Localism Committee

Members of the Localism Committee:

Cllr M Wilby (Chairman)
Cllr P Allen
Cllr D Bills
Cllr M Edney
Cllr J Overton
Cllr B Riches
Cllr B Spratt

Agenda

Date
Tuesday 24 July 2012

Time
2.00 pm

Place
Colman Room
South Norfolk House
Swan Lane
Long Stratton
Norwich
NR15 2XE

If any member of the public wishes to speak on a non-confidential item, they may do so at the discretion of the Chairman.

Contact
Caroline Heasley tel (01508) 533685
South Norfolk District Council
Swan Lane
Long Stratton
Norwich
NR15 2XE

Email: democracy@s-norfolk.gov.uk
Website: www.south-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 identify substitute voting members (if any);

2. To deal with any items of business the Chairman decides should be considered as matters 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 5)

4. Your Neighbourhood, Your Choice;
   (report attached - page 7)

5. Work Programme
   (attached - page 10)
Working Style of the Cabinet Policy Committees

Member Leadership

Members of the Committees will take the lead in understanding the direction provided by Cabinet and delivering work to Cabinet requirements. Whilst recognising political allegiances, members will work in a collaborative manner with officers and cabinet portfolio holders to consider the relevant issues when developing Council policy.

Collaborative Working

All meetings of the Committees will be constructive and conducted in a spirit of mutual respect and trust. Officers will commit to supplying meetings with information relevant to making informed decisions on policies and matters. Members will commit to thoroughly reading and understanding papers, raising questions that are pertinent to the issues at stake. Members will, where feasible, agree definable actions to be taken forward by officers to develop policy, rather than having items for noting or simply to discuss.

Frequency and Nature of Meeting

Each Committee will have at least 3 formal, public meetings per year. In assessing items delegated by Cabinet for review, the Committee may decide that it wishes to meet on a more or less frequent basis.

The Committee may also hold informal meetings should it require in order to progress specific items in detail. However, if the Committee is meeting to determine whether to refer items for Cabinet approval, the meeting should follow the Council’s Standing Orders and thus be subject to a formal agenda, be held in public and the meeting recorded.

Informal meetings may be held in any manner suitable for conducting business (e.g. via meeting, conference call, circulation of information via e-mail, or site visits); while relevant information will be supplied by officers where appropriate, these meetings will not be subject to a formal agenda or minutes. Where business of the Committee is undertaken through informal meeting, all members of the Committee will be provided opportunity to participate.

Training

Members commit to undertaking development – for example, attending formal training sessions, or reading relevant background material, in order to properly equip themselves to deliver their expected role fully.

Accountability

The Policy Committees will be accountable to Cabinet. They will not be able to make decisions themselves, but can recommend decisions to Cabinet. Cabinet may review whether the Committees are discharging their duties effectively, and may receive progress reports on how the Policy Committee is working to discharge its duties.

Work Programmes
The Work Programmes for the Policy Committee will be established by Cabinet. Members of the Committee will not be able to raise items to be included in the work programme. Where topics have been identified for inclusion in the work programme, the Committee will work to identify how it will discharge its responsibilities, including the resources required to do so.

**Managing Time**

However the Committee is meeting, it will attempt to conclude the business of each meeting in reasonable time. The Chairman will be responsible for ensuring the meeting stays focused on pertinent issue, and does not become side-tracked on issues that are not relevant to the policy under consideration, or those that should be discussed by a separate committee.
Localism Committee 24 July 2012

Agenda Item No 04

Your Neighbourhood Your Choice

Head of Localism and Growth

The five neighbourhood boards have met and decided on their priorities for service enhancements and social action projects for this year. The purpose of this report is to set out progress made to date, and to consider the next steps.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cabinet member(s):</th>
<th>Ward(s) affected:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Martin Wilby</td>
<td>All</td>
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Contact Officer, telephone number, and e-mail: Ian McArthur 01508533902 imcarthur@s-norfolk.gov.uk

1. Background

1.1. The Localism Act 2011 is a wide ranging act, covering many different policy areas, such as local government, planning and housing. It includes a raft of proposals aimed at giving communities more control over their local area.

1.2. The Council made a strong commitment to delivering the Localism agenda, through community empowerment, at the Cabinet meeting on 6 February. The proposals agreed at that time included an innovative approach to provide significant funding to neighbourhood boards. The intention was that the funding would give boards the opportunity to commission and implement service enhancements and social action projects that would make a real difference to their communities.

2. Current Position and Issues

2.1. The report to Cabinet on 16 July sets out the progress made on the Council’s community empowerment work - Your Neighbourhood Your Choice - and sets out the proposals made by each Board to utilise the funds made available for 2012/13.

2.2. Each Board has had two rounds of public meetings to develop and agree a set of service enhancements and social action projects. Those have now been agreed by each board at their meetings in early July, for formal approval by Cabinet on 16 July. The proposals are shown in the Table at Para 3.1 in the Cabinet report,
with full details in Appendix 1. The overall funding committed at this stage amounts to 85% of the total available, with individual board commitments as follows:

- Eastern - £60,000 86%
- Northern - £125,000 74%
- Tas - £96,000 87%
- Tiffey - £114,000 88%
- Waveney - £80,000 100%

2.3. The Cabinet report also sets out the next steps for each board, which is to develop an implementation plan, to ensure the commissioning and delivery of the service enhancements and social action projects.

2.4. At the same time as the boards have been developing the proposed service enhancements, a Task and Finish group of councillors has been reviewing the governance, operation and structure of the Neighbourhood Boards. The group is due to report their recommendations to Scrutiny Committee in September, which will allow this committee to consider the potential improvements at the next meeting in December.

2.5. The Committee may wish to consider how to further enhance the work of the boards. Our agenda for localism is to drive community empowerment – do the current arrangements provide the community empowerment that was intended, and if not how can we improve that? Should we give local communities more powers and thus increase their ability to control what happens locally?

3. Proposal and Reasons

3.1. The Localism Committee has the opportunity to help shape the future of neighbourhood working. Neighbourhood boards have worked well to develop and set out their service enhancements and social action projects, which should make a real difference locally.

3.2. The Council has ceded control over some expenditure to Neighbourhood Boards. The services and projects using that funding will be commissioned and put in place over the next few months, and there will be a review of the success or otherwise of that expenditure by the end of the year. The Committee may wish to consider what measures of success that review should cover, to properly assess the success of the scheme.

4. Other Options

4.1. None
5. **Relevant Corporate Priorities**

5.1. Enhancing our quality of life and the environment we live in

5.2. Promoting a thriving local economy

5.3. Supporting communities to realise their potential

5.4. Driving services through being businesslike, efficient and customer aware

6. **Implications and Risks**

6.1. Financial – The Council has committed over £560,000 to the neighbourhood boards for 2012/13, increasing over time to a total of £2.4m over the next three financial years. This is a radical change to traditional funding approaches and requires careful financial management. The approved ground rules will ensure that any risk to the council is minimised.

7. **Conclusion**

7.1. Your Neighbourhood Your Choice has already started to have an impact locally. The Localism Committee can help to improve these initiatives further, by critically assessing the progress made on what has been essentially a pilot exercise, and providing guidance on the future for our community empowerment work.

8. **Recommendation**

8.1. The Committee is asked to consider the progress made so far on Your Neighbourhood Your Choice, to make suggestions for further improvements, and to consider what measures of success should be used in the review.

**Background Papers**

Cabinet report Your Neighbourhood, Your Choice
## Localism Committee – Work Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of meeting</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Organisation/ Officer/ Responsible Cabinet Member</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Method(s)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 July 12</td>
<td>Your Neighbourhood Your Choice</td>
<td>Head of Localism and Growth and Cllr M Wilby</td>
<td>For members to consider and discuss progress made to date on community empowerment and the way forward</td>
<td>Officer report and discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Dec 12</td>
<td>Neighbourhood Boards Review</td>
<td>Head of Localism and Growth and Cllr M Wilby</td>
<td>For members to consider the recommendations from the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group on the review of Neighbourhood Boards and their impact on community empowerment work</td>
<td>Officer report and discussion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Dec 12</td>
<td>Role and responsibilities of Neighbourhood Chairmen and members</td>
<td>Head of Localism and Growth and Cllr M Wilby</td>
<td>For members to discuss and consider a programme of training and development for neighbourhood board members and chairmen</td>
<td>Officer report and discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Dec 12</td>
<td>Neighbourhood funding and grants</td>
<td>Head of Localism and Growth and Cllr M Wilby</td>
<td>For members to consider arrangements for grant making powers at neighbourhood level</td>
<td>Officer report and discussion</td>
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