Growth, Infrastructure and Environment Policy Committee

*Members of the Growth, Infrastructure and Environment Policy Committee:*

Mr Adrian Dearnley (Chairman)
Mr James Knight (Vice Chairman)
Mr Chris Brown
Miss Fleur Curson
Mr Daniel Elmer
Mr Gerry Francis
Mr Kevin Hurn
Mr Terry Laidlaw
Mr Robert Savage

This meeting may be filmed, recorded or photographed by the public; however, anyone who wishes to do so should inform the chairman and ensure it is done in a non-disruptive and public manner. Please review the Council's guidance on filming and recording meetings available in the meeting room.

Agenda

**Date**
Friday 15 November 2019

**Time**
2.00 pm

**Place**
Colman Room
South Norfolk House
Cygnet Court
Long Stratton
Norwich
NR15 2XE

**Contact**
Claire White  tel (01508) 533669
South Norfolk District Council
Cygnet Court
Long Stratton Norwich
NR15 2XE

Email: democracy@s-norfolk.gov.uk

If you have any special requirements in order to attend this meeting, please let us know in advance

Large print version can be made available
AGENDA

1. To report apologies for absence and to identify substitute members;

2. Any items of business which the Chairman decides should be considered as a matter of urgency pursuant to Section 100B(4)(b) of the Local Government Act, 1972. Urgent business may only be taken if, "by reason of special circumstances" (which will be recorded in the minutes), the Chairman of the meeting is of the opinion that the item should be considered as a matter of urgency;

3. To Receive Declarations of Interest from Members;

(Please see guidance form and flow chart attached – page 3)

4. To confirm the minutes of the meeting of the Growth, Infrastructure and Environment Policy Committee held on 12 September 2019;

(attached – page 5)

5. Exclusion of the Public and Press

To exclude the public and press from the meeting under Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972 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 of Schedule 12A to the Act (as amended)

6. Waste Services Review;

(report attached – page 8)
DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST AT MEETINGS

When declaring an interest at a meeting Members are asked to indicate whether their interest in the matter is pecuniary, or if the matter relates to, or affects a pecuniary interest they have, or if it is another type of interest. Members are required to identify the nature of the interest and the agenda item to which it relates. In the case of other interests, the member may speak and vote. If it is a pecuniary interest, the member must withdraw from the meeting when it is discussed. If it affects or relates to a pecuniary interest the member has, they have the right to make representations to the meeting as a member of the public but must then withdraw from the meeting. Members are also requested when appropriate to make any declarations under the Code of Practice on Planning and Judicial matters.

Have you declared the interest in the register of interests as a pecuniary interest? If Yes, you will need to withdraw from the room when it is discussed.

| Does the interest directly:                                                                 |
|                                                                                          |
| 1. affect yours, or your spouse / partner’s financial position?                          |
| 2. relate to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to you or your spouse / partner? |
| 3. Relate to a contract you, or your spouse / partner have with the Council              |
| 4. Affect land you or your spouse / partner own                                         |
| 5. Affect a company that you or your partner own, or have a shareholding in              |

If the answer is “yes” to any of the above, it is likely to be pecuniary.

Please refer to the guidance given on declaring pecuniary interests in the register of interest forms. If you have a pecuniary interest, you will need to inform the meeting and then withdraw from the room when it is discussed. If it has not been previously declared, you will also need to notify the Monitoring Officer within 28 days.

| Does the interest indirectly affect or relate any pecuniary interest you have already declared, or an interest you have identified at 1-5 above? |
|                                                                                                                                 |
| If yes, you need to inform the meeting. When it is discussed, you will have the right to make representations to the meeting as a member of the public, but you should not partake in general discussion or vote. |

| Is the interest not related to any of the above? If so, it is likely to be an other interest. You will need to declare the interest, but may participate in discussion and voting on the item. |
|                                                                                                                                 |
| Have you made any statements or undertaken any actions that would indicate that you have a closed mind on a matter under discussion? If so, you may be predetermined on the issue; you will need to inform the meeting, and when it is discussed, you will have the right to make representations to the meeting as a member of the public, but must then withdraw from the meeting. |

FOR GUIDANCE REFER TO THE FLOWCHART OVERLEAF.
PLEASE REFER ANY QUERIES TO THE MONITORING OFFICER IN THE FIRST INSTANCE
DECLARING INTERESTS FLOWCHART – QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF

What matters are being discussed at the meeting?

Do any relate to an interest I have?

A  Have I declared it as a pecuniary interest?
OR
B  Does it directly affect me, my partner or spouse’s financial position, in particular:
   • employment, employers or businesses;
   • companies in which they are a director or where they have a shareholding of more than £25,000 face value or more than 1% of nominal share holding
   • land or leases they own or hold
   • contracts, licenses, approvals or consents

The interest is pecuniary – disclose the interest, withdraw from the meeting by leaving the room. Do not try to improperly influence the decision

The interest is related to a pecuniary interest. Disclose the interest at the meeting
   You may make representations as a member of the public, but you should not partake in general discussion or vote

The Interest is not pecuniary nor affects your pecuniary interests. Disclose the interest at the meeting. You may participate in the meeting and vote

Other Interest

Yes

Have I declared the interest as an other interest on my declaration of interest form?
OR

Does it relate to a matter highlighted at B that impacts upon my family or a close associate?
OR

Does it affect an organisation I am involved with or a member of?
OR

Is it a matter I have been, or have lobbied on?

No

No

Related pecuniary interest

Yes

Does the matter indirectly affect or relate to a pecuniary interest I have declared, or a matter noted at B above?

No

NO
Growth, Infrastructure and Environment Policy Committee

Minutes of a meeting of the Growth, Infrastructure and Environment Policy Committee of South Norfolk Council held at South Norfolk House, Long Stratton on Thursday 12 September 2019 at 10.00am

Committee Members Present: Councillors: A Dearnley (Chairman), J Knight (Vice Chairman), C Brown, F Curson, D Elmer, G Francis, K Hurn and T Laidlaw

Apologies: Councillor: R Savage

Cabinet Member in Attendance: Councillor: K Kiddie

Other Members in Attendance: Councillor: V Clifford-Jackson

Officers in Attendance: The Director of Place (P Courtier), the Environmental Management Officers (A Old and D Baillie-Murden), and the Environmental Protection Manager (S Bruton).

10 CHAIRMAN’S INTRODUCTION

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and explained the objectives and remit of the Growth, Infrastructure and Environment Policy Committee. He stressed that with the right investment, the Council’s policies to protect the environment could be consistent with continued economic growth and achieving the necessary improvements to infrastructure. To illustrate the potential compatibility of these objectives, he quoted a statistic that Britain’s greenhouse gas emissions had reduced by 44% since 1990 whilst its GDP had increased by 75%.

11 MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting of the Growth, Infrastructure and Environment Policy Committee held on 9 March 2017 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

12 ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION PLAN AND POLICY STATEMENT

The Environmental Management Officers presented the report which sought to gain the support of members for a single action plan and joint overarching policy statement for both South Norfolk and Broadland District Councils, setting out their commitment to the environment.
The Committee firstly considered the Environmental Policy Statement and stressed the importance of raising the awareness of environmental issues to residents and businesses throughout the District. Members discussed the remit and duties of the Councils and the need to remain focussed on the work which the authorities could and were empowered to undertake.

The Committee generally felt that a 25-year plan was perhaps too lengthy, and it was suggested that the document should contain shorter timescales for actions and campaigns within its commitment.

Members turned to the Action Plan and requested that officers simplify the document by expanding on various acronyms and abbreviations. The Committee agreed that more targeted measures and outcomes were required within the Action Plan and that more specific and measurable actions with indicators of success were needed to ensure the Councils’ aims were clear and demonstrated high standards.

It was suggested that the Councils support local initiatives, i.e. composting schemes, food waste programs such as community fridges, fair trade schemes and other such local projects. It was also suggested that the Plan should contain more detail, such as how and when re-use and upcycling could be implemented rather than merely focussing on waste minimisation.

Members discussed Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) monies and the Director of Place clarified the practice and procedures around town and parish spending of this funding, advising that although district councils were not permitted to control how this was spent, Broadland District Council had developed a means of assisting and advising towns and parishes of appropriate and effective ways of utilising their CIL monies, and by enabling them to draw down funds in advance of CIL to aid with their plans.

The Committee considered sustainable procurement and agreed that the cheapest tender was not always the most environmentally friendly. In response, officers reassured members that tenders were rarely just evaluated on cost but on overall value for money and quality. The Environmental Protection Manager agreed that environmental issues were not always a contributing factor in procurements but that this should be a consideration in the future.

Members discussed community transport and agreed that this was an important issue in the rural area, although accepted that district councils had little control over public transport other than through working alongside Norfolk County Council to support more sustainable and healthier transport systems.

In response to a member’s question regarding whether there had been any noticeable increase in fly-tipping since charges had been increased at recycling centres, officers advised that there had been no significant change and that most items which had been fly-tipped would have been free to dispose of through the recycling centres.

The Committee were generally in support of the Action Plan and Policy Statement but suggested that officer make alterations and add more detail, as noted above. It was agreed that officers would email the updated documents to all members of the Growth, Infrastructure and Environment Policy Committee who could then feed any comment.
back through the Chairman and Vice Chairman, prior to Cabinet and Council’s consideration of the report.

It was then;

**RESOLVED:** To recommend that Cabinet recommends to Council:
1. The proposed Policy Statement and Action Plan (subject to the suggested amendments as detailed above, with the final wording to be agreed by officers in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Growth, Infrastructure and Environment Policy Committee); and
2. That the Action Plan is reviewed 6-monthly, following its implementation.

13. **GROWTH, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME**

The Director of Place advised that there were some items in the pipeline which would be considered by the other South Norfolk Council policy committees but, as these impacted on environmental issues, members were welcome to attend and speak at these meetings.

Members were advised that the Waste Services Review would be discussed formally by the Policy Committee, at a date to be confirmed, before its consideration by Cabinet in December.

It was noted that the Inclusive Growth Strategy, which had recently been considered by Cabinet, would need further consideration by both the Growth, Infrastructure and Environment and the People and Communities Policy Committees, so members would be notified of this, once a date had been set.

The Committee noted that the date for the next meeting would be communicated to members in due course.

(The meeting concluded at 12.00pm)

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Chairman