

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Monday, 7 October 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 N Lloyd	Mr E Seward

Members also attending:

Mr T Adams
Mr N Dixon
Mr J Rest

Officers in attendance:

Chief Technical Accountant, Economic Growth Manager and Head of Economic and Community Development

Apologies for Absence:

Mr G Hayman
Mr R Kershaw

12 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting of Cabinet held on 9th September were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

13 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

None received.

14 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

There was one item of urgent business, the item was also exempt (see agenda items 9 & 10). The Leader informed Members that this item would be taken at the end of the meeting.

15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

16 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

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

17 OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY MATTERS

The Chairman of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Cllr N Dixon, informed Members that there had been one recommendation. He explained that it was regarding the creation of an executive/scrutiny protocol to further develop the relationship between Cabinet and the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

1. Cllr E Seward said that he welcomed the recommendation but would have hoped to have had sight of it before the meeting – possibly at a pre-agenda or business planning meeting.
2. Cllr V Gay sought clarification on why it was felt that a protocol was required. The Head of Legal and Democratic Services said that it had come out of new Government statutory guidance and it was considered to be best practice. She added that this approach supported all of the work that had been undertaken recently to ensure that Cabinet and Overview & Scrutiny Committee worked well together.
3. Cllr N Lloyd asked about the process going forward. He asked whether a protocol would be drafted which both Cabinet and the Scrutiny Committee would then agree to. Cllr Dixon replied that although the proposals came out of a national context, the protocol would be developed by NNDC officers and would reflect local practice. It would be shared with both Cabinet and Overview & Scrutiny Committee for approval.

RESOLVED to agree

To the creation of an executive/scrutiny protocol to support early and regular engagement between the executive and scrutiny

Reason for the decision:

To support best practice in response to new statutory guidance on overview and scrutiny in local government,

18 DETERMINATION OF COUNCIL TAX DISCOUNTS 2020/21

Cllr E Seward, Portfolio Holder for Finance, introduced this item. He drew Members' attention to Recommendation 1(c), saying that there were currently 146 properties that had been empty for more than 3 years. With 49 empty for more than 5 years. It was proposed that a 200% Council tax charge would be applied to the latter.

It was proposed by Cllr E Seward, seconded by Cllr V Gay and

RESOLVED to recommend

That Full Council shall resolve that under section 11A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Finance Act 2012 and other enabling powers one of the following applies:

Recommendation 1

- (a) The discounts for the year 2020/21 and beyond are set at the levels indicated in the table at paragraph 2.1.
- (b) The premium for long term empty properties (those that have been empty for a consecutive period longer than 24 months) is set at 100% of the Council Tax charge for that dwelling, with the
- (c) The premium for long term empty properties (those that have been empty for a consecutive period longer than 60 months) is set at 200% of the Council Tax charge for that dwelling

- (d) To continue to award a local discount of 100% for eligible cases of care leavers under section 13A of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended).
- (e) That an exception to the levy charges may be made by the Section 151 Officer on advice of the Revenues Manager in the circumstances laid out in section 3.6 of this report.

Recommendation 2

- (a) those dwellings that are specifically identified under regulation 6 of the Council Tax (Prescribed Classes of Dwellings)(England) Regulations 2003 will retain the 50% discount and;
- (b) those dwellings described or geographically defined at Appendix A which in the reasonable opinion of the Head of Finance and Asset Management are judged not to be structurally capable of occupation all year round and were built before the restrictions of seasonal usage were introduced by the Town and Country Planning Act 1947, will be entitled to a 35% discount.

In accordance with the relevant legislation these determinations shall be published in at least one newspaper circulating in North Norfolk before the end of the period of 21 days beginning with the date of the determinations.

Reason for the decision:

To set appropriate council tax discounts which will apply in 2020/21 in accordance with the legal requirements and to raise additional council tax revenue.

19 NORTH WALSHAM - HIGH STREET HERITAGE ACTION ZONE PROGRAMME

Cllr V Gay, Portfolio Holder for Culture & Wellbeing, introduced this item. She said that it was a wonderful opportunity for North Walsham, the District's largest town, and she thanked the officers for their hard work in preparing the bid against a tight timescale. An impressive body of supporting evidence had been built up and used very effectively. Cllr E Seward made reference to the recommendation to allocate match funding. He said that it was a requirement of the programme that the money must be spent in the town centre and it should be noted that this may lead to some loss of on-street car parking spaces. If this happened it was likely that they would be relocated to an adjacent car park.

Cllr N Dixon said that he welcomed the achievement and said that credit should be given to everyone involved. He referred to the Council's Market Towns Initiative and asked whether there would be a linking up of the two projects. He added that he would like to see some joining up of the objectives to ensure that the best use of both programmes was achieved. Cllr N Lloyd confirmed that the same groups were involved with both bids and that they would be working closely together. The Leader agreed, saying that the Market Towns Initiative had helped support the case to attract the funding for the High Street Heritage Action Zone programme.

It was proposed by Cllr V Gay, seconded by Cllr A Fitch-Tillett and

RESOLVED that

- 1) Cabinet welcome and support the opportunity that this programme provides to regenerate North Walsham town centre and recommend to Full Council that up to £975,000 be allocated from capital receipts to match fund the programme delivery.
- 2) Cabinet resolve to delegate the formulation of the detailed programme to the Head of Economic & Community Development in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Economic & Career Development and the Portfolio Holder for Culture & Wellbeing, following a process that includes Historic England and local stakeholders.
- 3) Cabinet resolve to establish a Cabinet Working Party to support the project development and delivery.

Reasons for the decision:

To support the Council in its ambitions to make town centres vibrant places to live and do business.

20 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Cllr E Seward, seconded by Cllr N Lloyd and

RESOLVED to pass the following resolution:

“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 2 & 4 of Part I of Schedule 12A (as amended) to the Act.”

21 PRIVATE BUSINESS – URGENT ITEM

The Leader informed Members that Cabinet wanted to resolve the issues around the senior management structure of the organisation identified both in the Capability review and by the Local Government Association. The matter was now considered to be urgent as the Council wished to complete the development and delivery of the corporate plan and to start delivery of its new agenda.

The Leader explained that there was no decision to be made, it was just to notify Members of the start of a process. Cllr Rest sought clarification as to whether it would be an external process. The Leader replied that this was not necessarily the case.

Cllr N Dixon, Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee said that whilst he did have some concerns, in terms of process and procedure he was happy to give his support.

RESOLVED

To note the report.

The meeting ended at 10.24am

Chairman