

Council



Please contact: Emma Denny

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20 April 2021

A meeting of the **Council** of North Norfolk District Council will be held remotely via Zoom on **Wednesday, 28 April 2021 at 6.00 pm.**

At the discretion of the Chairman, a short break will be taken after the meeting has been running for approximately one and a half hours

PUBLIC ATTENDANCE AND PUBLIC SPEAKING – COVID-19

Please note that due to the Covid-19 restrictions, meetings of cabinet will be held remotely via Zoom video conferencing and live streamed on YouTube.

Public speaking: If you wish to speak on an agenda item, please email emma.denny@northnorfolk.gov.uk no later than 5.00 pm on the Thursday before the meeting and include a copy of your statement. You will have the opportunity to make your statement by video link but in the event that this is not possible, or if you would prefer, your statement will be read out by an officer.

This meeting will be broadcast live to YouTube and will be capable of repeated viewing. The entirety of the meeting will be filmed except for confidential or exempt items. If you attend the meeting and make a representation you will be deemed to have consented to being filmed and that the images and sound recordings could be used for webcasting/ training purposes.

Emma Denny
Democratic Services Manager

To: Mr T Adams, Ms P Bevan Jones, Mr D Birch, Mr H Blathwayt, Mr A Brown, Dr P Bütikofer, Mrs S Bütikofer, Mr C Cushing, Mr N Dixon, Mr P Fisher, Mrs A Fitch-Tillett, Mr T FitzPatrick, Mr V FitzPatrick, Mrs W Fredericks, Ms V Gay, Mrs P Grove-Jones, Mr G Hayman, Mr C Heinink, Mr P Heinrich, Mr N Housden, Mr R Kershaw, Mr N Lloyd, Mr G Mancini-Boyle, Mrs M Millership, Mr N Pearce, Mr S Penfold, Mrs G Perry-Warnes, Mr J Punchard, Mr J Rest, Mr E Seward, Miss L Shires, Mrs E Spagnola, Mrs J Stenton, Dr C Stockton, Mr J Toye, Mr A Varley, Ms L Withington and Mr A Yiasimi

Members of the Management Team, appropriate Officers, Press and Public



**If you have any special requirements in order
to attend this meeting, please let us know in advance**

If you would like any document in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact us

Chief Executive: Steve Blatch
Tel 01263 513811 **Fax** 01263 515042 **Minicom** 01263 516005
Email districtcouncil@north-norfolk.gov.uk **Web site** www.north-norfolk.gov.uk

A G E N D A

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive apologies for absence, if any.

2. MINUTES

1 - 40

To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 24 February 2021.

3. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

To determine any other items of business which the Chairman decides should be considered as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100B (4)(b) of the Local Government Act 1972.

4. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS FROM MEMBERS

41 - 42

Members are asked at this stage to declare any interests that they may have in any of the following items on the agenda. The Code of Conduct for Members requires that declarations include the nature of the interest and whether it is a disclosable pecuniary interest (see attached guidance and flowchart)

5. CHAIRMAN'S COMMUNICATIONS

To receive the Chairman's communications, if any.

6. LEADER'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive announcements from the Leader, if any.

7. PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

To consider any questions or statements received from members of the public.

8. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, SUB-COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES & OUTSIDE BODIES

To approve any appointments to committees, sub committees, working parties, panels and outside bodies as notified by the Group Leaders.

9. PORTFOLIO REPORTS

43 - 74

To receive reports from Cabinet Members on their portfolios.

Members are reminded that they may ask questions of the Cabinet Member on their reports and portfolio areas but should note that it is not a debate.

No member may ask more than one question plus a supplementary question, unless the time taken by members' questions does not exceed 30 minutes in total, in which case, second questions will be

taken in the order that they are received (Constitution, Chapter 2, part 2, section 12.2)

Cllr A Fitch-Tillett – Coast
Cllr V Gay – Health, Wellbeing & Culture
Cllr G Hayman – Housing & Benefits
Cllr R Kershaw – Economic Development
Cllr N Lloyd – Environment & Climate Change
Cllr E Seward – Finance & Assets
Cllr L Shires – Organisational Resources
Cllr J Toye – Planning & Enforcement

10. ADDITIONAL RESTRICTIONS GRANT

75 - 80

Summary: This report sets out the current financial position of the COVID Additional Restrictions Grant (ARG) and the actions the Council plans to undertake to commit the remainder of the District's allocation which is intended to support businesses and the local economy.

Options considered: The Council is obliged to use the ARG fund to support local businesses, particularly those who have not been able to benefit from the mandatory grant schemes. The Government has advised that this should predominantly take the form of discretionary grants. However, the fund also allows the Council to use funding to deliver wider business support to which a range of options, including those outlined within this report, are possible. The Council could choose to focus the remaining allocation solely on providing grants. However, it is recognised, particularly as national restrictions are eased, that businesses would additionally benefit from a broad offering of non-financial support to assist their recovery process, enable them to embed Covid-safe practices and measures and to support resilience.

Conclusions: The Covid-19 pandemic has taken a considerable toll on local businesses. Whilst some businesses have either been able to trade to some extent – because they are non-customer facing, through diversification or via e-commerce channels – many have been heavily impacted and continue to struggle to meet their ongoing fixed costs and recoup their losses. Whilst the mandatory schemes have played a significant role in helping some businesses, there are many others who have *slipped between the cracks*. The ARG scheme, and the wider support it can offer, provides an opportunity for the Council to

address the support needs of some of those businesses who have not been able to access such schemes and for the Council to provide a wider range of assistance to help the local economy to bounce back.

- Recommendations: It is recommended that:
- Full Council note the content of the report and the progress to date in committing the ARG allocation to support local businesses;
 - given the time constraints, that delegation is provided to the Director of Resources, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Sustainable Growth Economic, to:
 1. establish the terms and processes to commit the remaining ARG fund by 30 June 2021, and;
 2. develop a programme of business support using the anticipated ARG top-up funds that the District will benefit from following the full dissemination of the current fund.

Reasons for Recommendations: To ensure the funding is fully defrayed within the timescales determined by the Government.

Cabinet Member(s) Cllr Richard Kershaw Portfolio Holder for Sustainable Growth	Ward(s) affected All
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Contact Officer, telephone number and email:
 Stuart Quick (Economic Growth Manager), 01263 516263,
stuart.quick@north-norfolk.gov.uk

11. PREPARATIONS FOR MANAGING ANTICIPATED INCREASED VISITOR NUMBERS - SUMMER 2021 81 - 86

Summary: With continued uncertainty about the opportunities for people to take overseas holidays this summer due to the ongoing COVID pandemic, it is expected that demand for staycation holidays in the UK will be strong; such that tourist destinations, such as North Norfolk, will need to make some contingency arrangements to manage larger numbers of staying and day visitors to the district than might be the case in a more “normal” year. This report details the consideration the District Council is giving to the management of larger numbers of visitors to the District during the

summer of 2021.

- Options considered: Do nothing and potentially see overcrowded seaside resort locations where a lack of parking, overcrowded beaches and town / village centres mean that visitors do not have a positive experience of the District and may not make repeat visits in future years.
- Conclusions: That the Council seeks to take a number of actions as detailed in the report to accommodate larger numbers of visitors to the District during this summer as part of the District's Recovery from the COVID pandemic in a way which seeks to minimise transmission of the virus, protects local residents and visitors, supports local businesses and economic recovery in the short, medium and longer terms.
- Recommendations: Council is asked to note the report and actions proposed to accommodate large numbers of visitors to the District this summer, including:-**
- **Provision of advanced road signage promoting the large capacity of the Runton Road Car Park in Cromer, including the overflow "Carnival" field;**
 - **Proposed provision of chargeable weekend and Bank Holiday parking at the District Council's Holt Road offices in Cromer;**
 - **Exploring the operation of a Park and Ride service to serve Sheringham in conjunction with a private landowner in the A148 corridor to the south of the town, with a frequent bus service to the town centre (to operate throughout July and August);**
 - **Exploring the provision of a food court area from which to serve takeaway food / street food by local businesses from the vacant former tennis court area of North Lodge Park, with additional seating and bins in the park to reduce queues and congestion in the town centre**
 - **Refreshing our social distancing measures and signage as appropriate**
 - **With Visit North Norfolk promote less busy parts of the District for**

visitors to explore to “avoid the crowds” through social media and other campaigns

- Review the provision and servicing of litter bins and public toilets in main visitor locations in the District to manage larger visitor numbers
- Provision of a composting toilet at the Beach Road car park in Weybourne in response to increased numbers of visitors to this car park.

Reason for Recommendations:- To ensure the Council makes appropriate advance planning arrangements to accommodate larger numbers of visitors to the District’s principal coastal resorts over the 2021 summer.

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Richard Kershaw	Ward(s) affected:- All, but particularly coastal wards and wards in The Broads area
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Contact Officer, telephone number and email:
Steve Blatch, Chief Executive
Telephone:- 01263 516232
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12. SENIOR MANAGEMENT RESTRUCTURE

To receive an update from the Chief Executive on the senior management restructure.

13. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM CABINET 15 MARCH AND 12 APRIL

No recommendations were made to Council by Cabinet at the meetings held on 15th March and 12th April 2021.

14. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 21 APRIL 2021

To consider any recommendations made at the meeting of Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 21st April.

Please note this meeting was held after the publication of the Full Council agenda, so the Chairman will provide a verbal update at the meeting.

15. QUESTIONS RECEIVED FROM MEMBERS

None Received.

16. OPPOSITION BUSINESS

None Received.

17. NOTICE(S) OF MOTION

The following Notices of Motion have been received:

1. Environment Bill

Proposed by Cllr N Lloyd

Background

Human activity has already resulted in climate change.

The impacts of rising temperatures are being felt around the world. Global temperatures have already increased by 1 degree Celsius from pre-industrial levels.

Limiting Global Warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius may still be possible with ambitious action from national and regional authorities, the private sector, and local communities.

Average World temperature records continue to be broken year on year with the previous 10 year period being the hottest on record (WMO). Despite this, green-house gasses continue to rise.

North Norfolk, with its extended coastline, is particularly susceptible to the effects of climate change.

Councils have an important role to play in tackling climate change. They can act as leaders and role models for others to follow. NNDC is committed to reaching net zero carbon by 2030. This pledge will soon be evidenced in our Climate Change Charter, indeed reducing the Council's carbon footprint has been a priority since 2019.

NNDC have already taken action by committing to planting 110,000 trees by 2023, switching to a green energy supply, renewable energy projects, introducing EVCP's to North Norfolk and including ambitious green policies into our draft Local Plan. Our journey has only just began.

Everyone, has a responsibility to reduce their impact on the environment - but we cannot be expected to solve the problem of climate change on our own. The Government has a huge role to play in restoring the quality of the air we breathe, nature, biodiversity and the natural environment.

The recently announced delay to the Environment Bill was therefore extremely disappointing. This Bill promised new powers to defend nature and biodiversity, protect our water supplies, reduce flooding potential, improve air quality, enhance waste and resource efficiency whilst improving recycling rates.

Motion:

North Norfolk District Council calls for the Government to reintroduce the Environment Bill at its earliest opportunity.

The Bill will call for a new environmental relationship between local and national Government. Councils will take a greater responsibility to enforce many aspects of the Bill and will be obliged to formally adopt new environmental improvement roles at a local level. NNDC believe we are well placed to take a leading role in this new agenda and to deliver ambitious plans to protect our beautiful district for future generations. However, this will come at a cost. This Council therefore calls upon Government to provide the support that will be required in terms of finance and legislative powers to ensure the Bill is implemented effectively.

NNDC will write to George Eustice MP to express our support for the Bill, urge him to reintroduce the Bill at his earliest opportunity whilst emphasising that adequate resources must be provided to local Councils.

Write to North Norfolk's two MP's seeking their support for the Environmental Bill and request them to take a leading role by championing its passage into law through Parliament.

2. Domestic Abuse

Proposed by Cllr W Fredericks, seconded by Cllr E Withington

Over the last year Norfolk Police has reported a 20% increase in Domestic Abuse. In Norfolk, 1 in 4 women and 1 in 8 men have reported being the victim of Domestic Abuse. Nationally this is 1 in 3 Women. (Fig. Norfolk County Council). Norfolk Police has recorded a 20% increase in cases over the last year. This is an epidemic. With only a 5% positive outcome of the 54% of cases reaching prosecution by the CPS. These are the cases we know about. There are many more hidden away.

Children are often witnesses and there are 692 children in Norfolk per day assessed as being at risk of DA.

This is now an incredibly urgent issue which needs all of our collective thinking on how to prevent acts of abuse, and find ways to support and enable survivors to flee from their situations and then ongoing support to continue to stay safe. Often the victim stays or returns because there is no support available.

The present system isn't coping with the numbers and we simply don't have the mechanism to help victims when they need it most. Survivors need help at the point of escape. Not to jump off a cliff with no-one to catch them. Recently I hid a family in a chalet and without the excellent work of our housing team, the next place would have been a caravan. Help is usually available in Greater Norwich, however, there is currently very little here in North Norfolk.

We welcome the upcoming Domestic Abuse Bill from Parliament. We can put steps in place to implement this legislation with the help of the following resolutions:

1) In May 2021, NNDC will establish and host a forum and invite the Police, Norfolk County Council, our experienced officers, agencies and survivors, to work together to find opportunities to provide support where there are currently gaps in services. Also to pull together our current working partnerships.

Working with NNDC and Norfolk County Council, the forum will help develop an action plan to improve support, to those who are living with DA in particular to those who have or want to escape away from their situation.

2) All staff and Members to be offered a short training course from Norfolk County Council which will raise awareness of DA and address the issues. We are a customer facing council and our officers are doing brilliant work with our residents. I believe that this will increase our empathy and show those suffering that we are listening and that we do care.

3) Domestic Abuse Champions (one officer and one member) to be trained and to be responsible for the following departments; Customer Services, Housing, Revenue and Benefits, Social Prescribing and Environmental Health.

As Members we are responsible for representing the needs of all our residents, those living with domestic abuse are part of the hidden community. It is vital that we have the support network in place to enable them to come forward and empower them to live in safety.

18. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

To pass the following resolution – if necessary:

“That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph(s) _ of Part 1 of Schedule 12A (as amended) to the Act.”

19. PRIVATE BUSINESS