

Minutes of a meeting of the **Cabinet** held at Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich on **Tuesday 3 September 2019** at **6.00pm** when there were present:

Mr S A Vincent – Policy (Chairman)

Portfolio holders:

Mrs J K Copplestone	Economic Development
Mr J J Emsell	Transformation and Organisational Development
Mrs L H Hemsall	Planning
Mrs T M Mancini-Boyle	Finance
Mr F Whymark	Housing and Wellbeing

Mr Adams, Mr Beadle, Mr Murrell, Mr Riley and Mrs Vincent also attended the meeting for its duration.

Also in attendance were the Managing Director, Director of Place, Director of Resources, Director of People and Communities, Chief of Staff, Assistant Director Economic Growth, Assistant Director Governance and Business Support (Monitoring Officer), Evaluation and Data Analyst and the Committee Officer (JO).

32 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER PROCEDURAL RULE NO 8

Member	Minute No & Heading	Nature of Interest
Mr Whymark	37 – Joint Inclusive Growth Strategy 38 – Options for Council Owned Land 39 – Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework – June 2019 Update	Non Pecuniary Interest, Member of Norfolk County Council.

33 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Mrs Leggett.

34 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 6 August 2019 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

The Chairman informed the meeting that nominations were now open for the Community at Heart awards, which recognised individuals and groups who were making significant contributions to their communities. He encouraged Members to put forward their nominations before the 6 October 2019 deadline.

35 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Cabinet received the Minutes of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee held on 13 August 2019.

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 August 2019, as each item was considered.

36 ECONOMIC SUCCESS PANEL

Cabinet received the Minutes of the meeting of the Economic Success Panel held on 19 August 2019.

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Development advised the meeting that the Economic Success Panel had considered a report on car parking in Broadland at its meeting on 19 August 2019 and had recommended that a full review of car parking be undertaken across the District. It was also recommended that the Council apply for a grant to extend the Electric Vehicle Charging Point network.

A Member welcomed the review, but expressed concern that any proposals for charging for car parking in Aylsham and Reepham might subsidise parking provision in the rest of the District.

In response, the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development emphasised that the review would cover the whole of the District, not just Aylsham and Reepham. It was also noted that Members would have the opportunity to comment on the review via the Economic Success Panel, as well as the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Cabinet agreed to proceed with the car parking review and the application to extend the Electric Vehicle Charging Point network, but it was considered that more information about the Charging Point network was still required, such as the proposed locations of the charging points etc.

RESOLVED

1. initiate a comprehensive review of car parking, in consultation with Town and Parish Councils, which would provide the necessary information to fully develop a Car Parking Management Plan for Cabinet approval, to improve overall space availability and mitigate the financial impact of the Norfolk Parking Partnership; and
2. make an application to the Office for Low Emission Vehicles to take advantage of the grant funding available to extend the Electric Vehicle Charging Point network and set aside a budget of £7,500 for implementation if successful; and
3. that work be undertaken to provide Cabinet with more details about the proposals for the Electric Vehicle Charging Point network.

Reasons for decision

To develop a consistent approach to car parking across the District.

37 JOINT INCLUSIVE GROWTH STRATEGY

The report presented a Strategy Framework that aimed to improve social mobility and inclusive growth in Broadland and South Norfolk, by building the foundations for a strong and prosperous community with a healthy environment, low-crime and good-quality sustainable housing.

Broadland and South Norfolk were the two best performing authorities in Norfolk, when measured against the Social Mobility Index, but both authorities were keen to improve this figure further and the Framework would assist in this aim. The Framework would also clarify how both Councils could ensure that resources were better directed at priority areas for the long term in a co-ordinated approach. The Framework would then feed into a Norfolk-wide Inclusive Growth Coalition.

A joint Inclusive Growth Member workshop had been held on 1 July 2019 to develop the Framework and the policy proposals. The Workshop produced a number of topics for inclusion in the Framework and the following five priority areas were identified:

- Access and Transport
- Business Development and Productivity
- Aspiration and Career Routes

- Supportive Home Environments
- Supporting Low Paid Workers

The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Wellbeing noted the importance of working as part of a Norfolk-wide Inclusive Growth Coalition, especially to improve education, as there was a crucial link between a lack of attainment at school and low social mobility in adulthood.

In response to a query, the Director of People and Communities confirmed that no additional budget was being sought, only agreement of the Framework, which would be used to better focus officer time and existing resource at priority areas and avoid duplication of effort across Broadland and South Norfolk. Any scheme or initiative which would require any further consideration of additional resource would be brought forwards to appropriate decision making forums as required.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee requested that a tracker be established to monitor how the activities set out in the Framework were performing.

The Chairman also emphasised that care must be taken to ensure that the focus on priorities in Broadland was not lost by working with other local authorities.

In response, Members were reassured that they would be consulted during the future development of the Framework, so would remain informed of activities as they progressed.

In response to a query about the division of resources between the two Councils to implement the Framework, the Managing Director confirmed that the S113 Agreement between Broadland and South Norfolk would ensure that officer resources were allocated fairly and equitably between both authorities.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

to agree to adopt the Inclusive Growth Framework as a Council Strategy, to allow officers to direct resources and continue to develop action plans, in consultation with respective Portfolio Holders.

Reasons for decision

To encourage and enable inclusive growth within the District.

38 OPTIONS FOR COUNCIL OWNED LAND

The report set out the initial stages of a proposal to enter into a new Partnership Agreement with BVR Ltd to secure investment in the Bure Valley Railway.

The Director of Place advised the meeting that the decision by Cabinet in June 2017 to agree to the conditional transfer of the Bure Valley Railway and Path to the BVR Ltd had been delayed due to a number of factors, including a requirement for an Act of Parliament to make the transfer.

During this delay it has become apparent that a sale of the asset might not be the most suitable approach, not least because the County Council had secured £1.2m of funding from an Interreg Visitor Economy Programme that could be used to deliver green infrastructure improvements at the Bure Valley Railway and Path.

It was, therefore, proposed that a partnership agreement be negotiated by the Director of Place, in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, which when fully developed would be brought back to Council for final determination.

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Development expressed concern that the report did not clarify who was responsible for the nine miles of fencing alongside the railway and she requested that a programme of works with costings, which should include the bridges, be brought back to Cabinet in two months' time.

She also suggested the following amendments to the proposed Heads of Terms:

- (i) allow BVR Ltd to secure a ~~'break even'~~ return on its significant investment into the asset;
- (iii) where appropriate the rental income could be ~~reinvested back into the asset~~ [used for maintenance costs] with BVR Ltd as a preferred contractor.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee advised the meeting that the Committee had requested that paragraph 5.2 in the report be reference in the recommendation to clarify that any further request for resources would be brought back to Members for determination.

In summing up the Chairman noted that the key recommendation to Council was to retain the asset in the ownership of Broadland. He also raised the possibility of the County Council entering into a partnership arrangement with

the Council and BVR Ltd, having regard to the aspirations and common goals of all three organisations. A comprehensive report setting out the financial implications for retaining the asset was also required, which should also consider a potential rent review.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

1. Retain the freehold asset of the Bure Valley Railway and Path; and
2. Enter into negotiations to establish a partnership agreement with BVR Ltd and Norfolk County Council, having regard to the aspirations and common goals of all three organisations.

RESOLVED

1. That a comprehensive report be brought to the 26 November 2019 meeting of Cabinet that clearly sets out the costs associated with retaining and maintaining the Bure Valley Railway and Path; and
2. To clarify the position regarding a rent review of the asset.

Reasons for decision

To establish a partnership agreement.

39 NORFOLK STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK – JUNE 2019 UPDATE

The report presented an updated Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework. The Framework was not a statutory planning document, but set out a Norfolk-wide foundation for strategic matters to be taken account of in the production of Local Plans, including the emerging Greater Norwich Local Plan.

In response to a query, the Director of Place confirmed that he would forward details of the financial contribution made by the Council towards the maintenance of an up-to-date Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework, to the Portfolio Holder for Planning.

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL

1. To be a signatory to the updated Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework (June 2019); and
2. Support the continued work of Members and Officers to ensure that the Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework remains up to date.

Reasons for decision

To meet legislative requirements.

The meeting closed at 7.04 pm