

## **CABINET**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Monday 02 October 2017 at the Council Offices, Holt Road, Cromer at 10.00am**

**Members Present:**

Mrs S Arnold	Mr W Northam
Mrs A Claussen-Reynolds	Mrs J Oliver
Mr N Dixon	Miss B Palmer
Mr T FitzPatrick(Chairman)	Ms M Prior
Mr J Lee	

**Also attending:**

Mrs S Butikofer	Mr B Smith
Mrs A Fitch-Tillett	Mr R Shepherd
Mrs P Grove-Jones	Mr J Rest
Mr N Pearce	Ms K Ward
Mr R Reynolds	Mr G Williams

**Officers in Attendance:**

The Corporate Directors, the Monitoring Officer, the Head of Finance and Asset Management, the Chief Technical Accountant, the Communication and Marketing Manager, the Technical Accountant, the Housing Strategy and Community Development Manager and the Democratic Services Manager.

**48. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mr R Price

**49. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 05 September 2017 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**50. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None

**51. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

There was one item of urgent business: Proposed Norfolk Business Rates Pilot 2018/19.

The Portfolio Holder for Financial Services, Mr W Northam, introduced the report. He explained that central Government was currently seeking local authorities to apply to pilot 100% business rates retention in 2018/19. They were particularly keen to receive submissions from two tier areas and rural authorities. Any application required the agreement of Norfolk County Council and all seven districts. Mr Northam said that the initial financial benefit would only be for a single year but could potentially result in around £345,000 in additional business rates income for the

authority. The item was urgent as the deadline for submission to join the pilot was 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017. Mr Northam concluded by saying that the project would also help support closer working and a more collaborative approach county-wide and help provide Central Government with valuable learning in respect of the potential future operation of the business rates system.

In seconding the proposal, Mr T FitzPatrick said that this was a great opportunity for Norfolk, as outlined in detail in section 2 of the report, and he encouraged all members to support it.

It was proposed by Mr W Northam, seconded by Mr FitzPatrick and

**RESOLVED to**

1. Note that an application will only be progressed in the event that all Norfolk districts confirm their interest in participating;
2. Note the potential unfunded risk of approximately £7.371m for Norfolk as a whole if the Government does not offer a “no detriment” protection to new pilots;
3. Note that the Norfolk Business Rates Pool will be discontinued in the event of a successful pilot application;
4. Note that in the event that a pilot application is not progressed, it is anticipated that the current Norfolk Business Rates Pool membership will be extended to include Great Yarmouth Borough Council (subject to agreement by the other members of the Pool);
5. Confirm in principle support for the Council to explore submitting a joint application with all Norfolk local authorities for a Business rates Pilot for 2018/19 by the deadline of 27 October 2017;
6. Give Delegated Authority to the Council’s Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and other Norfolk authorities to finalise the application subject to a positive business case

**Reason for the Decision:**

To participate in a county-wide scheme that could deliver up to £345,000 in extra business rates income for NNDC in 2018/19.

**52. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

**53. MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

The Leader confirmed that Members could ask questions as each item arose.

Before moving onto the next agenda item, the Leader said that he wished to update Members on a couple of matters.

He said that he had written to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the Rt Hon Sajid Javid, asking for extra powers to deal with unauthorised encampments. He had received a positive response agreeing to discuss the issues.

Referring to the Full Council meeting of 20 September 2017, the Leader said that he had gone back to the Minister for Local Government, Marcus Jones MP, to update him on progress regarding the Council’s Local Discretionary Revaluation Relief

Scheme. He said that he had been able to inform him that all revised bills had been sent out on 29 September 2017.

#### **54. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MATTERS**

None

#### **55. COMMUNITY HOUSING FUND UPDATE**

In the absence of the Portfolio Holder, this item was introduced by Mrs S Arnold. She explained that the report provided an update on progress in relation to the Community Housing Fund and provided information on the establishment and management of the revolving loan fund and the provision of 'Local Homes'. Mrs Arnold said that she was pleased to be able to confirm that three people had been recruited to form a dedicated team to work with communities and community-led housing organisations to support the development of community-led housing schemes. To support such schemes a revolving loan fund had been identified. The report outlined how the fund would operate and decision-making arrangements for its management. She concluded by saying that an in principle funding agreement had been provided to Holt and Neighbourhood Housing Society to support the acquisition of up to 4 affordable homes on the new housing estate at Heath Farm.

Mr R Shepherd said that he was very impressed with the provision of local homes at a discount.

It was proposed by Mrs S Arnold, seconded by Mrs A Claussen-Reynolds and

#### **RESOLVED to**

- 1. Note the update on the Community Housing Fund and the establishment and management of the revolving loan fund.**
- 2. Approve the definition and methodology of Local Homes as set out in this report.**

#### **Reason for the decision:**

To ensure that the opportunity presented by the Community Housing Fund will be fully realised, that a range of local housing needs can be met and that community-led housing organisations are able to access the financial support they require.

#### **56. BREAK GO-GO HARES PROJECT**

The report was introduced by the Portfolio Holder for tourism, Mr N Dixon. He explained that following successful sculpture trails in 2013 and 2015 and in celebration of BREAK Charity's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the scheme for 2018 would be extended to include a county-wide trail. Sponsors were being sought for the event and it was proposed that the Council played an active role by sponsoring 'Moongazer' hares and encouraging local businesses to do so. Mr Dixon said that he wished to propose that the recommendation was amended to include consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture, Ms M Prior.

Ms Prior said that she was very happy to second the proposals and that the installation of two hares in key locations would increase footfall and spend in the District.

It was proposed by Mr N Dixon, seconded by Ms M Prior and

## **RESOLVED**

To allocate £15,000 from the general reserves and authorise the Head of Economic & Community Development, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Business & Tourism and the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Culture, to apply to sponsor two Moongazer Hares on behalf of the Council and, if successful, to agree the terms of sponsorship/ acquisition, artwork and location.

### **57. NEW ANGLIA LOCAL ENTERPRISE PARTNERSHIP – A NEW ECONOMIC STRATEGY FOR NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK**

The report was presented by the Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Mr N Dixon. He began by emphasising that it was very important as it set the strategic framework for the future, laying out a vision for the future growth and prosperity of Norfolk and Suffolk up to 2036. Mr Dixon said that Head of Service, Mr S Blatch, had done a considerable amount of work to ensure that North Norfolk was fully represented in the plan. It was hoped that these amendments would be incorporated within the strategy to ensure that the challenges and opportunities faced by more rural areas were addressed.

Mr Dixon said that it should be acknowledged that the strategy was a work in progress but that it was important that all considerations were fully represented. Issues such as the funding and maintenance of key infrastructure were vital for rural areas and not enough focus was placed on them in the draft strategy.

Members were invited to speak:

Mr E Seward said that the strategy document had come before the County Council's Policy and Resources Committee and had been approved without the amendments outlined here. He said that he had outlined concerns at the meeting but there did not seem to be an understanding that the Local Enterprise Partnership covered the whole of Norfolk and Suffolk including rural areas. He asked what the Council intended to do to persuade the County Council that North Norfolk needed full representation.

Mr Dixon reiterated that it was a work in progress and that the Council would take all opportunities to ensure that North Norfolk was 'on the map'.

Mr R Reynolds referred to section 4.6 of the report which outlined concerns regarding the market towns in the District. He said that the Council must remain mindful of the impact of the strategy on these towns.

Mrs S Arnold said that she welcomed Mr Seward's comments and she hoped that he would continue to push for North Norfolk's representation at future meetings of NCC's Policy and Resources Committee.

Mr T FitzPatrick in seconding the proposals said that he had recently attended a stakeholders meeting with the Head of Paid Service (SB). According to the draft strategy document, north of Norwich and East of Ipswich were 'barren' areas with little economic activity and it had been emphasised that the gas terminal at Bacton, for example, produced 35% of the UK's gas and that North Norfolk was not just focussed on tourism. He reiterated Mr Dixon's comment that it was definitely a work in progress.

It was proposed by Mr N Dixon, seconded by Mr T FitzPatrick and

**RESOLVED that**

North Norfolk District Council should welcome and indicate its support for the new Economic Strategy, subject to a number of changes being made which seek to better reflect the challenges and opportunities faced by more rural areas of the two counties, including North Norfolk.

**Reason for the decision:**

To represent the opportunities and challenges of the North Norfolk economy in the context of the New Anglia LEP developing a new Economic Strategy for Norfolk and Suffolk.

**58. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was proposed by the Leader, seconded by Mrs J Oliver and

**RESOLVED that**

Under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to the Act.

**59. CROMER PIER MANAGEMENT CONTRACT**

The Portfolio Holder for Asset Commercialisation, Mrs J Oliver, explained that the current contract for the management of Cromer Pier was due to expire in January 2018 and the procurement of a new operator was now required. She thanked the officers involved and the members on the selection panel for their hard work. Mrs Oliver then outlined the key objectives for the new contract and explained that the Council was now at the stage of appointing a preferred bidder. She reminded Members there was a standstill period of 10 days during which confidentiality was imperative. At the end of that period, if there was no challenge, the winning bidder would be announced.

Members were invited to speak:

Ms M Prior, in seconding the proposal said that she also wanted to thank staff and members for their support.

Mrs S Arnold asked whether the unsuccessful bidders would be informed why they had not succeeded. Mrs Oliver replied that they had been thanked at the time for their interest and told that they were not going forward.

The Leader reminded Members of the importance of confidentiality and that this item was not subject to call-in by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Mrs Oliver said that the announcement of the winning bidder would be in the public domain as would the contract. Everything else would remain confidential.

It was proposed by Mrs J Oliver, seconded by Mrs M Prior and

## **RESOLVED**

- 1. That Cabinet approve the decision in relation to the Preferred Bidder as detailed within the appendices and award the contract to Bidder 2, subject to the standstill period and satisfactory completion of the contract agreements.**
- 2. That delegated authority is given to the Corporate Director and Joint Head of Paid Services (NB), in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holders, to finalise the legal agreement for the contract.**

### **Reason for the decision:**

To award the contract for the management of Cromer Pier ahead of the expiry of the current contract in January 2018.

The meeting ended at 10.29am

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman