

CABINET

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

Members Present:

Cabinet: Councillors: J Fuller (Chairman), K Kiddie,
K Mason Billig, L Neal and A Thomas

Apologies: Councillor: Y Bendle

Non-Appointed Councillors: V Clifford-Jackson, A Dearnley, T Laidlaw,
N Legg, G Minshull. J Overton and
V Thomson

Officers in Attendance: The Managing Director (T Holden), the Director of People and Communities (J Sutterby), the Director of Place (P Courtier), the Director of Resources (D Lorimer), the Assistant Director Governance and Business Support (E Hodds) the Chief of Staff (H Ralph), the Operations Manager Leisure (S Goddard) the Community Leisure Manager (M Heazle), the Environmental Protection Manager (S Bruton), the Revenues and Benefits Manager (S Quilter), the Policy Officer (P Chapman), the Senior Conservation and Design Officer (C Bennett), and the Senior Planning Officer (S Marjoram)

Also in Attendance: Mr R Moorhouse (Sapientia Education Trust)

2754 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 11 November 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2755 JOINT COMMERCIALISATION STRATEGY

Members considered the report of the Director of Resources, which presented Cabinet with a Joint Commercialisation Strategy for Broadland and South Norfolk Councils.

The Director of Resources presented her report to members, explaining that the aims of the Strategy were to maximise returns, both financial and social, for both

Councils, whilst maintaining a public service ethos of equality and fairness. Members noted that the Strategy had adopted an adaptable approach to satisfy different ambitions and appetites for risk, and had been well received at a recent meeting of the Finance, Resources, Audit and Governance Committee.

The Chairman expressed his disappointment that the Strategy had already been approved at Broadland District Council's Cabinet and Council, before consideration by South Norfolk Council's Cabinet, and members agreed that an alignment of meeting cycles would be helpful.

The Chairman referred to the significant investments made through Big Sky, and after some discussion it was agreed that both the Treasury Management Strategy and the Capital Strategy would be amended to identify the investments made within commercial activities, such as that through Big Sky and leisure facilities.

During discussion, the importance of proactive marketing, customer focus and equalities was raised, and Cabinet agreed that these were already reflected in the proposed Strategy.

It was

RESOLVED: To **RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** the approval and adoption of the Joint Commercialisation Strategy.

The Reason for the Decision

To deliver commercial opportunities and support the Council in addressing the financial challenges that it faced.

Other Options Considered

None.

2756 REVIEW OF DISCRETIONARY RATE RELIEF

Members considered the report of the Policy Officer, which proposed changes to the Council's Discretionary Rate Relief Policy, to ensure an alignment of policies with Broadland District Council.

Both the Policy Officer and the Revenues and Benefits Manager presented the report and members were advised that where possible synchronising rate relief policies across the two authorities would make the schemes simpler for staff to administer and more transparent and accessible for ratepayers in both areas. Members noted that the proposed alignment would result in 15 Broadland and 11 South Norfolk organisations gaining additional support from the policy changes.

Members supported the changes, noting in particular the introduction of rate relief for children's day care nurseries and the adjustments to the assessment of relief for some sporting clubs.

It was

RESOLVED: That the revised discretionary rate relief policy shown at Appendix 4 of the report is adopted, with effect from 1 April 2020.

The Reason for the Decision

To further align policies between South Norfolk and Broadland District Council and provide additional support for some organisations.

Other Options Considered

Not to align the policies.

2757 ADOPTION OF CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISALS AND BOUNDARY AMENDMENTS FOR FRITTON, PULHAM ST MARY, PULHAM MARKET, SEETHING, STARSTON AND WACTON CONSERVATION AREAS

Members considered the report of the Senior Conservation and Design Officer, which proposed amended conservation area boundaries, appraisals and management guidelines for Fritton, Pulham Market, Pulham St Mary, Seething, Starston and Wacton.

Cllr L Neal commended the report to members, explaining that officers had worked with the relevant parish councils and had taken into account all comments received through the consultation process. She advised that the Regulation and Planning Policy Committee and been satisfied with all the proposed changes.

The Senior Conservation and Design Officer provided members with a brief presentation, summarising the considerations made for each of the six areas.

Members welcomed the report, and the Chairman referred in particular to the inclusion of Taylor and Green properties within the conservation area in Seething. Cllr A Thomas explained that she had attended the "parish walks" in both Fritton and Wacton and had found the experience to be both valuable and rewarding.

It was

RESOLVED:

1. **TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** the approval and adoption of the proposed changes to the boundaries of Fritton, Pulham St Market, Pulham St Mary, Seething, Starston, and Wacton Conservation Areas.
2. **TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL** the approval and adoption of the conservation area appraisals and conservation management guidelines for the conservation areas of

Fritton, Pulham St Market, Pulham St Mary, Seething,
Starston and Wacton.

The Reason for the Decision

To ensure that up-to-date information on the conservation areas was available when making planning decisions and to assist in identifying areas where there was potential for enhancement.

Other Options Considered

None.

2758 NORFOLK STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK 2020/21

Members considered the report of the Senior Planning Officer, which sought approval for the proposed Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework (NSPF) work-plan for 2020/21, and a £10,000 contribution to support its work.

The Senior Planning Officer presented his report and it was then

RESOLVED: TO RECOMMEND THAT COUNCIL

1. Approves the proposed NSPF work-plan for 2020/21 (set out in Appendix 1); and
2. Approves the contribution of £10,000 to the work on the NSPF for 2020/21.

The Reason for the Decision

To enable the Council to meet its legal obligations.

Other Options Considered

None.

2759 FRAMINGHAM EARL COMMUNITY SPORTS CENTRE MANAGEMENT

Members considered the report of the Community Leisure Manager, which sought approval for the Council to enter in to an agreement with Sapientia Education Trust, to manage Framingham Earl Community Sports Centre, for an initial period of five years.

The Chairman welcomed Mr R Moorhouse, from the Sapientia Education Trust, to the meeting.

The Community Leisure Manager presented the report to members, explaining that the Trust was keen to utilise the experience of SNC in running dual-use leisure facilities. The proposal would see the Council assume management from 1 April 2020, for an initial period of five years. He added that officers believed that the facilities could be operated subsidy free and that there was an opportunity to expand the breadth of activities, in an area of population growth and limited leisure facilities.

Mr R Moorhouse explained that the Trust hoped tht the Council would draw on its experience at Long Stratton and Wymondham, and suggested that school holiday periods was an area of potential growth.

Members supported the proposal, which would increase the offer of sports facilities towards the east of the District. Members commented on the lack of sports facilities in this area and suggested that further proposals in areas as far east as Loddon would be welcomed.

In response to queries, officers confirmed that the Centre would continue to be used by school children during the school day. In terms of future maintenance, it was noted that the Council would be responsible for operational issues and costs, such as cleaning, however, any capital costs would remain with the school.

Local members, Cllrs L Neal and J Overton expressed their support for the proposals. Cllr Overton explained that some users of the facilities had been reluctant to depart from current arrangements, and that any changes would need to be carefully communicated. Whilst he recognised that change might cause some upset, he believed that the proposals would hugely benefit the area as a whole.

The Chairman acknowledged that changes might adversely affect some existing users but stressed that this was necessary to maximise the number of residents being able to benefit from the facilities.

It was

RESOLVED: To delegate to the Director of People and Communities, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Health, Housing and Wellbeing, the authority to enter into the agreement with Sapientia Education Trust to manage Framingham Earl Community Sports Centre for an initial period of five years, with effect from 1 April 2020.

The Reason for the Decision

To safeguard a sports facility in the District for community use.

Other Options Considered

None.

2760 HEALTH & WELLBEING STRATEGY

Members considered the report of the Healthy Living Manager, which updated members on the progress made on the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, adopted by the Council back in July 2018.

Members supported the continued implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and welcomed the adoption of shared health and wellbeing priorities across South Norfolk and Broadland Councils. However, some members felt that the Council's achievements had been undersold and sought a more detailed report that adopted a more holistic approach. It was suggested that a more detailed review of the delivery of Health and Wellbeing objectives be considered at a future meeting of the People and Communities Policy Committee.

It was

- RESOLVED:**
1. To agree to support the continued implementation of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy and note the adoption of the priorities across both Councils.
 2. That the People and Communities Policy Committee carry out a more detailed review of Health and Wellbeing objectives.

The Reason for the Decision

To support the delivery of the Council's health priorities.

Other Options Considered

None

2761 CABINET CORE AGENDA

Members noted that the Cabinet Core Agenda required updating to include budget and council tax items in February. It was also agreed that a report regarding the alignment of meeting cycles would be considered that same month.

2762 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 involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act (as amended)

2763 WASTE SERVICES REVIEW

Members considered the exempt report of the Environmental Protection Manager which set out proposed joint commissioning options for Waste Collection, Street Cleansing and Ground Maintenance Services.

Following discussion (as set out in the exempt minute), it was

RESOLVED: To note the report and endorse Officers to develop a full business case to explore a jointly owned Local Authority Trading Company including the potential provision of a shared depot, to deliver waste collection, grounds maintenance and street cleaning services on behalf of both Councils, to wholly replace both current operating models.

The Reason for the Decision

To explore further the benefits of a joint waste collection service.

Other Options Considered

As outlined in the report.

(The meeting concluded at 11.00 am)

Chairman