

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Monday, 11 March 2024 at the Council Offices, Holt Road, Cromer, NR27 9EN at 10.00 am

Committee

Members Present:

Cllr W Fredericks (Deputy Chair)	Cllr L Shires
Cllr T Adams (Chair)	Cllr A Brown
Cllr H Blathwayt	Cllr P Heinrich
Cllr C Ringer	Cllr A Varley
Cllr L Withington	

Members also attending:

Officers in Attendance:

Chief Executive, Democratic Services Manager, Director for Place & Climate Change, Assistant Director for Finance, Assets, Legal & Monitoring Officer, Director for Resources / S151 Officer, Assistant Director for Planning and Policy and Performance Management Officer

Also in attendance:

Press and Public

Apologies for Absence:

30 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 5 February were approved as a correct record subject to the following amendment: Minute 26 should read **Clare** Road not Blair Road.

31 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

None received.

32 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

33 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

34 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

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

35 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The following recommendations were made by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee at the meeting held on 14th February:

Local Economic Strategy & Action Plan:

(A) that an appendix to the full strategy and action plan be produced to show all the different sectors to the economy in North Norfolk and when available information be provided in the document that sets out the value of each sector to the local economy, and

(B) the strategy part is extracted from the full document into a shorter summary form that could be more quickly read.

Cllr P Heinrich, Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Growth, said that there had been a full debate on the strategy and he was happy to accept the recommendations.

RESOLVED

To accept the above recommendations from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

RESOLVED

Local Economic Strategy & Action Plan

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(B) the strategy part is extracted from the full document into a shorter summary form that could be more quickly read.

36 BUDGET MONITORING P10

Cllr L Shires, Portfolio Holder for Finance, introduced this item. She began by explaining that the forecast gap had widened slightly due to an overspend on temporary accommodation, adding that the reasons for this were set out in section 2.34 of the report and saying that the Council had no choice but to react as it had a legal duty regarding homelessness. She referred to pages 21 – 22, where interest and the potential for borrowing was set out. She reminded members that borrowing was needed for the purchase of waste vehicles but the Council was now in a position where it may be needed to support with cashflow, caused by council tax precept collection. She then asked the DFR to speak about plans to address the deficit going forward. The DFR said that any borrowing would be short-term until interest rates came down. Regarding the current financial position, she said that there had been some windfall income of £135k relating to a VAT issue from 2009 and this would be used to offset the deficit.

Cllr W Fredericks thanked officers for their hard work. She said that it was important to continue to lobby central government and it had been successful in part, as representatives from Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) were coming to visit the district on Wednesday, following extensive pressure. They would be in attendance for several hours to learn about the unique housing-related challenges presented in North Norfolk, due to its demographic and

the pressure placed by second homes. She said that she would continue to lobby hard for support when she met with them on Wednesday.

It was proposed by Cllr T Adams, seconded by Cllr L Shires and

RESOLVED

- 1) Note the contents of the report and the current forecast year end position.
- 2) Note the actions to take some short term borrowing and to call back some of the investments that are in our pooled funds.
- 3) Approve the use of the Economic Regeneration Reserve as required as proposed in paragraph 2.25.
- 4) Approve the use of £0.2m of the Treasury Management reserve to cover the overspend as proposed in paragraph 2.42.
- 5) Note that officers will work together to take action to reduce the overall projected General Fund deficit at the for 2023/24.

Reason for the decision:

To update members on the current budget monitoring position for the Council.

37 REPORTING PROGRESS IMPLEMENTING CORPORATE PLAN 2023-27 ACTION PLAN 2023-24 - TO END OF QUARTER 3 - 31ST DECEMBER 2023

The Chairman introduced this item. He explained that only one action had been flagged as being unable to be completed during 2023/2024: 'Working with partners to agree an investment in local housing initiatives, funded through the second homes council tax premium'. This had been delayed due to the legislation that allowed it not coming into effect until 2025. He said that in the meantime, discussions with neighbouring District Councils and Norfolk County Council about the retention of second homes council tax income were ongoing and a report would be coming back with draft proposals.

He then highlighted the following key areas of the report – regarding the Local Plan Examination, the Council was now awaiting feedback. Coastwise drop-in events had been very successful so far. Huge success had been achieved in bringing a banking hub to Holt and the completion of the Cedars Building in North Walsham.

Cllr C Ringer, Portfolio Holder for Waste Management, said that regarding Action No.2 – 'Develop a response to the waste and resources strategy', although it was highlighted as green, that was due to the work that had been undertaken by the Council, which was on target. The one risk associated with this was central government's insufficient allocation of funds to roll out the food waste collection programme, which was taking longer than the Council would like.

It was proposed by Cllr T Adams, seconded by Cllr C Ringer and

RESOLVED

To note the report.

38 LOCAL ECONOMIC STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN

The Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Growth, Cllr Heinrich, introduced this item. He began by thanking officers for all their hard work. He said that page 65 of the report set out the range of consultations and discussions that had taken place and this ensured that it was a strategy that worked with the Council's partners to support the best economic development and growth. Cllr Heinrich said that he supported the

recommendations from Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

The Chairman said that the case studies in the document highlighted key successes. He asked for a timescale for the production of an Executive Summary.

It was proposed by Cllr P Heinrich, seconded by Cllr H Blathwayt and

RESOLVED

To endorse the Economic Strategy & Action Plan and recommend to Full Council its formal adoption.

Reason for the recommendation:

Adoption by the Council will serve to illustrate the importance and value that NNDC places on its role in helping to create a vibrant, healthy and sustainable local economy.

39 FORMER SHANNOCKS HOTEL SITE, SHERINGHAM

40 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

41 PRIVATE BUSINESS

The meeting ended at 11.46 am.

Chairman