

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of Cabinet held at Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich, held on Tuesday 14 September 2021 at 6.00pm.

Cabinet Members Present: Councillors: S Vincent (Chairman), T Mancini-Boyle (Vice-Chairman), J Copplestone, J Emsell, S Lawn, J Leggett and F Whymark.

Other Members in Attendance: Councillors: M Murrell and S Riley.

Officers in Attendance: The Managing Director, Director of Resources, Director of Place, Director for People and Communities, Chief of Staff (Monitoring Officer), Assistant Director of Finance, Assistant Director Regulatory, Place Shaping Manager and Democratic Services Officers (LA, JO).

38 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 31 August 2021 were agreed as a correct record, save for the following:

Minute No: 37 - Strategic Environmental Services Contract

The Portfolio Holder for Environmental Excellence requested that the following additional sentence be added to the end of paragraph six:

However, members also reaffirmed that they wished to move to a full food waste collection service as soon as possible and they looked forward to receiving a report at the earliest opportunity (likely to be later this year), which would outline the transition and implementation of the Waste Contract, including the food waste collection service.

39 MATTERS ARISING

Minute No: 37 - Strategic Environmental Services Contract

The Portfolio Holder for Environmental Excellence requested that a report be made to Cabinet that explained the environmental benefits of using Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil

(HVO) fuel to reduce CO₂, as well as providing more detail on how the Council's incentive payment mechanism would be used to encourage HVO fuel use.

In response, the Director for People and Communities confirmed that this information could be included in the Waste Contract report referred to above at minute no: 38.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee confirmed that the Committee had requested that an update on the Waste Contract and in particular the Food Waste element of it be reported to Cabinet by February 2022.

The Portfolio Holder for Environmental Excellence informed the meeting that the successful bidder for the Waste Collection contract was Veolia Environmental Services UK.

40 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.

41 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee advised Members on the views expressed by the Committee when it reviewed the Cabinet Agenda on 7 September 2021, as each item was considered.

42 COVID-19 RECOVERY PLAN 2021 – 2022: PROGRESS UPDATE

The Director for People and Communities introduced the report, which provided an overview of progress with implementation against the Covid-19 Recovery Plan, along with an outline of actual costs and their allocation under the One Team, as requested by members at the 15 June 2021 meeting of Cabinet.

The Leader commended the report which contained useful updates on the priority areas being targeted by the Council.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance noted that there appeared to be some text missing under the second bullet point of paragraph 3.4.1, after Council Tax. She also raised queries about any time constraints on the underspend of Covid-19 funding and the Young Person Mental Health Support contract.

In response, the Director for People and Communities apologised for the missing reference to Council Tax under Organisation and Governance. He also confirmed that there were no time constraints on the unringfenced Covid-19 support underspend and he advised members that the Young Person Mental Health Support contract was specifically between Broadland and the YMCA. The Portfolio Holder for Housing and Wellbeing would be apprised of progress with the service as it was rolled out. South

Norfolk Council had its own separate arrangements for this support. Cabinet were also advised that the appended table showed an indicative budget, rather than the actual spend. This was to allow the Council to be flexible and responsive to whatever issues and needs arose, as a result of the pandemic.

The Leader requested that the underspend be reviewed to ensure that the Council was making best use of this funding and to identify any further areas where it was needed. The Director for People and Communities confirmed that he would carry out a review with the Assistant Director for Finance and report back to Cabinet.

In answer to a query about the role of the Analytical Support Officer, Cabinet were advised that this officer would be looking at data from Public Health England and others to identify areas where the Council should focus its energies and provide assistance through Covid Support Advisors. For example, to encourage young people to take up Covid vaccinations and older people to have booster injections.

It was unanimously:

RESOLVED

To acknowledge the contents of the report

Reasons for Decision

The report was a factual account.

43

TRANSPORT FOR NORWICH (TfN) STRATEGY CONSULTATION RESPONSE

The Portfolio Holder for Planning introduced the report, which explained that Norfolk County Council was reviewing its transport policies for Norfolk. This would include replacing the Norwich Area Transport Strategy (NATS) with the Transport for Norwich (TfN) Strategy, which was currently being consulted upon.

The production of the Strategy would ensure that transport policies remain up-to-date and met the vision, objectives and longer-term aspirations for Norwich and the wider geographical area. The Strategy covered the following core policy messages of the environment, the economy, society, health, equality and technology.

The TfN Strategy had a less defined boundary than the NATS that it would replace and whilst it recognised the importance of the City and the strategic growth areas around it, it also considered longer distance journeys from the county and beyond.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning added that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee had recommended that the response should place greater emphasis on connectivity to rural areas beyond the Norwich fringe to allow access to those seeking employment, education and training, particularly where there were limited transport opportunities other than the use of private vehicles.

The Place Shaping Manager added that the key theme raised in the response was meeting the needs of all residents, by covering issues such as accessibility, rurality, low income and health.

Other issues in the response were:

- High quality transport options for growth areas in order to change habits towards more sustainable forms of transport.
- Access to the city centre for those with mobility issues and limited transport options.
- The phasing of interventions or restrictions to ensure people had viable travel options.

It had also been recommended that to address the expected ongoing need for reliance on private transport that there should be a dovetailing of the Strategy with any wider Local Transport Plan interventions to support electric vehicle infrastructure in rural areas.

In response to a number of queries, the Place Shaping Manager informed the meeting that it was recognised that reducing the demand for traffic would be difficult, but that new development with flexible working opportunities and better options to reduce impactful travel were part of the vision for the Strategy that would seek to do this. The transition to electric vehicles would be key to reducing CO₂ as would moving to cleaner fuels, such as HVO, as discussed earlier in the meeting at minute 39. In respect of moving forward; members were advised that the Action Plan that would sit under that Strategy was likely to include further specific strands of work that would in turn be consulted upon as they were developed.

The Portfolio Holder for Planning recommended that there should be further member input into the consultation response and proposed that it should be considered by the Place Shaping Policy Development Panel prior to final submission.

The proposal was duly seconded and it was unanimously:

RESOLVED

That subject to consultation with the Place Shaping Policy Development Panel to delegate the final response to the Transport for Norwich Strategy Consultation to the Director of Place, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and the Leader.

Reasons for Decision

To help shape the final version of the Transport for Norwich Strategy.

44 NORFOLK STRATEGIC FLOOD ALLIANCE (NSFA) STRATEGY CONSULTATION RESPONSE

The Assistant Director for Regulatory introduced the report, which asked that the Council ratify the Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance (NSFA) Strategy.

The NSFA had been established in early 2021 following the flooding experienced across Norfolk over Christmas and New Year 2020/21 and its membership included, the Environment Agency, Anglian Water, the Association of Drainage Authorities, the Water Management Alliance, Water Resources East, the Norfolk Resilience Forum, the Broads Authority and Norfolk's local authorities.

The NSFA had produced a Strategy which had been circulated to all agencies involved with flood response across Norfolk. Through the Strategy it was aimed to develop a more coordinated approach to flood and water management with closer working between agencies in order to reduce the impact of future flooding on Norfolk residents. For example, there were longstanding flooding issues where ownership of and responsibilities for land, ditches and drains had been unclear. The NSFA sought to highlight these areas and drive these issues forward at a more visible level than had been done previously.

The vision of the Strategy was that through this approach the people of Norfolk would have a high level of confidence that flood risks were as low as reasonably practicable and were being managed effectively.

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Development commended the report and the importance of taking a coordinated flood response approach, but she requested clarification on Task 3 in the Action Plan, which referred to funding flood related initiatives.

In response, the Managing Director advised the meeting that Task 3 consisted of two elements. The first was the shared resilience fund that the Council already contributed to via membership of the Norfolk Resilience Forum. Any further funding above this for preparing residents for flooding would come to Cabinet for determination. The second element was to maximise the value for money that NSFA members were achieving for water management and to effectively lobby Government for any shortfall.

In summing up, the Leader clarified that by ratifying the Strategy there would be no additional funding pressure on the Council, other than that which it had already been committed to.

It was suggested that the Council publicise the Strategy in *Broadland News* and that a link be placed on the Council's website to the Norfolk Prepared website, which maintained a comprehensive catalogue of flood resilience guidance and information for communities and businesses.

Following a show of hands it was unanimously:

RESOLVED

To ratify the Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance Strategy.

Reasons for Decision

To reaffirm the Council's commitment to the Norfolk Strategic Flood Alliance.

(The meeting concluded at 6.57 pm)

Chairman

DRAFT