

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of Cabinet held at Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich, on Tuesday 10 January 2023 at 6.00pm.

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

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

Officers in Attendance: The Managing Director (T Holden), the Director for Resources (D Lorimer), the Director of Place (P Courtier), the Director for People and Communities (J Sutterby), the Chief of Staff (Monitoring Officer) (E Hodds), the Assistant Director of Finance (R Fincham), the Assistant Director for Regulatory (N Howard), the Assistant Director for Planning (H Mellors), the Principal Planning Policy Officer (A Banham) the Senior HR and OD Lead (V Finch), the Food Safety and Licensing Team Manager (L Chant), the Growth Delivery Manager (E Larter) and the Democratic Services Officer (J Overy).

The Leader asked those present to note the sad passing of Cllr Sue Prutton by observing a minute's silence in her memory.

71 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 29 November 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

72 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee advised Members on the views expressed by the Committee when it reviewed the Cabinet Agenda on 3 January 2023, as each item was considered.

73 GREATER NORWICH LOCAL PLAN GYPSY AND TRAVELLER SITES FOCUSED CONSULTATION REPORT

The Principal Planning Policy Officer introduced the report, which sought Cabinet approval to undertake a public consultation on the allocation of Gypsy and Traveller sites in the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP).

The GNLP had been submitted in July 2021, with the understanding that further work would need to be done on the allocation of sites for Gypsy and Travellers. This work had subsequently been undertaken and ten favoured sites with enough space for 62 pitches had been identified. These sites were proposed to go out for a public consultation, which was scheduled to take place from 30 January to 13 March 2023.

The report had already been considered by a number of Committees and issues raised had included the legal challenge to the road improvements from Blofield to North Burlingham, which would put the proposed A47 site at risk and the importance of residential pitches in allowing Gypsy and Traveller children to attend school.

Cabinet was also informed that South Norfolk Council had made an amendment to recommendation one and that under the terms of the Greater Norwich Development Partnership, the constituent bodies needed to give unanimous approval to move ahead with the consultation.

The Portfolio Holder for Communities Housing and Planning noted that the report would start the process of consultation and that further sites might come forward as part of this. He proposed the following amendment of recommendation 1:

Approve the focused consultation on the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) proposed allocations for Gypsy and Traveller sites, *subject to the reference to the Contingency Site for Gypsy and Traveller pitches at Costessey being deleted.*

In seconding the amended proposal, the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Excellence advised residents to read and comment on the proposed sites.

The Leader noted that the consultation would run from 30 January to 13 March 2023 and he too urged residents to comment on the proposals in the report, so that the Council was made fully aware of how the sites would impact the District.

Following a show of hands it was

RESOLVED

To

1. Approve the focused consultation on the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) proposed allocations for Gypsy and Traveller sites, subject to the reference to

the Contingency Site for Gypsy and Traveller pitches at Costessey being deleted; and

2. Agree to delegate authority to the Assistant Director – Planning, in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Planning, to agree consultation documentation and materials prior to the public consultation.

Reasons for Decision

To meet the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework and to ensure the legal compliance and soundness of the Greater Norwich Local Plan.

74 TO ESTABLISH AND ENTER INTO A JOINT VENTURE TO DELIVER A PROGRAMME OF MITIGATION FOR NUTRIENT NEUTRALITY

The Director for Place introduced the report, which proposed the establishment of a Joint Venture to source the mitigation to overcome constraints imposed by Natural England in respect of nutrient neutrality.

The Joint Venture would seek to provide a range of environmental credits, initially focusing on nutrient neutrality for small and medium sized developers, who would not otherwise be able to provide the mitigation required themselves. The Joint Venture would enable the trading of mitigation to off-set the nutrients arising from developments by buying wholesale nutrient neutrality mitigations and then selling them on. For example, an upgrade to a water recycling centre by Anglian Water would generate an increase in nutrients being stripped out, which could then be purchased as mitigations and sold on as credits to developers.

The Portfolio for Communities Housing and Planning wished to congratulate the team for the tremendous amount of work they had done to bring this scheme forward. He noted that this was a way forward that would help unblock the delays in development caused by the constraints imposed by Natural England. He proposed the recommendations in the report.

In seconding the proposal, the Portfolio Holder for Finance noted that the scheme demonstrated the forward-thinking attitude being taken by the Council to address this issue.

The Portfolio Holder for Environmental Excellence noted the contribution to the green agenda made by the scheme and that she was pleased to see that some of it was being funded by a loan from the Environmental Projects Reserve.

In response to a query from the Leader, the meeting was advised that it was not considered necessary to have a formal reporting mechanism to leaders, as the Joint Venture would be an autonomous company with officer representation on the board. There would however be an informal reporting link to Leaders via the Norfolk Strategic Planning Forum.

In answer to a further query, the Director of Place advised Cabinet that three funding streams were required for the establishment of the Joint Venture. Central Government had already provided £200,000 across the catchment to respond to the nutrient neutrality issue; the £150,000 loan from Broadland would establish the Joint Venture and the £300,000 cumulative loan from the partners would fund the first year. These loans would be recouped, by top-slicing the credits being sold and it was envisaged that after the first year the Joint Venture would be self-funding.

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee informed the meeting that the Committee had raised concerns about the security of the £150,000 being loaned by the Council for the establishment of the Joint Venture and had recommended that this sum should be made up of £30,000 from each of the local authorities instead. He added that this matter had subsequently been clarified at the Communities, Housing and Planning Policy Committee on 4 January 2023, to his satisfaction,

The Director for Place confirmed that if an agreement between each local authority needed to be drawn up for the £150,000 loan, it would further delay the process of establishing the Joint Venture. He added that the risk of the scheme failing was negligible and the business case for the Joint Venture was sound, as the payment per dwelling for a credit would be between £5,000-£7,000. Therefore, the first 200 credits would return between £1m-£1.4m and as the catchment had a backlog of 10,000 homes, it was clear that it would generate significant income that would allow the loans to be repaid promptly.

This income could also be expanded in the future to deliver other environmental credits, such as green infrastructure and biodiversity net gain.

The Leader noted that the risk to the Council from this scheme was low and that it would still need to introduce measures to respond to nutrient neutrality on its own, if it did not join the Joint Venture.

It was confirmed that the repayment of the £150,000 loan would go back into the Environmental Projects Reserve.

The Leader suggested that the return from the Joint Venture might even be used to further reinforce the Environmental Projects Reserve, to enable more environmental initiatives to be brought forward.

Following a show of hands, it was unanimously:

RESOLVED

1. To enter a Joint Venture (a company limited by guarantee) with Anglian Water and one or more local authorities in Norfolk for the provision of environmental credits (initially focussing on addressing nutrient neutrality) as per the attached Heads of Terms.
2. To commit £30,000 revenue in 2023/24 as part of establishing the Joint Venture. The purpose of the funding being to establish the operating model in year one,

after which there will be full recovery of the operating costs as part of the credit income.

3. To delegate to the Director of Place in consultation with the Leader of the Council to finalise the details of the joint venture agreement and operating arrangements and enter the Joint Venture.
4. To loan £150,000 revenue from the Environmental Projects Reserve as seed funding in 2022/23 for the Joint Venture to be repaid with interest within 2 years from the establishment of the Joint Venture.
5. To delegate to the S151 Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance to finalise the details of the seed funding and repayment mechanism

Reasons for Decision

To establish a joint venture company in order to identify mitigation solutions that would address the development constraints imposed by nutrient neutrality.

74 LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1976 TOWN POLICE CLAUSES ACT 1847 TAXIMETER TARIFF (TABLE OF FARES) CONSULTATION RESPONSES

The Food Safety and Licensing Team Manager introduced the report, which detailed the results of a consultation exercise in respect of a proposed table of fares, which would be applicable to any licensed hackney carriages from 1 April 2023. The draft table of fares and associated consultation responses were presented for Cabinet's consideration and subsequent adoption.

Members were advised that although the Council did not currently have any hackney carriages licensed in the District, it was appropriate to have the arrangements in place for a table of fares, as part of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Policy Terms and Conditions, which was introduced on 1 April 2022.

The proposed table of fares had had a lead in period of 12 months and under the new policy all new drivers were dual licensed, so could drive either hackney carriage or private hire vehicles.

Only seven responses to the consultation had been received. None were from drivers or operators in Broadland.

The Portfolio Holder for Environmental Excellence advised the meeting that the Council was well prepared should hackney carriages be licensed in the District in the future and she emphasised that the table set out the maximum fares that could be charged and that operators could charge less if they wished.

In response to a query the Food Safety and Licensing Team Manager confirmed that the technical query from the taximeter manufacturer had been addressed to ensure that the meters were correctly calibrated for the administration of the fares.

It was confirmed that the fares would be reviewed annually, and could be reviewed sooner if needed, for example if energy costs increased suddenly.

Following a show of hands, it was unanimously

RESOLVED

To agree the proposed table of fares for their adoption with a view to the agreed fares taking effect from 1 April 2023.

Reasons for decision

To meet legislative requirements.

75 FORWARD PLAN

Cabinet noted the Forward Plan.

76 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining items of business because otherwise, information which is exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by The Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, would be disclosed to them.

77 HR AND PAYROLL – HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND PAYROLL BUREAU

The Chief of Staff presented the exempt report, which requested that Cabinet consider the business case to proceed with a new Human Resources Management System and Payroll Bureau service for the Council.

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

RESOLVED

To

1. Agree and endorse the Business Case as attached at Appendix A; and
2. Agree to delegate the award of the contract for Human Resources Management System and Payroll Bureau to the Chief of Staff in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Transformation and Organisational Development.

Reasons for Decision

To proceed with the procurement of a Human Resources Management System and Payroll Bureau service for the Council.

78 PLUMSTEAD ROAD EAST: WORKS COST CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT FOR A PRIORITY T-JUNCTION

The Growth Delivery Manager presented the exempt report, which sought approval to enter into a Works Cost Contribution Agreement to facilitate the delivery of a T-junction on Council owned land off Plumstead Road East.

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

RESOLVED

To agree the recommendations, as amended.

Reasons for Decision

To provide the highway infrastructure required to support major residential growth in the District.

79 EXEMPT MINUTES

The exempt minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 29 November 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

(The meeting concluded at 6.55 pm)

Chairman