

Minutes of a meeting of the **Council** held at Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich on **Thursday 28 March 2019** at **7.00pm** when there were present:

Mrs J Leggett – Chairman

Mr A D Adams	Mr R F Grady	Mr A J Proctor
Mrs C H Bannock	Mrs S C Gurney	Mr S Riley
Mr D Buck	Mr R J Knowles	Mrs B H Rix
Mr P H Carrick	Mr B S Kular	Mr D Roper
Ms S J Catchpole	Mr T W Landamore	Mr M D Snowling MBE
Mr S M Clancy	Miss S Lawn	Mr V B Tapp
Mrs J K Copplestone	Mr K G Leggett MBE	Mrs K A Vincent
Mr S Dunn	Mrs T M Mancini-Boyle	Mr S A Vincent
Mr J J Emsell	Mr I N Moncur	Mr D C Ward
Mr G Everett	Mr G K Nurden	Mr J M Ward
Mr J F Fisher	Mr G Peck	Mr F Whymark
Mr R R Foulger		

Also in attendance were the Managing Director, the Head of Finance and Revenue Services, the Head of Democratic Services & Monitoring Officer and the Committee Officer (DM).

124 PRESENTATION BY DAVID ALLFREY, NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL HIGHWAYS INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY MANAGER ON THE NORWICH WESTERN LINK

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting, David Allfrey, Highways Infrastructure Delivery Manager. Mr Allfrey talked about transport infrastructure generally in the County and about the Norwich Western Link. He explained that the reasons for investing in transport infrastructure were to:

- Enable existing businesses to develop and grow
- Attract new businesses and more investment
- Create more jobs
- Plan ahead for growth
- Encourage more visitors
- Improve road safety
- Support a range of travel options
- Enhance quality of life
- Boost Norfolk's profile and competitiveness

The County Council's transport infrastructure priority projects were the Gt Yarmouth Third River Crossing (with construction planned to start in late 2020), the Norwich Western Link and the Long Stratton Bypass (with construction planned for 2021).

The Transport for Norwich programme was seeking to improve accessibility by all forms of transport around the City. A considerable response had been received to the consultation on the updated programme. Contrary to the national trend, there was an increase in the number of people using public transport in Norwich and the surrounding area. Work had been underway since 2013, including completion of the Broadland Northway and supporting public and sustainable transport measures. However, work was not just focusing on roads and the next steps involved Department for Transport's Transforming Cities funding to support investment in clean transport, creating a healthy environment, increasing social mobility and boosting productivity through better access to employment and learning. This focussed on three key corridors across Greater Norwich, linking homes and jobs. Transport for Norwich had been awarded £6.1m by the DfT in the first allocation of funding and schemes being put forward for the second wave of funding were under development. Greater Norwich was one of 12 city areas bidding for a share of the £1.2bn fund.

With regard to Highways England road investment and, in particular, the A47 improvements, projects already funded in Norfolk included North Tuddenham to Easton dualling, Thickthorn junction improvements, Blofield to North Burlingham dualling and the Great Yarmouth junction improvements. Priorities for the next round of funding included the Acle Straight dualling and the Tilney to East Winch dualling. The "Just Dual It!" campaign was pushing for funding to fully dual the A47 by 2030. There had been a period of delay in progress with these projects as Highways England went through a procurement exercise and Members were urged to continue to press Highways England for progress on these projects.

With regard to the Norwich Western Link, linking the A47 to the western end of the Broadland Northway had strong public and stakeholder support and aimed to tackle traffic congestion and improve travel to the west of Norwich, with significant knock-on benefits. These included improved travel and reduced journey times between areas to the north, west and south of Norwich, improved access to key growth and employment sites, improved emergency response times to the hospital and improved quality of life for Norfolk residents. There had been significant increases in ambulance activity, outpatient visits and emergency attendances at the hospital and the Norwich Western Link would help improve response times. The Link would create vital connections with key sites including Norwich Airport, the Research Park, the UEA and the Food Enterprise Zone. Two large-scale consultation exercises had taken place on the four identified possible routes and the detailed responses were still being analysed, but the preferred route was option D. Much liaison was taking place with interested parties regarding the environmental impact of the proposals. Additional guidance had been issued by the Department of Transport with regard to funding and there was a need to work with the Sub-National Transport Body in determining priorities for funding which were deliverable between 2020 to 2025. The timeline for the project allowed for the preferred route announcement and Strategic Outline

Business Case submission by summer 2019, the outline Business Case prepared by early 2020, procurement commencing during 2020, statutory processes taking place during 2021 and concluding by early 2022 with a start date for construction in late 2022.

Mr Allfrey then answered questions from Members. In response to disappointment at the timeframe for the Norwich Western Link, Mr Allfrey commented that the timeframe had been considered for some time and had been consistent. It was already very tight with a significant amount of work, consultations and statutory processes to be undertaken some of which were complex. He confirmed that consultation was ongoing with environmental groups about options for mitigating the impact of the Link on environmentally significant areas such as the Sites of Special Scientific Interest. A Member commented that, although they were disappointed about the delay, this was necessary for the successful delivery of the project, having regard to the processes to be followed and issues such as environmental concerns. The timing was ambitious and there was little scope for reductions. Much learning had been gained from the NDR project and the aim was to deliver this project on time and on budget. The provision of the Norwich Western Link would be of significant benefit to residents, visitors and businesses. The Leader of the Council reiterated the Council's continued support for the provision of the Norwich Western Link.

With regard to the A47 projects, concern was expressed about the delays in the planned start dates of these projects. Mr Allfrey shared these concerns and the County Council continued to press Highways England for an earlier commencement of these projects and to lobby MPs. He encouraged Members to reinforce this.

Mr Allfrey confirmed that the £6.1m of Transport for Norwich funding was for future projects. Those projects already underway had been funded with support of the Local Enterprise Partnership.

A concern was raised about traffic congestion at the bridge crossing in Wroxham and if there were any plans to consider a second river crossing but this was not Mr Allfrey's area of expertise. The Chairman thanked Mr Allfrey for attending.

125 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Mr I J Mackie.

126 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings held on 21 February 2019 and 28 February 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

127 ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members noted the civic engagements undertaken by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Council since the last meeting. The Chairman reported on the recent launch of Bright Map – an online digital map detailing community events, services and information. Further information would be provided in a future edition of the Members' Bulletin. With regard to her recent reception held at "The Nest", the Chairman thanked Members for attending and for supporting her chosen charity, Leeway. The raffle on the night had raised £276 bringing the year's total so far to £1750.

The Leader of the Council (Mr Vincent) took the opportunity to thank those Members who would not be standing at the forthcoming election for their hard work and contribution to serving the district.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Wellbeing (Mr Foulger) reported on planned changes within the NHS Primary Care service to look at combining GP practices with each combined practice engaging a Chief Officer.

128 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

It was noted that there had been no questions received from the public.

129 PUBLIC SPEAKING

It was noted that there had been no requests for public speaking.

130 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2019 were received.

Minute no: 119 - Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2018-19

RESOLVED

to approve the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2018-19 (attached at appendix 1 to the signed copy of these Minutes.)

131 CABINET REPORTS

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 March 2019 were received.

Minute no: 108 – Broadland Business Plan 2019-23

The Leader invited Members to adopt the Plan.

RESOLVED:

to approve adoption of the Broadland Business Plan for 2019–23 (attached at appendix 2 to the signed copy of these Minutes).

Minute no: 109 – Treasury Management Strategy 2019-20

The Portfolio Holder for Finance (Mrs T Mancini-Boyle) invited Members to support the recommendations of the Cabinet.

RESOLVED

to approve

- (1) the Treasury Management Policy Statement (attached at Appendix 3 to the signed copy of these Minutes); and
- (2) the Treasury Management Strategy Statement 2019/20 (attached at Appendix 4 to the signed copy of these Minutes); and
- (3) the Annual Investment Strategy 2019/20 (attached at Appendix 5 to the signed copy of these Minutes).

Minute no: 110 – Discretionary Housing Payments

The Portfolio Holder for Finance invited Members to support the recommendations of the Cabinet.

RESOLVED:

to adopt the revised Discretionary Housing Payments Policy and Period of Award Matrix from 1 April 2019 (attached at appendix 6 to the signed copy of these Minutes).

132 PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Decisions from the meeting held on 6 March 2019 were received.

133 AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 March 2019 were received.

Minute no: 34 – Annual Fraud Update

The Portfolio Holder for Finance invited Council to agree to continue to participate in the scheme drawing attention to a successful case whereby an overpayment of £14k had been successfully pursued with the Crown Prosecution Service and a full compensation order awarded to the Council.

RESOLVED

to continue to participate in the Norfolk Fraud Hub at a cost of £4,080 for 2019/20.

134 ADOPTION OF WROXHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Members noted the outcome of the referendum held on 21 March 2019 with 341 votes cast in favour of the Plan and 18 against. The local Member congratulated the parish council and the local community on their extensive efforts to put the plan together. The Portfolio Holder for Planning (Mr Moncur) invited Council to adopt the Plan.

RESOLVED

to adopt the Wroxham Neighbourhood Plan.

135 QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

It was noted that there had been no questions received from Members.

136 MOTIONS

It was noted that there had been no motions received from Members.

**137 CHANGES TO COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATION
APPOINTMENTS**

No changes were proposed.

The meeting closed at 7:45pm