CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of the Cabinet of South Norfolk District Council held at South Norfolk House, Long Stratton on Monday 12 September 2016 at 9.00 a.m.

Members Present:

Cabinet: Councillors J Fuller (Chairman) Y Bendle, M Edney, L Hornby, C Hudson and K Mason Billig

Non-Appointed: Councillors C Foulger, M Gray, J Legg and M Wilby

Officers in Attendance: The Chief Executive (S Dinneen), the Director of Business Development (D Lorimer), the Director of Community Services (P Boyce), the Director of Growth and Localism (T Horspole), the Accountancy Manager (M Fernandez-Graham), and the Policy Officer – Revenues and Benefits (P Chapman).

2479 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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<th>Member</th>
<th>Item</th>
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<td>Cllr J Fuller</td>
<td>Greater Norwich IIP (min 2482)</td>
<td>Member of the CIL Review Panel</td>
<td>Other</td>
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<td>Business Rate Consultations (min 2483)</td>
<td>Member of the LGA Business Rates Panel</td>
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2480 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on Monday 18 July were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
Members noted that the item regarding off street car parking, was deferred to a future meeting of the Cabinet.

The Subject of the Decision

Members considered the report of the Planning Policy Manager, which presented the Greater Norwich Joint Five Year Infrastructure Investment Plan (IIP), setting out the proposed projects to be delivered through the pooled funding of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), from South Norfolk, Broadland and Norwich councils.

Members noted that the IIP proposed that funding be set aside for the maintenance costs of some infrastructure projects, and that officers were recommending that this element of the IIP was not agreed at this stage. The Chairman referred to the current deficit in funds needed to deliver the required projects, and with this in mind, and noting that there was no current policy in place with regard to maintenance, it was felt that maintenance costs should not be agreed at this stage. The Chairman suggested that any future maintenance costs could only be funded through CIL in exceptional circumstances.

Some members expressed concern with regard to the proposed smaller projects, and the lack of criteria in deciding which smaller projects should be put forward. Cabinet agreed that more clarity was required before the proposed IIP could be agreed.

The Chairman reminded members that the Independent CIL Review would be reporting to Ministers shortly, and being mindful of this, he suggested that it would be premature of the Greater Norwich Growth Board (GNGB) to seal in any long term commitments to the IIP at this stage.

In response to questions, the Chairman explained that the Long Stratton bypass and the Hempnall crossroads roundabout would probably require two separate planning permission applications, but he stressed that they were intrinsically linked. The Director of Growth and Localism added that the schemes were yet to be fully costed, but would not solely be financed through CIL funding.
RESOLVED:

1. To defer the decision on the Greater Norwich Joint Five Year Infrastructure Investment Plan, due to concerns regarding:

   (a) The issue of funding for maintenance, bearing in mind the existing funding deficit;

   (b) The need for clear criteria to be in place for the inclusion of smaller projects.

2. That the GNGB be mindful of the pending CIL Review, to be reported to Ministers later this month, and that it would be premature at this stage to seal in long term commitments into the Infrastructure Plan.

The Reasons for the Decision

To ensure that the IIP is fair, with clear criteria for the inclusion of all projects.

Other Options Considered

None

2483 100% BUSINESS RATES RETENTION AND NEEDS AND REDISTRIBUTION – SOUTH NORFOLK COUNCIL CONSULTATION RESPONSES

The Subject of the Decision

Members considered the report of the Director of Business Development, which outlined the Council's responses to two government consultations; ‘Self – Sufficient Local Government: 100% Business Rates Retention’ and ‘Business Rates Reform: Call for Evidence on Needs and Redistribution’.

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The Director of Business Development presented her report, outlining the proposed key responses to both consultation documents.

With reference to the ‘Self – Sufficient Local Government: 100% Business Rates Retention’, Cabinet expressed its satisfaction with the proposed responses, however, suggested that more emphasis should be placed upon proposed powers being available to clusters of councils or ‘functional economic areas’, where investment was driving growth. Members wanted to ensure that strong incentives for growth were retained beyond resets and the point was made that the more regular the reset period, the greater the percentage of growth that would need to be retained. It was felt that to give greater stability and predictability partial resets were preferable to full resets, and that these should occur every 10 years, as opposed to the 5 years proposed. The Chairman also wished to highlight the differing needs of those combined authorities in tight urban areas, compared to the more rural shire counties.

Turning to the paper regarding ‘Business Rates Reform: Call for Evidence on Needs and Redistribution’, members agreed that the response should suggest that the Government needed to provide incentives to promote ‘demand reduction’ across council services. The Chairman also stressed that the funding for any additional functions of combined authorities should be devolved by Government, and not taken from business rates funding.

Cabinet acknowledged that the Council’s response might change, once officers had had full sight of the District Council’s Network (DCN) and the Local Government Association’s (LGA) draft reports. The Chief Executive expressed her appreciation to those officers who had worked on the Council responses, and had also been providing information to support the DCN and LGA reports.

The Decision

RESOLVED: To:

1. Note the potential financial implications of the consultations for the authority.
2. Approve the proposed draft South Norfolk Council consultation responses for submission, subject to minor amendments.
3. Delegate authority to the Director of Business Development to make any reasonable amendments to the consultation responses following receipt of the District Councils’ Network and Local Government Association’s draft response in order to reflect any key points.
The Reasons for the Decision

To ensure a fair and transparent scheme

Other Options Considered

None

2484 CABINET CORE AGENDA

Cabinet noted the latest version of the Cabinet Core Agenda.

The Chairman explained the need for Special Council and Cabinet meetings, to agree the Draft Order to create a Norfolk and Suffolk Combined Authority. Members noted that the date of these meetings would be confirmed shortly.

(The meeting concluded at 9.49 a.m.)

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Chairman