CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet of South Norfolk District Council held at South Norfolk House, Long Stratton on Monday 14 September 2015 at 9.00 am

Members Present:

Cabinet: Councillors M Wilby (Chairman for the meeting)
Y Bendle, M Edney, L Hornby and K Mason Billig

Councillor J Fuller

Apologies:

Councillors V Bell, B Bernard, F Ellis and C Foulger

Officers in Attendance: The Chief Executive (S Dinneen), the Director of Business Improvement (D Lorimer), the Director of Community Services (P Boyce), the Director of Growth and Localism (T Horspole), the Head of Environmental Services (B Wade), the Head of Leisure Services (S Goddard), the Project Officer (T Durrell) and the Property Consultant (S Bizley)

2391 URGENT ITEM – DEVOLUTION IN THE NEW ANGLIA AREA

The Chairman agreed that given the current status of the negotiations across Norfolk and the potential agreement of a negotiation document between the Leaders of the Norfolk authorities and key partners on 22 September 2015, that this item should be considered as a matter of urgency.

The Chief Executive explained that as recently as the middle of August, central government announced that those two tier authorities wishing to express an interest in the devolution agenda, needed to do so by 4 September 2015. Emergency meetings between the Leaders of the Norfolk local authorities and key partners were held, and an expression of interest was submitted to the Government within the deadline. She referred to a “double devolution” approach, based on district clusters, which could for
example include the Greater Norwich area. The function areas to be delivered through this approach were yet to be defined. She stressed that this process was not a reiteration of Local Government reorganisation; the Council would still exist in its own right and continue to deliver services. Devolution was an opportunity to transfer the resources and powers from central government, to a more localised level.

Members noted that a full report detailing the contents of the expression of interest, and the next steps, would be considered as an urgent item at the Council meeting on 21 September. In response to a query, the Chief Executive explained that on 22 September, all Leaders within the New Anglia LEP area would meet to discuss and sign off a more detailed negotiation document, ahead of its consideration by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG).

2392 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 20 July were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2393 REVIEW OF CORPORATE ENFORCEMENT POLICY NOW TO BE KNOWN AS: THE COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT POLICY

The Subject of the Decision

Members considered the report of the Head of Environmental Services and the Project Officer, which presented members with the draft Compliance and Enforcement Policy for approval.

The Head of Environmental Services outlined the key issues of his report to members, drawing attention to the risks, should the policy fail to be updated.

Cllr Lee Hornby commended the policy to members, explaining that an update was essential, in order to keep up to date with national guidance, codes and obligations placed on regulators. Cllr Mason Billig also expressed her support for the policy, and was pleased to see that the Council was keeping abreast of national guidance and regulations.

The Decision

RESOLVED To approve the Compliance and Enforcement Policy
The Reasons for the Decision

To ensure compliance with the Department of Business Innovation and Skills Regulators’ Code

Other Options Considered

None

2394 LEISURE PASSPORT REVIEW AND PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE DELIVERY

The Subject of the Decision

Members considered the report of the Head of Leisure, which proposed changes to the Council’s Passport to Leisure scheme.

The Head of Leisure Services outlined the background to his report, explaining that the proposed changes would bring the Council in line with neighbouring authorities. The Director of Business Improvement added that the proposals would align the scheme to the state pension age, and also allow the Council to focus its support to those in greatest need, in line with other Council schemes. Cabinet noted that the changes would be implemented in two phases, with the pricing changes to the scheme coming in to full effect from the date of the full re-opening of the Wymondham Leisure Centre.

The Decision

RESOLVED: To agree to implement the proposed changes to the Leisure Passport scheme, as outlined in paragraphs 4.1 to 4.4 of the report.

The Reasons for the Decision

To bring the scheme in line with those offered in neighbouring authorities, and to allow the Council to focus its support on those that need it most.

Other Options Considered

- To retain the current scheme
- Removal of the scheme.
2395 GYPSY AND TRAVELLER LOCAL PLAN DOCUMENT – PREFERRED OPTIONS

Members noted that the Gypsy and Traveller Local Plan Document – Preferred Options, was deferred to a future meeting of the Cabinet. The Director of Growth and Localism explained the reasons for the deferral, and the need to carefully consider the implications of the changes to national policy. Cllr C Foulger, the Chairman of the Gypsy and Traveller Task Group supported its deferral in order to ensure that the emerging Local Plan document had appropriate regard to the updated Policy.

2396 CABINET CORE AGENDA

Members noted the latest version of the Cabinet Core Agenda.

2397 EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC AND PRESS

It was

RESOLVED: that under Section 100A (4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item 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).

2398 PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

The Subject of the Decision

Members considered the exempt report of the Property Manager, which made a number of recommendations in relation to the developments at Rosebury Park, Poringland and Maple Park in Long Stratton, the disposal of three Council owned properties, and other proposals relating to three other Council owned holdings.

The Director of Business Improvement introduced the report, and the Property Consultant outlined the key issues and risks associated with the proposals.

Members expressed their support for the recommendations.
The Decision

RESOLVED: To approve the recommendations, as listed in paragraphs 16.1 to 16.7 of the report.

The Reasons for the Decision

To maximise the value of assets, maximising their contribution to service delivery, in line with the Council’s Asset Management Plan

Other Options Considered

As outlined in the report.

(The meeting concluded at 9.29 am)

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Chairman