present:

Councillors: M Murrell (Chairman), S Riley (Vice-Chairman), N Brennan, P Bulman, S Catchpole, J Davis, S Holland, C Karimi-Ghovanlou, K Kelly, K Leggett MBE, G Nurden and S Prutton

Officers in Attendance:

Director of Resources (D Lorimer), the Assistant Director for Individuals and Families (M Pursehouse), the Customer Experience & Insight Lead (J Tovee-Galey), the Senior Governance and Deputy Monitoring Officer (SW), and the Democratic Services Officer (LA)

Kris Barnard from Norfolk Police and Steve Cunningham from Norfolk County Council were also in attendance.

36 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

37 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr R Potter and Cllr N Harpley.

38 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 July 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

39 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

At the request of the Chairman the Committee stood for a minutes silence in tribute for Councillor Nigel Shaw.

40 PUBLIC SPEAKING

There was no public speaking

41 COMMUNITY SAFETY UPDATE

The Chairman welcomed Superintendent Kris Barnard to the meeting

The Assistant Director for Individuals and Families introduced the item which provided an opportunity for the Broadland Police command to engage with members on the current community safety priorities and issues in Broadland.

Superintendent Kris Barnard presented the report, which provided members with an overview of police and crime matters within the Broadland District, where the following key areas of focus were identified:

- District Perspective (Call received)
- Child Exploration
- Engagement with the Community

Supt. Barnard reassured members that Broadland was a safe district and summarised the data within the report which set out the changes the local police force had seen over the last couple of years. Members' attention was drawn to the average number of acquisitive crimes per month. It was noted that since the onset of Covid-19 and the national lockdowns, there had been an increase in 'hidden' crimes such as domestic violence, which were often complex cases.

Concerning cybercrime and fraud, it was noted that cases could be difficult to investigate, and more officers experienced in cyber-related crimes were being appointed and trained.

Discussion turned to child criminal exploitation and Supt. Barnard informed the Committee that the policing relating to matters around at-risk children was a growing challenge, as often the incidents occurred across district borders.

Several members expressed thanks for the local officers stationed within their wards, noting that the support they provided had a positive impact on the local communities.

In response to a question raised on the figures reported for violence within care homes, members noted that these had been included within the overall statistics but could be separated, if required.

Conversation turned to the large-scale housing developments set to be built within the district and whether the Police would have enough resources to cope with the increased population. Supt. Barnard explained that regular engagement between developers and the Police were taking place, and any potential issues were raised at an early stage.

Members discussed the online meetings of the Local Community Safety Forum, generally agreeing that the sessions, which were promoted throughout the communities via Parish newsletters and on social media, were useful and informative. However, one member suggested that a hybrid approach to

encompass both online and in-person engagement might be more appropriate. He also expressed concerns about residents not being able to report incidents quickly. In response, the Police representative reassured the member that he would investigate the matter.

In response to further questions arising from the discussion, members noted that there had been a push in digital engagement, and a further position within the policing team had been created to help with demand. As part of the role, the newly appointed officer would investigate alternative methods of engagement with the understanding that not everyone had digital access. Street surgeries, both in and around pivotal areas of the district, alongside engagement within supermarkets, would also provide key points of contact for residents.

Discussion turned to issues around children's mental health and whether this was being reported through statistics. It was noted that the Police were still seeing the effects of the pandemic on certain policing areas and therefore could not provide full data on the subject. Supt. Barnard reassured members that there had been low number of incidences reported where school-aged children had been involved in crime in the area and that the Police would continue to promote and engage with young people within school settings.

One member promoted the Park Walk Talk scheme in his area, adding that anti-social behaviour had decreased alongside a build in public/officer engagement.

After several members expressed concerns over the resourcing issues faced by the Police force in the year to come, it was noted that work had been carried out to evaluate how officers could be utilised in the current climate. It was further noted that the Police force had seen an increase in emergency calls relating to mental health issues and that operational demands were continually being reviewed and fed into the policing model to help deal with these demands.

In summing up the report, the Chairman expressed the need for stronger relationships between the Police and its partners to help with the increased calls and pressure relating to mental health issues. Further explanation of the stronger connections and pathways would also enable people to receive the appropriate care with a faster response. It was noted that the police call centres had mental health specialists who were trained to help with demand. The Assistant Director for Individuals and Families agreed that these issues would be investigated further with the Police working alongside the Help Hub to ensure that community safety could be improved throughout the district.

Following a show of hands, it was;

AGREED

To endorse mental health as a topic to investigate further to improve community safety in the district.

42 DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY

Steve Cunningham from Norfolk County Council provided members with a brief overview of the current and future provisions for broadband in the Broadland district. The presentation contained details of the Better Broadband for Norfolk contracts past and future:

Contract one

- Signed in December 2012
- Successfully bid for and awarded £15.4M from BDUK, which was matched by another £15M, to upgrade Norfolk's broadband infrastructure to Superfast broadband (FTTC)
- Superfast broadband coverage (24Mbps +) was improved from 42% to 84%.
- Covering an additional Circa 156,000 Superfast properties

Contract two (SEP – Superfast Extension Programme)

- Signed in December 2014
- Successfully bid for additional funds for the BBFN programme
- Superfast broadband coverage (24Mbps +) was improved further to 95%
- Covering an additional Circa 45,000 Superfast properties

Current projects

BBFN contract 3 (Better Broadband for Norfolk)

- Due for completion in December 2023
- Circa 9,000 sites across Norfolk
- 1103 premises are in Broadland. Of which;
505 premises complete to date

LFFN (local Full Fibre Network)

- 394 public buildings across Norfolk
- This project is now complete.
- Circa 4,700 premises have benefitted from LFFN

Project Gigabit

- Procurement phase has now launched.
- Circa 86,000 premises included with the procurement phase.

Members noted that by the end of the current projects, the overall coverage across Norfolk would be improved to 97% connectivity. Circa 11,000 premises were in the scope of the Gigabit project.

Norfolk County Council was in support of the government Gigabit voucher scheme, which launched in 2021 and issued grant monies for local communities to implement Gigabit broadband. Grants were available for £1,500 per resident and £3,500 per business.

In response to a question on how companies offered packages of both mobile data and broadband to improve connection, members noted that this type of coverage allowed for a stronger connection to be built through the two input sources. It was further explained that these packages would not be covered under the voucher schemes as they could only be utilised for sole broadband use.

Several members raised concerns over rural connectivity within the Broadland area and agreed that improvements needed to be made. The Committee noted that broadband connectivity within the District had increased, with 96.73% of the District now having the ability to access superfast broadband coverage.

The conversation turned to the support available for residents and how the voucher scheme could be optimised. Members noted that if multiple residents applied for the vouchers in one area, the impact and funds available would increase. Promotions through community groups or local parish councils would allow further residents the opportunity to access improved broadband connections within their areas.

Steve Cunningham from Norfolk County Council advised members to direct residents to email bdfn@norfolk.gov.uk if they had any enquiries regarding the voucher scheme. Members also noted that Better Broadband for Norfolk website contained further information on the scheme, alongside an online form which residents could complete.

In response to a question on whether members could receive updates from companies regarding the schedule of planned improvements within areas, it was noted that this would be considered commercially sensitive information and therefore could not be shared.

A brief discussion followed, during which it was confirmed that details regarding low connectivity areas in the District would not be ready until March 2023. The Committee requested and it was agreed that a review should come back to the Committee in March 2023.

AGREED

To note the progress of the broadband rollout throughout the District and to undertake a further review in March 2023.

43 CUSTOMER STRATEGY UPDATE

The Director of Resources provided members with an update on the Moving towards a First-Class Customer Service strategy, which included details of the actions for awareness for public consultations.

The Committee was given a further update on the progress of the Customer Panel, and it was confirmed that over 210 people had joined. Officers were confident that this number would increase over time and reassured members that work was being undertaken to ensure diversity of participants within the membership of the Panel. Members noted that teams within the Council had started investigating ways of utilising the Panel for further engagement on future area schemes.

Members noted that call abandonment rates had fallen during quarter 1, with an eight per cent drop in the overall figures. Officers reported that work was being undertaken to understand further phone configurations to improve the phone statistics.

The Customer Experience & Insight Lead explained that feedback options for customers calling the Council were currently being trialled in certain departments. A further suggestion was made for customers to have the opportunity to provide feedback through text messages after the phone call had taken place.

Other improvements had been made to the phone system, including a call back function, where customers could request a call back from a department instead of waiting for an appropriate officer to become available. One member welcomed this function, adding that it allowed and ensured that customers would get through to the appropriate officer more quickly.

In response to a concern raised on streamlining the out-of-hours service provision over the coming months, officers explained that work was currently being undertaken to review and understand ways to offer extra support through the service.

Following a query relating to the website search facility, the Customer Experience & Insight Lead explained that work was currently being carried out to review and improve the function.

The Director of Resources explained that officers were looking at the reasons behind customer contact. The information collected would allow the Council to target key service areas and understand their busy times in the day/month. A further report titled Using Business Intelligence would be coming through the committee process at a later date, which would review this data.

During further discussion, it was confirmed that detailed breakdowns of service area statistics would be provided to members, when these became available.

Following a show of hands, it was;

AGREED

1. To endorse the approach to continue to gather insight and develop our customer service approach through the next steps set out in the report and
2. To endorse the approach to deliver a First-Class Customer Service through the work incorporated in our First-Class Customer Service portfolio to ensure services are designed around customer needs, available through multiple channels, and at times that are convenient to them.

44 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Senior Governance and Deputy Monitoring Officer updated the Committee on its Work Programme. Members noted the dates of the upcoming meetings.

One member questioned why an item regarding the material recycling facility and NEWS, which had been agreed in 2017, had been removed from the work programme. After the meeting, it was confirmed that the Committee had actually already considered this item at its meeting held on 29 March 2022.

In response to a query on when there would be an update on water management in the District, the Senior Governance and Deputy Monitoring Officer confirmed she would contact the Council representative for an update in time for the next meeting.

After a member requested whether an item on the cost-of-living increase should be added to the work programme, officers explained that a report was already being taken through the committee process route and would be then be considered by Cabinet.

Several members raised queries which were outside the scope and remit of the Committee and it was agreed that these issues would be dealt with outside of the formal meeting.

Conversation turned to a review of the Council's partnerships scheduled for January 2023, and it was suggested that there should be an earlier review to investigate the services provided to residents by the various housing associations throughout the District. After further discussion, it was agreed that a Time and Task Limited Panel should be convened, and it was confirmed that the Panel members would be:

Cllr Martin Murrell
Cllr Steve Riley
Cllr Jan Davis
Cllr Susan Holland
Cllr Caroline Karimi-Ghovanlou.

(The meeting concluded at 12.13pm)

Chairman

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Minutes of a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of Broadland District Council, held at Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich on Tuesday 20 September 2022 at 10.00am when there were present:

Committee Members Present:	Councillors: M Murrell (Chairman), S Riley (Vice-Chairman), N Brennan, S Catchpole, J Davis, N Harpley S Holland, C Karimi-Ghovanlou, K Kelly, K Leggett MBE, G Nurden and S Prutton
Apologies:	Councillors: P Bulman and R Potter
Substitute Members:	Councillor S Clancy (for P Bulman)
Other Members in Attendance:	Councillors: J Emsell, T Mancini-Boyle and J Leggett
Officers in Attendance:	The Director of Resources (D Lorimer) the Chief of Staff and Monitoring Officer (E Hodds), the Assistant Director of Finance ((R Fincham) the Assistant Director of ICT / Digital and Transformation (C Lawrie), the Assistant Director for Regulatory (N Howard), the Transformation and Innovation Lead Officer (S Crook) and the Democratic Services Manager (CW).

Before the commencement of the meeting, members stood for a minute's silence in memory of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

45 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

46 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr P Bulman (substitute Cllr S Clancy) and Cllr R Potter.

47 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

No announcements were made.

48 PUBLIC SPEAKING

There was no public speaking.

CABINET REPORTS

49 USING INTELLIGENCE TO ACHIEVE A FIRST-CLASS CUSTOMER SERVICE

The Assistant Director of ICT / Digital and Transformation introduced the report, which outlined proposals to use data and intelligence to drive delivery of the ambitions, as set out in the Council's Strategic Plan 2020 -2024, to ultimately deliver a first-class customer service for communities and businesses.

The Assistant Director of ICT / Digital and Transformation briefly outlined the salient points of the report to members, explaining that business intelligence involved the use of data, assets and technology to drive strategic decision-making. She referred to an example from another council, where this approach had been used to better target those in need and the use of predictive analytics to improve preventative work, to reduce homelessness. This had enabled the council to anticipate changes, better focus its resources, and reduce costs further down the line.

In response to queries from members, the Assistant Director of ICT / Digital and Transformation explained that this approach would enhance the Council's ethos of "continuous improvement" and also improve mechanisms for monitoring. Monitoring would be more efficient and continuous, enabling data to be collected and analysed at set points. The approach would also help to identify and prioritise future projects. Members noted that work streams would report to the Service and Improvement Efficiency Committee, or the relevant Policy Panels, depending on the nature of each project.

A member referred to the cost benefits of the proposals and the Transformation and Innovation Lead Officer explained that data currently collected across the whole organisation was not easily accessible and could not be mapped against other data that was held. It was therefore very difficult to predict any level of savings to be made. However, once the collection of data was automated, officers would be released to run analysis on this data which would identify further efficiencies. Members noted that the number of officers involved in data collection equated to 6.35 FTEs (Full Time Equivalents) and affected approximately 53 staff across the whole

organisation. The time saved would be used instead to better analyse the data available.

In response to a query regarding the use of the Council's corporate contingency, officers confirmed that the proposal was to draw funding from the contingency for 2022/23 only, and that costs would be built into the base budget for future years. The Assistant Director of Finance advised that both Broadland and South Norfolk Councils maintained independent contingency funds. Broadland maintained a contingency of approximately £100k each year, and the proposals would involve the use of just over £20k from this fund.

Referring to paragraph 4.7 of the report, a member referred to the current difficulties with recruitment, and queried whether the buying in of specialist consultancy would affect the budget. The Transformation and Innovation Lead Officer advised that the budget assumed the most expensive option and flexibility had been built in to allow for the use of consultants if required.

During further discussion, the Transformation and Innovation Lead Officer advised that the proposals would allow for data to be analysed separately across Broadland and South Norfolk, but also to bring the data sets together where useful, to provide an overall picture. Officers recognised that the two areas were different and that issues might require different solutions, and the Assistant Director of ICT / Digital and Transformation added that it would be possible to provide data and analysis at a ward level. She assured members that both quantitative and qualitative data would be collected and analysed when considering issues across services.

Following a show of hands, it was

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET

That Cabinet Recommend to Council

1. The agreement of funding to establish a Business Intelligence Service as set out in section 4.7 of the report.
2. That funding for 2022/23 is drawn from the corporate contingency
3. That funding for the Business Intelligence Service is built into the base budget from 2023/24

50 ANNUAL RE-RATIFICATION OF STRATEGY FOR NORFOLK STRATEGIC FLOOD ALLIANCE

The Assistant Director of Regulatory introduced the report, which presented members with an updated Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance Strategy, for annual ratification by Cabinet.

The Assistant Director of Regulatory outlined the report and explained how, in collaboration with South Norfolk Council, staffing resources to focus on flooding, had been enhanced.

Members welcomed the integrated approach to flooding across all agencies across the County, and the work being carried out by the district councils. It was suggested that a more detailed update in future reports on the progress of the impact of this approach on those areas at risk of flooding, would be helpful. The Assistant Director of Regulatory explained that the Flood and Water Management Officer was now in post, and he agreed to introduce him to members, particularly those representing the Council on the Internal Drainage Boards.

In response to a query regarding the work of the Environment Agency, the Assistant Director of Regulatory explained that the agency was a key partner of the Alliance and was heavily involved in co-ordinating solutions and delivering objectives.

During discussion, a member suggested that it would be helpful to see tracked changes when proposing amendments to strategies/policies in future.

Following a show of hands, it was unanimously

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET

That Cabinet ratifies the Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance Strategy 2022, as set out at Appendix 1 of the report, and notes the progress being made.

51 PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER – DOG FOULING

The Assistant Director of Regulatory introduced the report, which presented members with a new Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for approval.

He explained that a PSPO was the mechanism by which the Council could incentivise people to clean up after their dogs, if they fouled in a public place, and could also enforce non-compliance. Members noted that whilst the Broadland district enjoyed low levels of reports of dog fouling, it still remained an issue that the public were concerned about.

The Assistant Director of Regulatory explained that the Council had, as required, formally consulted with the local police and local communities regarding the proposal to introduce a new order. Members queried whether the consultation was valid as no response had been received from the Police and Crime Commissioner, however, the Assistant Director explained that it was the policy of the constabulary to only comment by exception, and he was satisfied that the Order would be legally compliant.

A member commented on the lack of dog bin facilities in some areas, and the Assistant Director confirmed that it was not uncommon for some dog walkers

to have to travel some way to a bin, when walking in country parks or woods. However, he would look into the areas referred to, to ensure that facilities were sufficient.

In response to a comment regarding horse manure, members noted that complaints referring to this were few and far between. It did not pose the same health risk to humans as dog fouling, and therefore it was not considered justifiable to include it in any future PSPO.

Referring to bin collection, members were informed that this was carried out by the Council as part of its statutory duties, and also by special arrangement, when bins were provided by parish councils. He confirmed that if bags were left next to bins, when bins were full, then the Council would not look to take enforcement action in such cases. In cases where bins were regularly overflowing, the local parish councils might need to consider the need for the additional provision of bins.

Following a show of hands, it was unanimously

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET

That Cabinet approves the Public Space Protection Order No.3 as proposed in paragraph 4.5 and Appendix 1 over the geographical areas identified in Appendix 2, for a period of three years.

52 AWARDING OF CONTRACTS IN RELATION TO THE MOBILISATION OF THE HORIZON CENTRE

Members considered report, which sought approval for a delegation to the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, to award contracts in relation to the mobilisation of the Horizon Centre.

The Director of Resources reminded members of the background to the report and explained that following the decision to purchase the Horizon Centre, and relocate the Council's office, there was a need to procure the fit out and other contracts associated with the mobilisation. The report sought delegation to award these contracts, so as not to impede on the project's timescales, especially in light of escalating costs. She stressed that contracts could only be awarded within the budget which had already been agreed at the Council meeting held 12 May 2022.

Referring to the recommendations, Cllr G Nurden proposed an amendment, explaining that he felt it would be appropriate for the portfolio holder for Transformation and Organisational Development to also be consulted on the contract awards, along with the Leader of the Council. This amendment was seconded by Cllr K Kelly.

In response to queries, the Director of Resources informed the meeting that South Norfolk Council would also consider the delegation of contracts at its

next Cabinet meeting, and its decision would be entirely independent of that made by Broadland Council.

Members then asked a number of questions relating to the fit-out costs of the building and members were reminded that these figures could not be discussed in a public meeting, but had already been provided as part of a confidential appendix in the Council report considered on 12 May, when the purchase of the Horizon building had been agreed. Some members felt it necessary to refer to these figures during consideration of the report, and it was therefore suggested that the meeting went into private session. It was proposed, seconded and then

RESOLVED

To exclude the press and public from the meeting because otherwise, information which was exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 would be disclosed to them.

During discussion, members were referred to Appendix P of the Council report, for the meeting held 12 May, and the budget set aside for the fit out and mobilisation costs for the move to the Horizon Centre. Members noted that Wi-Fi costs were already included in the capital programme at both councils for the two separate sites, and that these budgets would be reassigned to the Horizon Building.

A member queried the final purchase price of the Horizon building, and the Director of Resources explained that this could not be disclosed, however, it was within the parameters set out in the business case, agreed by Council at its meeting on 12 May.

During further discussion, some members felt that it would be more appropriate to consider the contracts at Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings and Cabinet, as was the current requirement, calling emergency meetings if necessary. The Director of Resources explained that this could result in a number of additional meetings as numerous different contracts were required, and that this would delay progress. She also stressed that the awarding of each contract would be subject to a strict procurement framework, which no level of scrutiny could change.

In response to queries regarding escalating costs, the Director of Resources confirmed that a contingency budget was in place, and that the budget spend would be carefully monitored.

The Chairman then suggested, and members agreed that the meeting should move back into public session.

Members then voted on the proposed amendment, and this was carried.

Following a further show of hands, it was

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET

That Cabinet approves the delegation to the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and the Portfolio Holder for Transformation and Organisational Development, to award contracts for the fit out of the Horizon Centre and other contracts, that are over £100,000, as long as they are within the overall budgets as outlined in section 2 of the report.

53 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining items of business because otherwise, information which is exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by The Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, would be disclosed to them.

54 STRAY DOG COLLECTION CONTRACT

Members considered the exempt report of the Environmental Protection Manager which sought Cabinet approval for the appointment of a contractor to carry out the stray dog collection services for the Council.

The Assistant Director of Regulatory outlined the report, explaining that the Council was legally required to deal with stray dogs within its area. He referred members to the results of a recent tender, and the recommendations made for a future contractor.

In response to queries, the Assistant Director explained that it was not unusual to receive a low number of tenders for the service required. He added that the Council was called upon to deal with hundreds of stray dogs each year, and that these dogs were not always found and collected. He assured members that the quality of the contractor was scrupulously checked and weighted heavily in the selection process.

Following a show of hands it was

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET

That Cabinet approves the appointment of the Stray Dog Collection contractor, as outlined in paragraph 8.1 of the report.

55 OPTIONS ON PROVISION OF A FUTURE FRAUD SERVICE

Members considered the exempt report of the Revenues Manager, which provided options on the future resourcing and delivery of a fraud service, for Broadland and South Norfolk Councils.

The Assistant Director of Finance presented his report to members and outlined the options available to the Council, and the reasons for the preferred way forward. He responded to a number of queries from members and following a show of hands, it was

RECOMMENDED TO CABINET

That Cabinet agree with the recommendations outlined at paragraph 8 of the report.

(The meeting concluded at 11.55am)

Chairman