

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet of South Norfolk Council, held on Monday 11 July 2022 at 9.00 am.

Committee Members Present:	Councillors: J Fuller (Chairman), A Dearnley, R Elliott K Mason Billig, G Minshull and A Thomas
Apologies:	Councillor: L Neal
Other Members in Attendance:	Councillors: T Laidlaw
Officers in Attendance:	<p>The Managing Director (T Holden), the Director of Place (P Courtier), the Assistant Director for Community Services (S Phelan), the Assistant Director for Economic Growth (G Denton) the Assistant Director of Finance (R Fincham), the Assistant Director of Individuals and Families (M Pursehouse), the Assistant Director for Regulatory (N Howard), the Deputy Monitoring Officer (L Mockford), the Senior Community Planning Officer (R Squires), the Programme Manager – Economic Growth (D Baillie-Murden) and the Democratic Services Manager (C White)</p> <p>Three members of the Council’s Peer Review team were also in attendance.</p>

3022 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr L Neal.

3023 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr A Thomas declared an “other” interest” as the local member for Long Stratton, with regard to minute 3027, the Greater Norwich Strategic Investment Fund, and discussion relating to the Long Stratton bypass.

3024 MINUTES

With regard to minute number 3012, regarding the East Anglia Green Project, the Chairman requested that the typographical error in the eight paragraph, be corrected to read Mr (not Cllr) Spratt.

Subject to this change, the minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 13 June 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

3025 REDENHALL WITH HARLESTON NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN – CONSIDERATION OF THE EXAMINER’S REPORT

Members considered the report of the Senior Community Planning Officer, which presented Cabinet with the Independent Examiner’s report in relation to the Redenhall with Harleston Neighbourhood Plan.

The Senior Community Planning Officer reminded Cabinet of the background to the report and explained that following the six-week consultation period, twenty representations had been received. These, along with the Plan, had been submitted to the independent examiner for consideration. In response to a query, he explained that should Cabinet approve the recommendations as detailed in the examiner’s report, then the subsequent referendum would take place in mid to end of September.

Members noted that the examiner had made only a few recommendations and that officers were content with the suggested modifications.

The Chairman commended all those involved in the production of the Plan, which he felt to be comprehensive and well considered. He applauded the references to the sense of place and green environment, in addition to the physical infrastructure of the buildings.

Cabinet members endorsed the Chairman’s comments, and it was suggested that the document was a good example for other towns and parishes wanting to formulate their own Neighbourhood Plan. Members also acknowledged the huge amount of work carried out by volunteers in producing the Plan, and hoped that the referendum would bring a positive outcome for the town.

It was then unanimously

RESOLVED:

To

1. Approve each of the recommended modifications to the Redenhall with Harleston Neighbourhood Plan, as detailed within the examiner’s report.
2. Agree to publish a Decision Statement setting out the Council’s response and announcing the intention for the Neighbourhood Plan to proceed to a referendum.

The Reason for the Decision

Cabinet is satisfied with the recommended modifications from the independent examiner.

Other Options Considered

None.

3026 GREATER NORWICH LOCAL PLAN GYPSY AND TRAVELLER FOCUSED CONSULTATION

Members considered the report of the Principal Planning Officer, which sought Cabinet approval to undertake a public consultation regarding the possible allocation of Gypsy and Traveller sites in the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP).

Cabinet noted that the proposed consultation would run between 25 July and 7 September and the results would then be considered by the independent inspectors who were running the examination of the GNLP.

The Chairman explained that he did not accept that the responsibility for the consideration of the consultation responses should fall to the inspectors, as he believed it was not a modification to the Plan, but an entirely new “limb”. He was further dissatisfied that the inspectors had indicated that unless pitches were identified and consulted upon, the entirety of the Local Plan would fail. He felt this was unreasonable and grossly disproportionate and should be challenged.

Turning to the proposed pitches, the Chairman referred to GNLP 5007, a 62-hectare site in Costessey, where it was proposed that 1 hectare be allocated for Gypsy and Traveller sites. The Chairman felt it unacceptable that there was no indication of where the 1-hectare site would be located, and also that the 18 pitches were contingent to the allocation of the rest of the site for 1800 houses. The Chairman strongly opposed this proposal and stressed that this was a contingency site only and had been consulted upon on that basis.

The Chairman therefore stressed that he could not support the consultation in its current form, and he believed instead that a single-issue review should be undertaken. He referred to the Council’s excellent record in the provision of sites and stressed that the work to find suitable sites should continue.

Cabinet members echoed the concerns of the Chairman and emphasised the need to find sites through an open and transparent process. Despite not wishing to proceed with the consultation, members stressed that their commitment in finding appropriate sites remained undiminished.

Cllr T Laidlaw, local member for Costessey, advised that the Town Council had been surprised at the proposal GNLP 5007, explaining that it was currently involved in negotiations for new allotments and a community centre

at the north west area of the site. There had been concerns that these new proposals would impact on these negotiations. There were also concerns that the proposed site was very near the existing Roundwell site, and that there was too much of a concentration of sites in one area.

In response to queries, the Director of Place confirmed that the consultation could not proceed without agreement from all of the Greater Norwich authorities. He believed that the risk in failing to consult at this stage, was mitigated by the Council's clear commitment to finding sites.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Council does not support the Focused Consultation report as drafted;
2. To recommend to the Greater Norwich Development Partnership that a single-issue review is undertaken, taking in to account the points raised at South Norfolk Council's Cabinet meeting

The Reason for the Decision

That appropriate sites be found through a clear and transparent process, which would not unfairly impact on the rest of the Local Plan

Other Options Considered

To proceed with the consultation.

3027 CITY DEAL BORROWING AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE GREATER NORWICH STRATEGIC INVESTMENT FUND;

Members considered the report of the Director of Place which sought agreement from Council to give authority to Norfolk County Council to draw down on £20m from the Public Work Loans Board, to create a recyclable fund to support local infrastructure projects, as agreed in the Greater Norwich City Deal.

The Director of Place explained that the proposals would allow the lead authority to invest in specific projects and that they would then be responsible for securing the repayments, which would be paid into the new Strategic Investment Fund. Members noted that the repayments to the Public Work Loans Board would be paid from the Infrastructure Investment Fund, which was funded through the receipt of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

Cllr A Thomas expressed her support for the proposals, explaining that the proposed funding structure would enable the Long Stratton bypass project to progress.

RESOLVED:

TO RECOMMEND THAT COUNCIL

1. Gives authority to Norfolk County Council, as the Greater Norwich Growth Board's Accountable Body, to drawdown up to £20m from the Public Work

Loans Board to create a recyclable fund to support local infrastructure projects as agreed in the Greater Norwich City Deal, subject to the following conditions:

- The loan is used to create a fund, which will accelerate the delivery of infrastructure projects within the parameters defined within Community Infrastructure Levy legislation.
 - Repayment to be made from the Infrastructure Investment Fund pooled CIL.
 - The fund will be available to any of the Greater Norwich partners acting as lead authority and secured in a borrowing agreement with Norfolk County Council, which will include an agreed repayment schedule and back stop date.
 - Repayments from the lead authority would be made into a new recyclable Strategic Investment Fund.
 - Due diligence and legal arrangements regarding the beneficiary project will be the responsibility of the lead authority.
2. Agrees the draft legal agreement that will commit future pooled Community Infrastructure Levy income as repayment against the drawdown of up to £20m through the Greater Norwich City Deal (amounts will be drawn in stages see Appendix D and E)
 3. Subject to recommendation 2, upon each staged draw down totalling no more than £20m, the GNGB to be granted delegated authority to sign the legal agreement together with their s151 officers, under the direction of Norfolk County Council as the Accountable Body and in accordance with their signed Joint Working Agreement
 4. Agrees that the GNGB be given delegated authority to manage the allocation of the City Deal borrowing and later, governance of the Strategic Investment Fund in line with the draft Terms of Reference - Appendix A and B.

The Reason for the Decision

To allow for the accelerated delivery of strategic infrastructure projects.

Other Options Considered

None.

3028 REGULATORY ENFORCEMENT POLICY

Members considered the report of the Environmental Protection Manager, which sought Council approval for a new overarching Enforcement Policy.

The Portfolio Holder, Cllr G Minshull, commended the report to members, explaining that the new policy was based upon good practice demonstrated by other councils across the country.

The Assistant Director of Regulatory referred members to the proposed policy at Appendix 2 of the report. He explained that the Council was still awaiting the results of a legal review, and although he was not expecting any major changes, he proposed that the approval of any minor amendments be delegated to himself in consultation with the relevant portfolio holder.

Members welcomed the new policy and noted that as a joint policy with Broadland, it would also provide efficiencies for the One Team.

During discussion, the Chairman referred to paragraph 9 of the document, and it was suggested that where examples of categories were given, a caveat of “not limited to” should be included.

It was

RESOLVED:

TO RECOMMEND THAT COUNCIL

1. Agrees the adoption of the proposed overarching Enforcement Policy at Appendix 2 to replace the existing overarching enforcement policy, retaining its other existing thematic enforcement policies.
2. Delegates authority to the Assistant Director of Regulatory in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Clean and Safe Environment, to enact any amendments advised by the Legal team, following the completion of its review.

The Reason for the Decision

To establish good practice and positive enforcement.

Other Options Considered

None

3029 SHARED PROSPERITY FUND INVESTMENT PLAN

Members considered the report of the Strategic Growth Project Manager and the Programme Manager – Economic Growth, regarding the submission of an investment plan in order to access South Norfolk’s UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) allocation.

The Chairman explained that the Council had been allocated £1,570,485 of the Shared Prosperity Fund, subject to a compliant investment plan being submitted. Members noted that the proposed plan would focus on three principal interventions; one from each of the following investment priorities:

- Communities and Place
- Support for Local Business
- People and Skills

The Programme Manager outlined in more detail the objectives of each investment priority and the areas where funding would be directed. She explained that the apportionment of funding was still being worked through, although it was estimated that one third would be directed to business support, a half to support the Pride in Place work programmes and the remainder to be invested in People and Skills.

Cllr A Dearnley welcomed the proposals but also queried the apportionment of capital and revenue spend, and also whether the necessary deadlines could be met over the three-year period. The Programme Manager agreed that very careful financial monitoring would be required. She advised that the amount of capital spend could be increased, should there be a need and good reason for doing so.

The Chairman commended the proposed investment plan and suggested that it added value to existing work streams. It was

RESOLVED:

To

1. Approve the principal areas of investment as set out within this report.
2. Delegate to the Director of Place, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer, the Managing Director and the Leader of the Council, for the sign off and submission of a three-year investment plan to meet the requirements of the UKSPF.
3. Delegate to the Director of Place to finalise the initial and ongoing Governance arrangements for the UKSPF.
4. Delegate to the Director of Place, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer, the Managing Director and the Leader of the Council, to make any non-substantive changes to the investment plan as required the Department of Levelling up Housing & Communities and to sign the contract and accept the terms of the UKSPF, subject to appropriate legal advice.

Delegate to the Director of Place, in consultation with the Section 151 Officer, the Managing Director and the Leader of the Council, for the commitment and expenditure of the Council's allocation of UKSPF in line with the investment plan.

The Reason for the Decision

To ensure that the Council is able to access the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

Other Options Considered

None

3030 ECONOMIC GROWTH STRATEGIC PLAN

Members considered the report of the Programme Manager – Economic Growth and the National Management Trainee, which presented members with the Economic Growth Strategic Plan 2022-27, for approval.

The Programme Manager outlined the key areas of the Plan, explaining that it focussed on the actions that needed to be taken over the next five years to secure long-term success. Members noted that progress against actions would be presented in future as part of the Council's existing performance management structure.

The Chairman commended the Plan, which he felt to be clear and concise, providing a clear path for future delivery. He suggested that the use of local photographs to provide real life examples, would enhance the Plan further.

It was

RESOLVED:

TO RECOMMEND THAT COUNCIL approves and adopts the Economic Growth Strategic Plan 2022 – 2027 and use of the South Norfolk Summary as an externally facing document, subject to minor amendments.

The Reason for the Decision

To address local barriers to growth and to ensure local priorities and opportunities are addressed.

Other Options Considered

Not to adopt the plan

3031 EGYM PROCUREMENT

Members considered the report of the Leisure Business Development Manager, which sought approval to install an EGYM suite into the fitness space at the Wymondham Leisure Centre, utilising S106 monies, specifically designated for use at the leisure centre for improvement initiatives.

Members noted that an exemption from procurement procedures was required, with EGYM being the sole supplier of equipment which could connect with the Council's existing cardiovascular equipment.

The Portfolio Holder, Cllr R Elliott, commended the report, explaining that the new equipment would give the Council a competitive edge to attract and

retain new members. It would also provide the opportunity to obtain referrals for rehabilitative exercise work.

Members welcomed the proposals, and it was

RESOLVED:

To grant a procurement exemption for the purchase of an EGYM suite on the grounds that EGYM is a unique supplier and the only supplier of this type of equipment that connects to the current cardio equipment that South Norfolk Leisure have in all centres.

The Reason for the Decision

To ensure that the Council's leisure facilities remain competitive

Other Options Considered

None

3032 CABINET CORE AGENDA

Members noted the latest version of the Cabinet Core Agenda.

It was noted that the submission of the Wymondham Neighbourhood Plan had slipped from early September to late October.

Members suggested that following the earlier decision regarding the Greater Norwich Local Plan Gypsy and Traveller Focused Consultation, an update regarding the Local Plan might be appropriate in late September. It was also noted that decisions relating to the move to the Horizon Centre might also be required at the same meeting.

3033 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was **RESOLVED** to exclude the public and press from the meeting under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act (as amended)

3034 GARDEN WASTE DISPOSAL CONTRACT PROCUREMENT

Members considered the *exempt* report of the Internal Consultancy Lead – Waste, regarding the joint procurement for the processing of garden waste, with Broadland, Breckland and Norwich City Councils.

It was

RESOLVED:

To agree the recommendations as outlined at paragraph 8 of the report

The Reason for the Decision

To secure a garden waste processing contract.

Other Options Considered

None.

(The meeting concluded 10.10 am)

Chairman