

CABINET

Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on Monday, 10 May 2021 in the Council Chamber - Council Offices at 10.00 am

Committee

Members Present:

Mrs S Bütikofer (Chair)	Mrs A Fitch-Tillett
Ms V Gay	Mr G Hayman
Mr R Kershaw	Mr N Lloyd
Mr E Seward	Miss L Shires
Mr J Toye	

Members also attending:

Cllr N Dixon

Officers in Attendance:

Chief Executive, Democratic Services Manager, Democratic Services and Governance Officer - Scrutiny and Assistant Director for Finance, Assets, Legal (& Monitoring Officer)

71 UPDATE FROM THE LEADER

The Leader thanked Cllr Kershaw and Cllr Seward for standing in for her during a very difficult time.

She welcomed members back to the Council Chamber, saying that NNDC was one of the first local authorities to hold a physical meeting following the change in the rules. The Leader spoke about her concerns around holding meetings in person and her disappointment that Central Government had not responded to the requests from all parties across the UK asking them to extend virtual meetings for a couple of months to allow all members to attend and keep safe. She thanked everyone for their patience and understanding whilst the Council adapted to a different way of working.

72 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th April were approved as a correct record, subject to the following amendment:

Minute 63 – paragraph 1: ‘were announced’ to be removed as it was repetitious.

73 PUBLIC QUESTIONS AND STATEMENTS

None received.

74 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

The Leader said that there was one item of urgent business:

Leisure Contract – Proposed extension to the Deed of Settlement to reflect the ongoing impact of COVID19 on the performance of the Leisure Operating Contract.

As there was an exempt appendix, the Leader proposed taking this item at the end of the meeting.

75 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Shires declared the following non-pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 4 – urgent business:

Membership of Victory Leisure Centre in North Walsham

76 MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

None received.

77 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM PLANNING POLICY & BUILT HERITAGE WORKING PARTY

Cllr J Toye, Portfolio Holder for Planning, introduced this item. He explained that the additional recommendation regarding the Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework and surface and foul water drainage, which had been agreed at the previous meeting of Cabinet (minute 59) had not been supported when it was taken through to the wider Strategic Planning Forum. He reassured members that the Council's Local Plan would cover this issue and would be stronger than the wider strategic framework. Discussions on this issue at County level would continue and he proposed that the Council continued to sign up to the framework.

He then spoke about the recommendations before Members. He said that the Council continued to work hard regarding renewable and low carbon energy.

It was proposed by Cllr J Toye, seconded by Cllr A Fitch-Tillett and

RESOLVED

Local Plan Draft Policy Approaches to Sustainable Development.

To endorse the revised Policy below delegating responsibility for drafting such an approach, including that of finalising the associated policies to the Planning Manager:

SD7 – Renewable and Low Carbon Energy

North Walsham Western Extension: Public Engagement

That delegated authority is given to the Planning Policy Manager on the final timing and content of the engagement material following consultation with the Chair of the Planning Policy and Built Heritage Working Group and North Walsham Members.

78 RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Chairman of Overview & Scrutiny Committee, Cllr Dixon, introduced this item. He outlined the two recommendations, highlighting the proposal for the Council to establish a charter mark scheme. He said the Committee had a very positive view of the Environment Charter and the discussion had been positive and constructive.

Cllr Dixon conveyed his disappointment that the Equality and Diversity Policy was not on the Cabinet agenda for this month. He asked when it would be coming forward.

The Leader replied that it would be considered at the next meeting on 7th June.

Cllr N Lloyd, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change, said that he welcomed the feedback from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. He said that consideration would be given to adopting a charter mark scheme but that it would involve a lot of work. Regarding the recommendations to strengthen educational engagement opportunities, he said that this was emphasised throughout the charter and underpinned it.

The Leader said that it was important to start moving forwards with the Environment Charter now.

Cllr Hayman said that he welcomed the feedback from the committee and said that environmental issues should be above party politics and he hoped that everyone would sign up to it and engage with each other to support it.

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

RESOLVED to accept the following recommendations:

1. That consideration is given to developing and including a Charter Mark system setting standards across the spectrum of environmental improvements sought, such as: Energy Conservation; Renewable Energy Generation and Storage; Water Capture, Usage and Quality; Flood Prevention and Mitigation, Reductions in Single Use Materials and Carbon Capture projects. Such a system should link up with relevant Planning Policy standards, include an annual award/recognition scheme and seek accreditation with an external environmental body.
2. That consideration is given to increasing the educational and public engagement opportunities to promote active commitment to the Charter and the wider climate change agenda.

79 OFFICER DELEGATED DECISIONS MARCH TO APRIL 2021

The Leader advised members that this item detailed for the public record the decisions taken by senior officers under delegated powers from 1st March 2021 onwards.

AGREED

To receive and note the report.

80 ENVIRONMENTAL CHARTER

Cllr N Lloyd, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change, introduced this

item. He said that engagement on the charter had been extensive and had involved staff and member workshops and a public forum. Feedback on the forum had been excellent with 85% of attendees rating it very highly. He said that the overwhelming view was that people wanted the Council to get on with progressing the charter and moving forwards with the green agenda.

Cllr Dixon said that he agreed with Cllr Hayman's earlier comments regarding it being a non-political issue. He added that the Council had the scope and power to progress this and should do so.

It was proposed by Cllr N Lloyd, seconded by Cllr J Toye and

RESOLVED

To approve the Environmental Charter

81 APPRENTICESHIP SCHEME

The Leader introduced this item. She explained that the proposals would build on an existing scheme and was aimed at growing the Council's apprenticeship offer, growing and developing the skills that the organisation needed.

Cllr Toye said that the Council had a reputation for being a good employer and this scheme would give people an opportunity to develop their skills in a supportive environment.

It was proposed by Cllr S Butikofer, seconded by Cllr J Toye and

RESOLVED

To set aside a contribution of £200,000 to assist with the funding of apprentices salaries. This contribution should be allocated from the Delivery Plan Reserve.

Reason for the Decision:

The release of the reserve monies will allow the Council to continue to grow our apprenticeship offer, investing in the futures of the young people in the district and will also ensure that the Council is developing the skills and talent that it needs now and in the future.

82 URGENT BUSINESS - LEISURE CONTRACT - PROPOSED EXTENSION TO THE DEED OF SETTLEMENT TO REFLECT THE ONGOING IMPACT OF COVID19 ON THE PERFORMANCE OF THE LEISURE OPERATING CONTRACT.

The Leader said that she hoped to keep the discussion in public session but that if any member wished to speak on the exempt appendix, then the meeting would need to move into private business.

She invited Cllr Gay, Portfolio Holder, Portfolio Holder for Leisure, Wellbeing and Culture to introduce the report. Cllr Gay said that agreeing the extension of the Deed of Settlement for the Council's leisure contract was in accordance with Government guidance and removed the potential for contractual claims by the operator. She thanked the officers for their hard work in preparing the report to a tight deadline.

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

RESOLVED

That Cabinet extend the Deed of Settlement with Everyone Active based on the proposed figures for the financial year 2021/22.

Reason for the decision:

To finance any financial liability which becomes due from the Delivery Plan Reserve.

83 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

84 PRIVATE BUSINESS

The meeting ended at Time Not Specified.

Chairman