

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cabinet** held at Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich on **Tuesday 6 March 2018** at **9.00am** when there were present:

Mr S M Clancy – Economic Development (Chairman)

Portfolio holders:

Mr J F Fisher	Environmental Excellence
Mr R R Foulger	Communities and Housing
Mrs T M Mancini-Boyle	Finance
Mr S A Vincent	Planning

Mrs C Bannock and Mr D Harrison attended the meeting for its duration.

Also in attendance were the Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive, Head of Democratic Services and Monitoring Officer, Head of Finance and Revenue Services, Head of Planning, Local Taxation Manager, Corporate Finance Manager, Planning Projects and Landscape Manager and the Committee Officer (JO).

The Housing Officer - Leaving Care Team (Norfolk County Council) was in attendance for item 138 - Council Tax – Local Discount for Care Leavers.

### **132 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER PROCEDURAL RULE NO 8**

<b>Officer</b>	<b>Minute No &amp; Heading</b>	<b>Nature of Interest</b>
Deputy Chief Executive	138 - Council Tax – Local Discount for Care Leavers	Non pecuniary, local choice interest as a non-executive board member of a Community Interest Company whose clients might benefit from the proposal.

### **133 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Mr Proctor.

### **134 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**135 REPRESENTATIONS FROM NON CABINET MEMBERS**

The Chairman agreed that, at his discretion, all non-Cabinet Members in attendance be allowed to join the debate at the relevant point of the proceedings on request.

**136 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee advised Members on the views expressed by the Committee when it reviewed the Cabinet Agenda on 27 February 2018, as each item was considered.

**137 WELLBEING PANEL**

The Minutes of the meeting of the Wellbeing Panel held on 26 February 2018 were deferred to the 10 April 2018 meeting of Cabinet.

**138 COUNCIL TAX – LOCAL DISCOUNT FOR CARE LEAVERS**

The report explained that the Council, as a Billing Authority, was being encouraged to offer a reduction in Council Tax for young people between 18 to 21 years age who were leaving care. The discount was intended to assist them to live independently and give them more time to learn how to manage their finances at a vulnerable stage in their lives.

Norfolk County Council, as a corporate parent, had a responsibility to support care leavers and had agreed, in principle, to fund a share of the precept as part of the cost of the discount. A decision on this would be made later in the spring. The Children and Social Work Act 2017 would come into force on 1 April 2018, which would also place duties on Broadland in relation to the welfare of children and young people including care leavers.

At present there were five care leavers that were solely responsible for Council Tax in the district. If the discount was agreed the net cost to Broadland would be approximately £1,074 in this financial year, with Norfolk County Council bearing the remaining £3,221 of the costs. If the County Council did not provide the funding the gross cost for Broadland would be £4,295.

Members supported the proposal as the right approach to take for this vulnerable group of residents.

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

to endorse retrospectively Cabinet's decision to adopt the Council Tax Care Leavers Local Discount Policy (attached at Appendix 1 to these Minutes) providing Norfolk County Council agrees to fund the substantive part of the cost of the discount relating to the share of the precept.

**Reasons for decision**

To assist young people leaving care to adjust to independent living by providing a Council Tax discount.

**139 LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION MUTUAL FOUNDING MEMBER**

The report set out a proposal by the Local Government Association for developing an alternative to conventional insurance market products for local authorities, by forming a new Mutual for local government, which would be owned and controlled by its members.

It was proposed that the Council participates in the scheme as a Founding Member of the Local Government Mutual. The financial liability of the Council would be limited to a £100 guarantee and there would be no contribution to the set up costs of the new Mutual. There would also be no obligation for the Council to use the Mutual in the future.

Members were advised that the Council's current insurance arrangements were not due to expire until 31 May 2020 and that any proposals for taking up the services of the Mutual would need to be agreed by Cabinet following the presentation of a business case.

The Portfolio for Finance advised the meeting that she had attended meetings of the LGA Steering Group, which was currently considering procurement and policy details for the Mutual. She recommended supporting the Council's participation in the scheme.

**RESOLVED**

to

- (1) support the Council's participation as a Founding Member of Local Government Mutual and nominate the Council's Leader, Finance Portfolio Holder or relevant elected Member to be a Founding Member Committee Member; and

- (2) authorise the Head of Finance and Revenue Services to share the Council's relevant risk transfer and protection data with the LGA officers working on the project on a strictly confidential basis; and
- (3) agree to instruct officers to consider the business case for utilising the Mutual at the appropriate time and to report accordingly to Cabinet with a recommendation.

### **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

that attendance at any meetings in relation to the Local Government Mutual qualify as an approved duty under the Council's Members' Allowances Scheme.

### **Reasons for decision**

To explore becoming a Founding Member of the Local Government Mutual scheme.

## **140 NORTH RACKHEATH MASTERPLAN**

The report presented the North Rackheath Masterplan, which was intended to stimulate development in one of the largest allocations of mixed use residential land within the Growth Triangle Area Action Plan and crucial for the growth strategy of the Greater Norwich area.

The Masterplan had been funded by the Council with money that had been allocated to Broadland by the Government for the now defunct eco-town programme and had been overseen by a joint Board chaired by the Portfolio-Holder for Planning and consisting of representatives from the Council, Barratt/David William Homes and the majority landowner (Manor Farms).

It was noted that the Masterplan was only currently viable with a total of ten percent affordable housing, but that matters of detail such as this would be subject to negotiation through the planning application process.

If the Masterplan was endorsed it was expected that the developers would progress an application for submission to the Council later this year.

It was also noted that Greater Anglia would be a consultee for the planning application, as the development would have a significant effect on Salhouse Railway Station and the Bittern Line.

**RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL**

to endorse the North Rackheath Masterplan (attached at Appendix 2 to these Minutes).

**Reasons for decision**

To stimulate development at North Rackheath.

**141 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED**

to exclude the Press and public from the meeting for the remaining business 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.

**142 EXEMPT MINUTES**

The exempt Minutes of the meeting held on 6 February 2018 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

*The meeting closed at 9.22am*