

Minutes of a meeting of **Cabinet** held by video link on **Tuesday 12 January 2021** at **6.00pm** when there were present:

Cllr S A Vincent – Policy (Chairman)

Portfolio holders:

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| Cllr J K Copplestone | Economic Development |
| Cllr J J Emsell | Transformation and Organisational Development |
| Cllr L H Hempsall | Planning |
| Cllr J Leggett | Environmental Excellence |
| Cllr T M Mancini-Boyle | Finance |
| Cllr F Whymark | Housing and Wellbeing |

Cllr T Adams, Cllr P Bulman, Cllr K Leggett, Cllr M Murrell and Cllr S Riley also attended the meeting.

Also in attendance were the Managing Director, Director Place, Director Resources, Director People and Communities, Chief of Staff, Assistant Director Economic Growth, Assistant Director Planning, Assistant Director Governance and Business Support (Monitoring Officer), Assistant Director Individuals and Families, Greater Norwich Planning Policy Manager and the Democratic Services Officers (LA and JO).

Mr Trevor Bennett, Chairman of Aylsham Town Council, was also in attendance.

174 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER PROCEDURAL RULE NO 8

The Chairman advised the meeting that his consultancy firm was promoting, a site for residential development in Colney through the Greater Norwich Local Plan. Although this was a disclosable pecuniary interest, he would not be required to leave the meeting when the Greater Norwich Local Plan item was considered, as no decision on sites was being made today.

He also informed the meeting that his father, Malcolm Vincent, was promoting a site for residential development in Costessey /Bawburgh through the Greater Norwich Local Plan. In this case there was no interest to declare, but he brought it to Members' attention in the interests of openness and transparency.

175 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 December 2020 were confirmed as a correct record.

176 MATTERS ARISING*Minute No: 172 – Business Rates Pooling*

The Chairman noted that concerns had been raised at the last Cabinet meeting about the increased risk associated with Business Rates pooling and he confirmed that it had now been decided that pooling would not take place during FY 2021/22.

177 PUBLIC SPEAKING

Mr Trevor Bennett, Chairman of Aylsham Town Council, addressed Cabinet regarding item 12 on the Agenda (Greater Norwich Local Plan – Regulation 19, Pre-Submission Publication).

He acknowledged that a lot of work had been put into compiling the Greater Norwich Local Plan, but he suggested that it had not followed a sound approach due to the significant increase in housing numbers without further consultation with residents. He also considered that the Plan was not compliant with the Duty to Cooperate.

He confirmed that Aylsham Town Council was not opposed to development and had recognised that it should have one large site allocation, but found a second site, which would lead to a 20 percent increase in population and place considerable strain on the Town's infrastructure, to be unacceptable.

He also had concerns that the Greater Norwich Local Plan had not taken account of the scale of the recession likely to be caused by Covid-19 and that the assessment in the Plan that it would be 'V' shaped was very unlikely.

The Chairman noted that the Greater Norwich Local Plan Team had sent a written response to Mr Bennett regarding his questions about the allocation in Aylsham.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning advised the meeting that the increase in housing was in response to the 'Planning for the Future' White Paper published in August 2020. She added that the Plan was for a long time period (up to 2038) and would not lead to an immediate increase in the population of Aylsham.

In response Mr Bennett said that there were still soundness issues, as it had been assumed that the White Paper would progress to national planning policy unchanged, which was also unlikely.

The Chairman and the Portfolio Holder for Planning thanked Mr Bennett for attending the meeting and encouraged him to respond to the Regulation 19

consultation when it commenced on 1 February 2021.

178 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.

179 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 5 January 2021, as each item was considered. He also thanked Cabinet and the Finance Team for attending the 5 January 2021 meeting to answer the Committee's budget questions.

180 ENVIRONMENTAL EXCELLENCE PANEL

Cabinet received the Minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Excellence Panel held on 26 November 2020.

The Portfolio Holder for Environmental Excellence advised the meeting that five readily deliverable projects had been identified in the Environmental Strategy Action Plan. These were: tree planting, electric charging points, single use plastic free Council, green energy supplier and a green Procurement Strategy.

It was also noted that Broadland's tree wardens were celebrating their 30th anniversary this year.

The meeting was informed that the scheme to plant 130,000 trees, would be complex and require careful planning.

181 WELLBEING PANEL

Cabinet received the Minutes of the meeting of the Wellbeing Panel held on 9 December 2020.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Wellbeing informed the meeting that the Panel had considered an update to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. More updates would follow over 2021 in response to the pandemic.

182 WARM HOMES FUND – ADDITIONAL FUNDING – CONTRACT AWARD

The Assistant Director Individuals and Families introduced his report which requested that Cabinet approved the award of contracts for the delivery of external wall insulation, cavity and loft insulation work and air source heat pumps.

It was explained that the Council operated the Warm Homes Fund on behalf of Norfolk local authorities and had been awarded an extra £1.24 million in funding from the Department for Business Energy and Industrial Strategy, to allocate before 31 March 2021.

The Council was entitled to use the Procure East Midlands Framework to enter into a contract with Cornerstone East Anglia Limited to deliver external and cavity wall insulation and loft insulation work. The potential value of the contract was in the region of £800,000.

Similarly, the Eastern Procurement Framework could be utilised to enter into a contract with the Dodd Group to deliver Air Source Heat Pumps. The potential value of the contract was in the region of £200,000.

The above figures were rounded down approximations and the remainder of the £1.24m could be used for whichever scheme was the most popular.

Awarding contracts under framework agreements allowed contracts to be entered into quickly and also provided value for money, as they would have been competitively let.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Wellbeing emphasised that the additional funding would reinforce the good work already being done by the Council to support those in fuel poverty.

The Chairman noted that the frameworks were a convenient means of avoiding delay, rather than avoiding procurement.

It was confirmed that both companies were PAS 2030 accredited installers for retrofitting energy efficient projects.

The scheme would be advertised on the Council's website, as well as through food banks, Children's Services and other social providers.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee advised the meeting that concerns had been expressed by the Committee regarding how the selection of the companies had been arrived at, but he had since received the technical details of the procurement process and was satisfied that it had been a robust and watertight process.

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Wellbeing confirmed that he would bring this project to the notice of the SNAP Community Links Group, when he attended their meeting next week.

Voting was carried out by way of a roll call and it was unanimously

RESOLVED

- (1) To award a contract to Cornerstone East Anglia Limited under the terms of the East Midlands Framework for External Wall Insulation, Cavity and loft insulation work.
- (2) To award a contract to Dodd Group under the terms of the Eastern Procurement Framework for Air Source Heat Pumps.

Reasons for decision

To improve the warmth and efficiency of fuel poor residents' homes.

183 GREATER NORWICH LOCAL PLAN – REGULATION 19, PRE-SUBMISSION PUBLICATION

The Chairman noted that the Regulation 19 stage of the Greater Norwich Local Plan would move the process towards the final adoption of the Plan, which would succeed the existing Joint Core Strategy. The papers appended to the report showed the various changes that had been made to get to this stage. He added that 75 percent of the total figure of 49,492 dwellings in the Plan was already allocated.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning noted that a lot of work had taken place to get to the Regulation 19 stage and to align it with the ambitions of Government. Publication of the Plan from 1 February to 15 March 2021 would allow stakeholders to comment on its legal compliance and soundness before it was submitted for independent examination. It was aimed to finally adopt the Plan in September 2022.

It was confirmed that comments on the Plan could be made by phone and in writing, as well as online.

Voting was carried out by way of a roll call and it was unanimously

RESOLVED

- (1) To agree to publish the Greater Norwich Local Plan under regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England)

Regulations 2012; and,

- (2) Delegate authority to the Assistant Director for Planning in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning Authority to make any minor or factual corrections to the GNLP ahead of its publication.

Reasons for decision

To progress the GNLP in order that the Council's Development Plan remained effective and continued to have full weight in determining planning applications.

184 UPDATE TO LOCAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME

The Portfolio Holder for Planning advised the meeting that amending the Local Development Scheme to reflect changes to the Greater Norwich Local Plan timetable, was a legal requirement to ensure that the emerging Local Plan documents were sound and legally compliant.

Voting was carried out by way of a roll call and it was unanimously

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

To approve the proposed amendments to the current Local Development Scheme.

Reasons for decision

To meet legislative requirements.

185 PLACE SHAPING PANEL

Cabinet received the Minutes of the meeting of the Place Shaping Panel held on 4 January 2021.

The Chairman of the Panel advised Members that the Panel had given thorough consideration to the Greater Norwich Local Plan. In particular the increase in housing numbers, the impact of a decline in retail premises on housing need and the local economy in general.

The meeting closed at 6.42pm