

## **CABINET**

**Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet of South Norfolk District Council held at South Norfolk House, Long Stratton on Monday 9 September 2019 at 9.00am.**

### **Members Present:**

**Cabinet:** Councillors: J Fuller (Chairman), Y Bendle, K Kiddie, L Neal and A Thomas

**Apologies:** Councillor: K Mason Billig

**Non-Appointed** Councillors: B Bernard, D Bills, C Brown, V Clifford-Jackson, J Easter, F Ellis, T Laidlaw and J Overton

**Officers in Attendance:** The Director of Resources (D Lorimer), the Director of Place (P Courtier), the Assistant Director Governance and Business Support (E Hodds), the Assistant Director Individuals and Families (M Pursehouse), the Head of Health and Leisure Services (S Goddard), the Senior Planning Officer (S Marjoram), the Group Accountant (J Brown), the Business Improvement Leads (E Pepper and S Crook) and the Evaluation and Data Analyst (T Thomas)

**Also in Attendance:** Mr J Joyce (Vice-Chairman of Poringland Parish Council)

Two members of the public

### **2735 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr L Neal declared an “other” interest in relation to minute 2737, the Poringland Neighbourhood Plan, by virtue of being a member of Poringland Parish Council and its Neighbourhood Plan Committee.

### **2736 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Monday 22 July 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**2737 PORINGLAND NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN  
SUBMISSION FOR EXAMINATION (MAY 2019)**

Members considered the report of the Senior Planning Officer, which proposed a formal Council response to the Poringland Neighbourhood Plan, to be submitted to the Examiner appointed to undertake the examination of the Plan.

The Chairman welcomed members of the Poringland Parish Council to the meeting.

The Senior Planning Officer presented his report, explaining that officers had previously met with the Poringland Neighbourhood Plan Committee, and had provided comments on earlier drafts of the Plan. He outlined the proposed formal representations, outlined at section 3 of the report.

Cllr J Joyce, Vice Chairman of Poringland Parish Council, addressed the Cabinet, expressing his gratitude for the assistance of South Norfolk Council officers, during the production of the Neighbourhood Plan. He explained that the Parish Council did not disagree with the proposed recommendations and was willing to work with officers to address the issues raised.

Cllr Joyce explained that the Parish Council had extensively consulted local residents and was confident that the Plan would receive sufficient support at the referendum stage. The feedback from the consultation had indicated concerns regarding the impact of the speed and volume of traffic along the B1332, which ran through the centre of the settlement, and the desire to create more of a “village feel”. The social infrastructure of the village had suffered due to the pace, nature and scale of recent development, and therefore the thrust of the Plan was for a pause in development in the early stages, with any later development being at the Norwich end of the village.

In response to questions, Cllr Joyce explained that the boundary between Poringland and Framingham Earl was indistinct, and that the two villages did in effect, operate as one community. Framingham Earl Parish Council had been invited to undertake the Neighbourhood Plan in conjunction with Poringland Parish Council, however had declined.

District councillor for Poringland, Cllr J Overton, expressed his support for the aspirations of the Plan. He agreed with Cllr Joyce, that the social infrastructure was poor, and that a pause in development was required. He further explained that the local school was no longer able to accommodate the numbers of children living in the village, and that following the recent housing development, a series of “rat runs” had formed within the village at peak times. Members noted that a recent survey had confirmed that the B1332 was extremely heavy during peak times, with the majority of traffic travelling from the south.

Some concerns were raised regarding the Plan’s proposals for future development to the north of the village, suggesting that this was likely to spill over in to the

neighbouring parish. The Senior Planning Officer explained that good reasons were needed to limit development to the south of the village, and officers were satisfied with the wording of the proposed policy. He added that whilst it was unfortunate that other villages were not party to the Neighbourhood Plan, the Greater Norwich Local Plan team had been consulted and were satisfied that the Plan's proposals offered the best solution for the local area.

It was then

**RESOLVED:** To:

1. submit the eight representations set out in Section 3 of this report to the Examiner appointed to examine the Poringland Neighbourhood Plan, as the response of South Norfolk Council; and
2. authorise the Director of Place to undertake any further work necessary to pursue the Council's representations through the Examination process

**The Reason for the Decision**

To ensure that the plan becomes an effective part of the statutory Development Plan and best delivers the parish's aspirations.

**Other Options Considered**

None.

**2738 NORFOLK STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK, JUNE 2019  
SHARED SPATIAL OBJECTIVES FOR A GROWING COUNTY AND  
STATEMENT OF COMMON GROUND**

Members considered the report of the Senior Planning Officer, which sought Council endorsement of the Version 2 of the Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework (NSPF) as one of the signatories, and for the Council to reiterate its commitment to the continued updating and evolution of the NSPF.

Cllr J Fuller commended the report to members, explaining that although this was not a statutory planning document, it would assist the Council in fulfilling its obligations to demonstrate the Duty to Cooperate and would meet the National Planning Policy Framework requirement to have a Statement of Common Ground.

The Senior Planning Officer presented his report to Cabinet, outlining the key changes to the document. He referred to new housing figures using the Government's Local Housing Need methodology, the new agreement covering Minerals and Waste, and the new work across County boundaries.

During discussion, the Chairman referred to the importance of the A140 as a key link between Norwich and Ipswich, explaining that the NSPF would add weight to future negotiations regarding the Long Stratton bypass.

The Chairman queried the omission of SANGS (Suitable Alternative Green Spaces), and the Senior Planning Officer explained that this was a piece of ongoing work that would feed in to Version 3 of the document.

**RESOLVED: TO RECOMMEND THAT COUNCIL** agrees to:

- a) be a signatory to the updated Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework (June 2019); and
- b) support the continued work of members and officers to ensure that the NSPF remains up to date.

### **The Reason for the Decision**

To ensure that the Council is able to demonstrate the Duty to Cooperate and meets the National Planning Policy Framework requirement to have a Statement of Common Ground.

### **Other Options Considered**

None.

## **2739 JOINT INCLUSIVE GROWTH STRATEGY**

Members considered the report of the Evaluation and Data Analyst, which proposed a framework for South Norfolk and Broadland Councils to encourage and enable inclusive growth within their districts.

The Evaluation and Data Analyst presented his report to Cabinet, outlining the need for inclusive growth, the particular challenges faced and the proposed priority areas. He explained that a member workshop had been held to discuss inclusive growth for South Norfolk members of the Growth Infrastructure and Environment and the People and Communities Policy Committees, along with Broadland's Economic Success Panel. Feedback from this session had been used to formulate the proposed framework.

During discussion, members indicated their support for the Strategy in principle, however, it was felt that more focus was required in some areas, with more detailed actions. The Chairman made particular reference to the need for a clean and safe environment along with crime prevention and was disappointed that these areas did not feature more under paragraph 4 of the report, where priority areas had been identified.

In response to queries, the Evaluation and Data Analyst explained that the Norfolk Inclusive Growth Coalition was looking to evaluate project outcomes and would be developing relevant measures. Referring to Appendix 1 of the report regarding the percentage of children at risk of not being in education, employment or training (NEET indicators), the Assistant Director (Individuals and Families) advised that

officers were working closely with Norfolk County Council to improve performance.

Cllr Y Bendle indicated her support for the Strategy but suggested that it should refer to the good work already being done in support of the priority areas. She reminded members that this was a high-level Strategy and suggested more detailed work should be laid out within an action plan.

Following further discussion, members agreed that a detailed action plan, to include resource implications, targets and measurable outcomes, should be devised, and that this, along with the Strategy, should be considered by the relevant policy committees, before returning to Cabinet.

- RESOLVED:**
1. To agree in principle the Inclusive Growth Strategy;
  2. That the Strategy, along with a more detailed action plan (to include resource implications, targets and measurable outcomes), is considered by the Growth Infrastructure and Environment, and the People and Communities Policy Committees, before consideration at Cabinet.

### **The Reason for the Decision**

To ensure that the right priority areas are in place along with a clear action plan, with measurable outcomes and targets.

### **Other Options Considered**

To approve the Strategy.

## **2740 PERFORMANCE, RISK, REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET POSITION FOR QUARTER ONE 2019/20**

Members considered the report of the Business Improvement Lead, the Group Accountant, and the Senior Governance Officer, which detailed the Council's performance against strategic measures, risk position and the revenue and capital position, for the first quarter of 2019/20.

The Business Improvement Lead (EP) introduced the report, explaining that the position regarding performance, finance, and the management of risks, was positive for the first quarter of 2019/20.

The Group Accountant outlined the position regarding resources, explaining that the positive revenue variance of £709k reflected the high level of business rates income received, and \$31 grant income from central government. Members noted that the capital spend was £3.95m, against a budget of £4.096m, with main areas of spend being a loan to Big Sky Developments Ltd and the purchase of two new refuse vehicles.

Cllr A Thomas acknowledged this to be a positive position, but stressed that a cautious approach was still required, with the possibility of future unexpected cost pressures.

The Business Improvement Lead drew attention to those areas regarding performance measures and risks, as highlighted within the report.

During discussion, members referred to the performance of the leisure centres, noting that income was below target by £131k. Officers informed Cabinet that the implementation of the correct VAT treatment across all the leisure centres and performance at the café and spa at the Wymondham centre had impacted on income. Members noted that these issues were currently being addressed with options for the spa being considered and the tender for the café underway. The extension of the car park at Wymondham would soon commence and the increase in car parking available, would help to increase customer satisfaction and retain membership.

The Head of Health and Leisure Services outlined recent membership figures across all the Council's leisure facilities, drawing attention to the 138% rise in membership at the Long Stratton Leisure Centre, since its refurbishment. In response to a query, he explained that these figures could be broken down further on request. The Chairman highlighted the importance of the Council's responsibility for public health, reminding members that membership at the Wymondham Leisure Centre had increased by 80% since the refurbishments. Cabinet agreed that the performance measures and targets for the leisure service required review, stressing the need for them to demonstrate the benefit on residents, which could not be captured purely in financial terms.

**RESOLVED: To**

- a) Note the 2019/20 performance for the quarter and the year and the combined efforts across the Directorates to deliver the vision of the Council (detail contained in Appendix 1 of the report), and that officers review the strategic measures set for Leisure and Recreation;
- b) Note the current position with respect to risks and accepts the actions to support risk mitigation (as detailed in section 6 of the report).
- c) Note the capital and revenue position and the reason for the variances on the General Fund (detail contained in Appendix 2).

**The Reason for the Decision**

To ensure that processes are in place to improve performance, the management of risks is sound, and that budgets are managed effectively.

**Other Options Considered**

None

## **2741 CABINET CORE AGENDA**

Members noted the latest version of the Cabinet Core Agenda.

With regard to the Waste Services Review, the Chairman stressed the need for proposals to be considered at the Growth Infrastructure and Environment Policy Committee, before consideration at Cabinet.

(The meeting concluded at 10.39 am)

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Chairman