CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet of South Norfolk District Council held at South Norfolk House, Long Stratton on Monday 23 January 2012 at 9.00 a.m.

Members Present:

Cabinet:  Councillors J Fuller (Chairman) Y Bendle, D Bills, K Kiddie, G Wheatley, M Wilby

Non-Appointed:  Councillors D Blake, T Blowfield, F Ellis, M Gray, L Hornby, W Kemp, B Riches, R Savage

Officers in Attendance: The Chief Executive, the Deputy Chief Executive, the Director of Development and Environment, the Business Improvement Manager, the Corporate Property Manager, the Human Resources Manager, the Planning Policy Manager and the Senior Planning Officer

2027 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following member declared a personal interest in the matter listed below:

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<tr>
<th>Member</th>
<th>Minute No.</th>
<th>Nature of Interest</th>
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<td>Cllr M Wilby</td>
<td>2029</td>
<td>Member of the Planning Committee at Norfolk County Council</td>
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2028 MINUTES

The minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on Monday 28 November 2011 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2029 UPDATE ON AWARD OF PFI CREDITS FOR NORFOLK ENERGY FROM WASTE PLANT – URGENT ITEM

The subject of the decision

The Chairman referred members to the report (taken as an urgent item), updating Cabinet on the Environment Secretary, Caroline Spelman’s award of PFI credits for the Energy from Waste Scheme at Saddlebow in Kings Lynn.
Cllr K Kiddie explained that the decision to award PFI credits allowed the project to move forward to the regulatory Planning and Permitting stage. He stressed that waste management was a Norfolk-wide issue on which all authorities needed to work together. The Council continued to support the Norfolk Waste Strategy.

Cllr Gray was surprised that Cabinet felt the need to consider the issue as an urgent item at this stage. With reference to the Norfolk Waste Strategy, he informed members that the Strategy had been amended back in 2006 specifically to remove incineration. He believed this policy to have been confirmed at full Council in December 2006, and to his knowledge, this policy was still in place.

In response, the Chairman explained that there was some uncertainty over whether the reports and motions referred to by Cllr Gray had actually resulted in the formation of policy for the Council. The Chief Executive understood that the Norfolk Waste Strategy had been amended to make the references to residual waste treatment approaches technology neutral, but was of the view that the Council had not made any policy decision at that time. She agreed to look into the matter further.

**The Decision**

**RESOLVED:** To note the contents of the report.

2030 HR POLICY – REDEPLOYMENT POLICY & PROCEDURE

**The subject of the decision**

Members considered a revised Redeployment Policy and Procedure, referred to Cabinet by the Joint Consultative Committee (JCC) at its meeting on 21 December 2011. Cabinet noted that a consensus regarding the main changes to the policy could not be reached at the meeting of the JCC.

The Deputy Chief Executive drew members’ attention to the main changes to the policy and procedure.

Cllr G Wheatley stressed that there was a need to review the policy and procedure, to ensure that it met the needs of the organisation at a time of organisational change and budgetary pressures. With regard to the proposed reduction in salary protection from 3 years to 1 year, he was sympathetic to employees, but stressed the seriousness of budgetary pressures and the need to ensure a policy that was fair to both the employee and the rate payer. He praised staff and Unison, for their efforts and co-operation during such a difficult time, but he considered the proposals to be fair and he urged members to support the recommendations of the report.

Mr P Grant, Unison Branch Secretary explained that Unison could not support the changes to the pay protection policy. The union accepted that some change was required, but was disappointed that management was not prepared to negotiate on the proposals. Mr Grant proposed a phased change, as had been taken by a number of neighbouring authorities. He was fearful that the proposed changes would affect staff morale and damage staff willingness to embrace change, and he urged members to refer the matter back to the Joint Consultative Committee for further negotiation. Alternatively Unison was prepared to accept the
recommendations of the report, should a guarantee be given of no compulsory redundancies.

The Chairman was proud of the Council’s track record in avoiding compulsory redundancies, but he was unable to make any firm reassurances for the future. He reminded members that the Council’s priority was to deliver services to residents and he believed the proposed changes to be necessary in order to retain the effectiveness and efficiency of the organisation. On balance, he considered it fair and reasonable to accept the recommendations of the report.

The Decision

RESOLVED: To approve the Redeployment Policy and Procedure outlined at Appendix 1 of the report.

The Reasons for the Decision

To ensure that policy and procedure meets the needs of the organisation at a time of organisational change and budgetary pressures.

2031 FURTHER REPRESENTATIONS RECEIVED TO THE 2010 CONSULTATION SUSTAINABILITY APPRAISAL SCOPING REPORT FOR SITE SPECIFIC DOCUMENTS OF THE COUNCIL’S LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The subject of the decision


Cabinet endorsed the proposed responses, as outlined at Appendix A of the report.

The Decision

RESOLVED: To endorse the proposed responses to representations received to the 2010 consultation Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report for the two Area Action Plans and the Site Specific Policies and Allocations Development Plan Document, as outlined at Appendix A of the report.

The Reasons for the Decision

To ensure that the Sustainability Appraisal Framework remains both appropriate, up-to-date and sound in terms of government planning policy requirements.

2032 REVIEW OF THE JOINT CORE STRATEGY
Members noted that a report on the review of the Joint Core Strategy would be considered at a future Cabinet meeting, after the judgement on the legal challenge against the Joint Core Strategy had been received.

2033 CABINET CORE AGENDA

Members noted the latest version of the Cabinet Core Agenda.

2034 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was proposed, seconded and RESOLVED: that under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 Schedule 12A of the Act (as amended).

2035 PROCUREMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT CONTROL IT SYSTEM AND CREATING A FRAMEWORK FOR FUTURE SYSTEMS

The subject of the decision

Members considered the exempt report of the IT Manager and the Business Improvement Manager, which notified members of Management Team's decision to award IDOX the contract for the delivery of Planning and Environmental Services IT Systems, and provided a high level business case highlighting the risks and timelines involved in the implementation of the system.

Cllr D Bills commended the report to members. He stressed the complexity and scale of the exercise, explaining it to be a huge step forward in working towards the organisational blueprint for future working.

The Business Improvement Manager outlined the potential savings to the Council. He reassured members that adequate project management systems were in place which would enable officers to manage the implementation of the IDOX system, in conjunction with the implementation of the integrated housing IT system.

The Decision

RESOLVED:

1. To support the decision made by Management Team to award the contract to IDOX for the delivery of the following systems: planning, building control, land charges, property asset management, environmental health and licensing.

2. To release the capital and revenue budgets as set out in paragraph 5.5 of the report and to incorporate the budget
savings which will be generated into the fy 2013/14 budgets.

The Reasons for the Decision
To increase efficiency and resilience, whilst making significant savings

2036 WYMONDHAM BUSINESS PARK PROPOSED LEASE

The subject of the decision

Members considered the exempt report of the Corporate Property Manager, which detailed the proposed lease of Unit 13, Wymondham Business Park, and sought Cabinet approval under the Rules of Financial Governance.

Members noted the rate of return on the investment and were satisfied with the proposals set out in the report.

The Decision

RESOLVED: To approve the lease of the unit to Lotus Group Plc, under the terms outlined in the report.

The Reasons for the Decision

To achieve rates of return on investments, in line with the Council’s Asset Management Plan investment criteria.

(The meeting concluded at 9.44 am)

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Chairman