

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Wednesday, 5 January 2022 at the Council Offices, Holt Road, Cromer, NR27 9EN at 10.00 am

Committee

Members Present:

Mrs W Fredericks
Mrs A Fitch-Tillett
Mr R Kershaw
Mr E Seward
Mr J Toye

Mrs S Bütikofer (Chair)
Ms V Gay
Mr N Lloyd
Miss L Shires

Members also attending:

Cllr T Adams
Cllr A Brown
Cllr Dr C Stockton

Officers in Attendance:

Chief Executive, Democratic Services Manager and Director for Resources/Section 151 Officer), the Assistant Director for Finance, legal & Assets (Monitoring Officer) and the Democratic Services Manager

Officers in attendance remotely:

Assistant Director for People Services and the Surveyor.

181 MINUTES

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182 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

None received.

183 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None received.

184 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

185 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

The Chairman advised members that they could ask questions as matters arose during the meeting.

186 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Chairman informed members that there were no recommendations from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee to Cabinet.

187 SUPPORT IN SAFE ACCOMMODATION STRATEGY FOR NORFOLK 2021-2024

Cllr W Fredericks, Portfolio Holder for Housing, introduced this item. She said that she endorsed the strategy, as required, but added that officers at NNDC provided a lot more support to survivors of domestic abuse and this should be acknowledged and recognised.

The Chairman invited the Assistant Director for People Services to speak. She explained that the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 included new duties for Tier 1 authorities in England regarding the provision of support for victims and their children residing within relevant safe accommodation to assess the need for safe accommodation and support and to develop a strategy to meet these needs. The District Council, as a Tier 2 authority, had a duty to co-operate as a key stakeholder and partner in undertaking the needs assessment and then developing and implementing the strategy. She added that the remit of the strategy was narrow as it related to the provision of support for survivors of domestic abuse and their children and also only to those residing in safe accommodation (which had a very specific definition). She went on to explain that only a small number of people were placed in safe accommodation and that the Council tended to place domestic abuse victims in a wider range of accommodation types. In addition, it was important to note that the strategy document did not refer to the services provided by other agencies and she referenced the launch of a new service - the Norfolk Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (NIDAS) which would see a consortium of specialist support services working together with victims and their children across the county, ensuring people have access to a full range of help and guidance regardless of where they live. The service would work with victims of domestic abuse aged 16 and above of any gender.

In conclusion, the Assistant Director for People Services said that whilst the Council recognised the shortcomings of the strategy, it had been developed in partnership and would develop further in the future as dialogue with the Government continued.

Cllr V Gay reiterated that the Council was only required to endorse the strategy. She reiterated that the Council was already undertaking a substantial amount of additional work to support survivors of domestic abuse.

It was proposed by Cllr W Fredericks, seconded by Cllr V Gay and

RESOLVED

To endorse the Support in Safe Accommodation Strategy for Norfolk 2021-2024.

Reason for decision:

Endorsing the strategy demonstrates acknowledgement of our role in developing and implementing the strategy and reflect the importance of the need to support survivors of domestic abuse.

188 LEASE PROPOSAL AT D, E AND F HORNBEAM ROAD

The Chairman reminded Members that there were exempt appendices to the report and that if they wished to discuss the contents of these then the meeting would need to go into private business.

Cllr E Seward, Portfolio Holder for Assets, introduced the report. He explained that 12 months previously the Council had acquired three industrial units at Hornbeam Road, North Walsham for investment purposes. An offer had now been received from a national operator to lease all three units for 15 years. This was compliant with the current planning permission for the site and was a sound and attractive offer which met the Council's agreed policies around return on investments made on commercial property.

He concluded by saying that two other expressions of interest in the site had been received to date but neither had resulted in the lease being taken up.

RESOLVED

- A. To withdraw from the current proposed lease, which is not yet legally completed
- B. To approve the lease terms as described in Appendix A

Reason for the decision:

Principally to support the financial sustainability and growth of the Council by leasing the premises and generating rental income that is used to support Council services.

189 STATEMENT FROM THE LEADER

Before closing the meeting, the Leader said that she wanted to make a short statement. She began by saying that over the last two years, Covid had caused turmoil and it had been hard for many people for many different reasons – including those who had worked tirelessly to provide support (including Council staff) local businesses which had been put on hold and young people. She said that it had been particularly hard for those who had lost loved ones, friends and family. She said that in the last year she had lost both her parents and now her husband was seriously ill. For this reason she was no longer able to give the time and dedication required to fulfil her role as Leader of the Council. She said that she was therefore, giving notice of her intention to resign as Leader of the Council as soon a new leader could be elected by the Liberal Democrat Group and then Full Council. Until then she would remain in office and continue to complete her duties.

Cllr Butikofer concluded by saying that it had been an immense honour and privilege

to have led the council for the last three years and to have been the Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group for the last 5 and a half years.

190 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

191 PRIVATE BUSINESS

The meeting ended at 10.13 am.

Chairman