

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Monday, 9 September 2019 at the Council Chamber - Council Offices, Holt Road, Cromer, NR27 9EN at 10.00 am

Committee

Members Present:

Mr A Brown	Mrs S Bütikofer (Chair)
Mrs A Fitch-Tillett	Ms V Gay
Mr G Hayman	Mr R Kershaw
Mr N Lloyd	Ms K Ward

Members also attending:

Mr T Adams	Mr N Housden
Mr N Dixon	Mr N Pearce
Mr P Fisher	Mr J Rest

Officers in Attendance:

Heads of Paid Service, Monitoring Officer, Section 151 Officer, the Communications & PR Manager, the Communications Officer, the Democratic Services Manager and the Democratic Services & Governance Officer (Scrutiny)

Also in attendance:

None

Apologies for Absence:

Mr E Seward

1 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

None received.

2 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

4 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

The Chairman reminded Members that they could ask questions throughout the meeting as issues arose.

5 OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY MATTERS

The Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee informed Cabinet that there were no matters to consider.

6 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT 2019/20 - PERIOD 4

In the absence of the Portfolio Holder for Finance, the Leader introduced this item.

She outlined the report and explained that although the overall position at the end of July 2019 showed an underspend of £612,936 for the current financial year on the revenue account, this was currently expected to deliver a full year overspend of £141,156.

It was proposed by Cllr S Bütikofer, seconded by Cllr R Kershaw and

RESOLVED to:

Note the contents of the report and the current budget monitoring position;

Recommend to Council

To release £468,954 from capital receipts to fund the ongoing maintenance works to Cromer Pier following receipt of the storm surge insurance payment.

Reason for the Decision:

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

7 NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK LOCAL INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY - NORTH NORFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL COMMENTS ON DRAFT STRATEGY DOCUMENT

Cllr R Kershaw, Portfolio Holder for Economic and Career Development, introduced this item. He thanked the Head of Paid Service (SB) for collating the report and said it was important that it was in the public domain. He explained that the draft Norfolk and Suffolk Local Industrial Strategy laid out an ambitious vision for the future development of the Norfolk and Suffolk economy. It was intended to complement and contribute towards the objectives of the national industrial strategy.

The Leader invited Members to speak:

Cllr N Dixon said that whilst he welcomed the report, he was mindful of previous discussions regarding North Norfolk's lack of a share of funding and intervention. He acknowledged that work had been done to address this but it was a problem that went back over a number of years and he asked why Members should have confidence that this report would achieve a fair share – any more than previous papers. Cllr K Ward replied that previously economic development had been looked at in isolation. Since looking more widely at environmental concerns and issues, it had become apparent that there was funding available specifically for this sector as well as ethical pensions investment.

It was proposed by Cllr R Kershaw, seconded by Cllr N Lloyd and

RESOLVED that

Cabinet indicated its support for the draft Local Industrial Strategy for Norfolk and Suffolk as detailed in Section 3 of the report.

Reason for the Decision:

To ensure that North Norfolk is well-positioned and seen as a supportive and committed partner in the context of the emerging Local Industrial Strategy for

Norfolk and Suffolk.

8 NORTH NORFOLK GROWTH SITES DELIVERY STRATEGY

Cllr R Kershaw, Portfolio Holder for Economic and Career Development, introduced this item. He explained that it was becoming increasingly challenging to unlock and deliver local employment sites that had the potential to support economic growth. The delivery strategy was intended to support the Council achieve a more delivery-focussed approach to bringing forward the development of key sites and unlocking 'bottle-necks' in some locations.

Cllr A Brown, in seconding the proposals, said that funding would be pulled in from various sources and that the strategy linked into the Corporate Plan.

The Leader invited Members to speak:

1. Cllr N Dixon said that he welcomed the report. He asked how it would link in terms of timing with the Local Plan. He sought assurance that one would not hold up the other. Cllr Kershaw agreed that the strategy could not work in isolation. The Local Plan would dictate where potential sites would be brought forward.
2. Cllr J Rest said that he had reservations regarding infrastructure. It was important that sites were accessible and this should be taken into consideration when potential sites were looked at. Cllr Kershaw acknowledged this and said that this linked into sustainability – with digital access also being key.
3. Cllr K Ward, Portfolio Holder for Special Projects, said that cross-functional working was imperative and the Local Plan was part of this. She confirmed that there had been active work undertaken considering the sequencing of the Local Plan and the Growth Sites Delivery Strategy.
4. Cllr N Dixon commented that infrastructure was crucial and he was keen to hear that more prominence would be given to economic development and infrastructure alongside housing. He said that it was important to integrate it in a suitable way. He said that it would be an iterative process and that he was also concerned about phasing and timescales for the Local Plan.

Cllr Kershaw said that the work needed to progress and there was no intention of delaying the Local Plan.

It was proposed by Cllr R Kershaw, seconded by Cllr A Brown and

RESOLVED to

Acknowledge the project and note the contents of the report.

Reason for the decision:

To target NNDC's own projects and financial resources on the opportunities that are most beneficial to the local economy and which are most in need of such investment. Furthermore, it will inform the delivery of allocated sites and designations in the emerging Local Plan and will help inform the investment decisions of third parties (be that developers, land owners, industrialists or growing local businesses). It will also improve the chances of success of bids when seeking external funding.

9 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGE POINTS - COUNCIL CAR PARKS

The Leader, Cllr S Bütikofer, thanked staff for their support and hard work which had resulted in another very successful Greenbuild event. There had been lots of very positive feedback from the public. Mrs J Wilson received special thanks for her hard work in organising the event.

Cllr N Lloyd introduced the report. He said that transport was a significant contributor to carbon emissions and installing electric vehicle (EV) charging points in Council owned car parks was the first step in promoting green transport. He explained that time was of the essence as applications for government funding were being accepted in the current financial year. He concluded by thanking the Head of Paid Service (NB) for preparing the report.

Cllr V Gay, said that she was pleased to second the recommendations. She added that at the recent Environment Forum, many of the attendees had said that the District Council should show leadership on green issues.

The Leader invited Members to speak:

1. Cllr J Rest asked whether people using the charging devices would also have to purchase a car parking ticket. He then queried whether more than one vehicle could be charged at a time, whether they would run 24 hours a day and if they would be powered by electricity. The Head of Paid Service (NB) confirmed that they would be powered by electricity. In total there would be 34 charging points which could charge one vehicle at a time. Ducting would be laid at the time of installation so that it could be extended as the project progressed. He said it was a funding criteria that they were available 24 hours a day. It was possible that it could be cheaper for local residents to charge their vehicles overnight, with a higher rate during the day. He added that most councils opted for levying car parking charges during the day but this could be reviewed.
2. Cllr N Housden asked whether e-bikes could be included as part of the scheme. The Leader replied that two e-bikes had been purchased for use by staff and she would consider looking at the issue more widely. In response to a further question regarding the use of cargo bikes for local food delivery, the Leader said that Cllr N Lloyd, Portfolio Holder for Environment would look into all options.

The Leader advised Members that Inspire Renewables had assisted with preparing the funding bid but that there would be a full tendering process for the installation of the charging points. It was important to ensure that the most modern technology was being utilised too.

It was proposed by Cllr N Lloyd, seconded by Cllr V Gay and

RESOLVED

To approve an EVC installation project as six council owned car parks across the District, with the work being phased if required to enable the maximum grant funding from Government.

To recommend to Council:

The approval of a capital budget of £248,600 to fund the EVC installation project as

described in the report. This is to be funded from capital reserves and OLEV grant from Government as described in the report.

ASSUMING THIS BUDGET IS APPROVED, OFFICERS ARE AUTHORISED TO:

- a) appoint Inspired Renewables on the basis of their experience and involvement to date, to undertake further work to finalise the necessary applications to OLEV, seeking the available grant funding, at a cost of £5,000
- b) procure the necessary ground works, cabling and installation of the EVCs
- c) procure a contract with a back office payment services provider for the charging mechanism
- d) bring forward any necessary changes to the Council's Car Parking Order to allow for EVC spaces

Reason for the decision:

1. Electric Vehicle Charging Points are an important component in encouraging the uptake of Electric Vehicles, with resulting positive environmental benefits.
2. To provide the necessary budget for the project
3. To provide the necessary arrangements for installation and customer use of the EVCs once installed.

10 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Not required

11 PRIVATE BUSINESS

None

The meeting ended at 10.29am.

Chairman