

## **CABINET**

**Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Monday 16 April 2018 at the Council Offices, Holt Road, Cromer at 10.00 am**

**Members Present:**

Mrs S Arnold	Mr W Northam
Mrs H Cox	Miss B Palmer
Mr N Dixon	Mr R Price
Mr J Lee (Chairman)	

**Also attending:**

Mrs A Fitch-Tillett	Mr J Rest
Ms V Gay	Mr R Reynolds
Mr N Pearce	Mr R Shepherd
Mrs A Claussen-Reynolds	Mr B Smith
Mr N Lloyd	

**Officers in**

**Attendance:**

The Corporate Directors, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Technical Accountant, the Housing Strategy and Community Development Manager, the Health and Communities Team Leader, the Policy and Performance Management Officer, the Democratic Services Manager and the Democratic Services Officer.

**Also in attendance:** David Bale, EDP

**120. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

None.

**121. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 March 2018 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**122. PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None.

**123. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

**124. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

**125. MEMBERS QUESTIONS**

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

## 126. OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MATTERS

Mrs H Cox, Portfolio Holder for Environment, Coast and Licensing, proposed this recommendation which had been made to Cabinet by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at the meeting of 14<sup>th</sup> February 2018 regarding Agenda item 17: Enforcement Update.

It was proposed by Mrs H Cox, seconded by Mrs S Arnold and

### RESOLVED

- a) **That the temporary post in the Combined Enforcement Team is made permanent.**
- b) **To support the use of Reserves to fund the above, if necessary.**
- c) **To support the early use of Compulsory Purchase Orders.**

## 127. RECOMMENDATION FROM COUNCIL

This item was introduced by the Leader.

At the meeting of Council on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2018, a recommendation to Cabinet was made under Agenda item 9: Review of Political Balance and Appointment of Committees, Sub-Committees, Working Parties and Panels. The reason for the recommendation was to improve the political balance of the Planning Policy and Built Heritage Working Party.

### RESOLVED

**To increase the number of seats on Planning Policy & Built Heritage Working Party from 11 to 12.**

## 128. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PLANNING POLICY & BUILT HERITAGE WORKING PARTY

This item was introduced by Mrs S Arnold, Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning and Planning Policy and seconded by Miss B Palmer. The recommendations had been made at the meeting of the Planning Policy and Built Heritage Working Party held on 19 February 2018.

### **Agenda Item 9: Housing & Economic Land Availability Assessment (Part 2)**

### RESOLVED

- a) **To accept and publish HELAA Part 2 which covers employment land as a source of evidence to support the emerging Local Plan for North Norfolk to cover the period 2016-2036.**
- b) **That delegated authority is given to Planning Policy Manager to undertake minor amendments to the report and associated mapping in order to publish.**

## **Agenda Item 10: Local Plan – Approach to Amenity Land**

### **RESOLVED**

**That the Working Party recommend to Cabinet to accept and publish the Amenity Green Space Topic paper as a source of evidence to inform the emerging Local Plan for North Norfolk to cover the period 2016-2036.**

#### **129. ANNUAL ACTION PLAN 2018/19**

The report, which brought the Annual Action Plan for 2018/19 for approval by Cabinet, was introduced and proposed by the Leader. He thanked the Policy and Performance Management Officer for producing a balanced and effective plan which would develop the priorities of the current administration.

Mr N Lloyd expressed concern that some actions didn't have targets. The Policy and Performance Management Officer explained that the approach had been re-focused to show outcomes rather than targets. Each year an assessment of progress would be made. Many of the areas, e.g. tourism, were subject to influences beyond the Council's control and it would not be appropriate to set targets. However, the impact that the Council was having could be assessed.

Mr Lloyd asked if the Action Plan was a work in progress, rather than a plan with specific targets. Mr J Lee explained that the Council worked to an Action Plan based on the Corporate Plan. Targets were of limited value, especially in areas where there were factors, e.g. weather, that the Council could not influence. Mrs H Cox said that everything was work in progress but that next year the Council could quantify what had been achieved. The Monitoring Officer further explained that the Plan set out the actions the Council intended to take to have a positive influence. The intention was to list intended actions in big areas where the Council had no direct influence. Some areas were within the Council's gift, e.g. flytipping, and would show demonstrable results against targets.

Mr N Dixon seconded the approval of the Action Plan, saying that he was satisfied that – when read in context – it spoke for itself.

### **RESOLVED**

**To approve the Annual Action Plan 2018-19 and the targets and recommendations for management performance indicators as set out in Appendix 1.**

#### **130. NORFOLK BIG SOCIETY FUND**

This item was introduced and proposed by the Leader who said that the best part of his job was to be able to award money to smaller parishes in order to improve life for the community. It had been his experience that smaller amounts were often appreciated more than larger ones. Mr W Northam, Portfolio Holder for Finance, Revenue and Benefits, said that this fund would be missed when the Second Homes income ceased in 2020.

Mrs H Cox seconded the recommendation. She urged Members to remind their Parish Councils that Big Society grant funding was available. Mr N Dixon endorsed the Big Society Fund which he considered was more effective than the previous local area partnership scheme.

Mr N Lloyd said that he agreed with everything that had been said and that the fund had excellent governance and had benefitted many communities. He suggested that Cabinet should explore if there was any way to maintain the fund after 2020. Mrs S Arnold also expressed her support of the scheme which, she said, was greatly appreciated by local communities and brought people together.

Mrs A Fitch-Tillett and Mr R Reynolds congratulated the Health and Communities Team Leader and her staff for their help to smaller communities with filling in application forms etc.

The Leader, in adding his thanks to the Health and Communities Team Leader and her staff, informed Cabinet that there was a balance of £1m remaining in the Big Society reserve which could prolong the scheme for several years beyond 2020 subject to the necessary approval processes.

### **RESOLVED**

- 1) To note the success of the Big Society Fund and to recommend to Council.**
- 2) That the Big Society Fund grant scheme should continue at its current level of funding (£225,000) for another year.**

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

1. To ensure Cabinet are informed about the Big Society Fund during its sixth year of operation.
2. To enable the continuation of the Big Society Fund during 2018/19.

### **131. LAND DISPOSAL AT EDGEFIELD**

This item was introduced by the Portfolio Holder, Mrs S Arnold. The report recommended the disposal of the Council's remaining retained housing land off Rectory Road, Edgefield for the provision of a mixed tenure Exception Housing Scheme subject to planning permission being secured. Option 2 (to dispose of the site by private treaty to Broadland Housing Group) was recommended.

Responding to a concern raised by Mr N Lloyd regarding timing, Mrs Arnold referred him to the officer's report regarding Option 3. Disposing of the site on open market was not recommended because there was no certainty that another interested purchaser will be found due to the planning constraints on the land. In addition, any other interested purchaser might not be able to match or exceed the offer which had already been received from Broadland Housing Group. Marketing the site for sale would incur additional costs beyond those incurred in a sale by private treaty.

It was proposed by Mrs S Arnold, seconded by Mr R Price and

### **RESOLVED**

**Cabinet agrees to the disposal of land off Rectory Road, Edgefield to Broadland Housing Group by private treaty on the terms set out at paragraph 3.1 in the report.**

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

To support the Council's Corporate Plan priority:

- Addressing the housing and infrastructure needs for local people whilst meeting the market demand for housing by supporting the delivery of new housing across the district.

### 132. MARKET TOWN INITIATIVE

This item was introduced by Mr N Dixon, Portfolio Holder for Economic Development, Business and Tourism. The report sought Cabinet approval for the further development of a strategic Market Town Initiative across North Norfolk's inland market towns. The Initiative originated from the Mary Portas Review of town and city centres which the Economic Development Team had looked at in terms of how it might apply to North Norfolk and had stimulated thinking on what could be done to regenerate our market towns. Although the Initiative sat with bigger projects in Cromer and Wells, it was essential that resources were spread across the District. Each town council would have its own ideas and it was for the Council to facilitate, rather than be prescriptive.

#### Questions and Discussion

- Ms V Gay expressed support of the Initiative but had concerns about some elements of the framework. She perceived Fakenham and North Walsham as growth towns with larger populations and believed that this should be reflected when money was allocated. She was also concerned that there was no reference to Built Heritage in the management plans. She accepted that all schemes must go forward on the basis of dialogue with town councils, but hoped that they would be closely monitored by NNDC. Mr J Lee said that these concerns would be addressed by the working group which was being set up by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. As far as funding was concerned, the ideas would have to come from the towns and the money allocated on a case by case basis. The sum allocated would be flexible. The Monitoring Officer said that although Built Heritage was not specifically mentioned in the scheme there were ways for it to fit in, although not necessarily delivered directly by the scheme.
- Mr R Reynolds expressed support for the scheme and said that Fakenham was already engaging with it.
- Mr J Rest asked if the scheme had a timeline. The Monitoring Officer explained that the bids would come to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee first and then to Cabinet. Bids would tend to be for "quick win" projects so that the money would be committed before the end of the year. Any un-committed money would be subject to a decision by Cabinet.
- The proposal was seconded by Mr R Price who said that the scheme was something that would make a difference in our market towns. He was pleased to hear that Fakenham had made a start.

It was proposed by Mr N Dixon, seconded by Mr R Price and

#### **RESOLVED**

- (1) That Cabinet to approve the Framework as set out in the report for the North Norfolk Market Town Initiative Programme.**
- (2) That Cabinet refer the further development of the Market Town Initiative to the Overview and Scrutiny committee in the terms set out in the report.**

### **133. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

#### **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.**

### **134. PRIVATE BUSINESS**

#### **PROPOSED LEASE OF DEPOT, GROVE LANE, HOLT**

The report was introduced by Mr R Price, Portfolio Holder for Property and Asset Commercialisation. It provided an update for Members regarding the former depot and sought approval regarding a proposed lease. The former depot had stood vacant since the previous tenant vacated in 2013 and the proposal would bring the premises back into use, allowing a local business to remain within the town. The lease offered a market rental income over a 15-year term.

It was recommended that Cabinet agreed to approve Option 3 of the lease proposal as highlighted in paragraph 3 (as summarised in Appendix A).

It was proposed by Mr R Price, seconded by Mr N Dixon and

#### **RESOLVED**

**To approve Option 3 of the lease proposal as highlighted in paragraph 3 (as summarised in Appendix A).**

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

1. To support the Councils Corporate priority of "A district with a thriving economy offering better jobs and prospects for local people".
2. To bring this vacant premises back into use and reduce the Councils liability.
3. To generate a market rental income.

The meeting ended at 10.42 am.

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Chairman