

# Council

## Minutes

Thursday, 30 July 2020 at 18:30

### PRESENT:

His Worship the Mayor, Councillor Jeal (in the Chair); Councillors Annison, Bensly, Bird, Borg, Cameron, Candon, G Carpenter, P Carpenter, Cordiner-Achenbach, Fairhead, Flaxman-Taylor, Freeman, Galer, Grant, Hacon, D Hammond, P Hammond, Lawn, Martin, Mogford, Myers, Plant, Robinson-Payne, Scott-Greenard, Smith, Smith-Clare, Stenhouse, Talbot, Thompson, Wainwright, B Walker, C M Walker, C Walker, Waters-Bunn, Wells Williamson, B Wright & A Wright.

Ms S Oxtoby (Chief Executive Officer), Ms K Sly (Finance Director), Mrs P Boyce (Strategic Director), Ms C Whatling (Monitoring Officer) & Mrs S Wintle (Corporate Services Manager).

Mr A Quinton, Mr A Yardley & Mr M Severn (IT Support).

### **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

## **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Plant declared a personal interest in Item 14 as he was a Director of Equinox Enterprises Ltd, however, in accordance with the Council's Constitution was allowed to both speak and vote on the matter.

## **3 ANNOUNCEMENTS**

His Worship the Mayor reported that a private ceremony would take place to honour VJ Day in August and that only himself, the Leader of the Council, Councillor Wainwright & Councillor Myers had been invited to attend.

His Worship the Mayor reminded Council that the meeting would be recorded and all comments both on air and in the subject box could be subject to freedom of Information requests.

The Leader gave an overview regarding how the Council had responded to the Covid19 pandemic over the last four months. He thanked the Chief Executive and all the staff for the sterling work they had undertaken during this difficult period helping local residents and businesses alike. The Leader also thanked Councillor Wainwright for his support, even though at times, they had expressed differences of opinion. The Leader announced that the introduction of the Cabinet system which had been due to come into effect in May 2021 had been put on hold for a further 12 months pending the publication of the Government White Paper in September on Devolution and the Recovery Plan. A White Paper was also expected on Social Care.

Councillor Wainwright thanked the Chief Executive, the Leader of the Council and all the staff for their hard work and dedication. He also thanked the Corporate Services Manager for the seamless introduction of the virtual committee meeting system. Councillor Wainwright hoped that Government would take into account the timely intervention and success of the Council during the pandemic which showed the continued need for local democracy.

Councillor Myers thanked the Chief Executive and the staff for their magnificent response to Covid19.

His Worship the Mayor also thanked the Chief Executive, the three party leaders and the staff for all their hard work and dedication to the residents and business in the Borough.

The Chief Executive Officer thanked her staff who had exceeded all expectations and the political leaders who had supported her on a daily basis to ensure that nobody got left behind, be it residents or businesses, in the Borough.

Councillor Scott-Greenard reported how successfully the Council had worked in partnership with the voluntary sector throughout the pandemic. He singled out the work of the Early Help Hub and that the GYBC response should be

recognised as the model response by all the other Councils in the County.

#### **4 MINUTES**

That the minutes of the meeting held on the 20 February 2020 be confirmed by assent.

CARRIED.

#### **5 SERVICE COMMITTEE DECISION LIST FOR THE PERIOD 4 FEBRUARY 2020 to 23 JUNE 2020**

That the Service Committee Decision List for the period 4 February 2020 to 23 June 2020 be approved by assent.

CARRIED.

#### **6 CAPITAL STRATEGY 2020-21**

Council received and considered the report from the Capital Projects and Senior Accountant.

The Leader presented the report to Council. The report provided a framework which gave a high level overview of how capital expenditure, capital financing and treasury management activity contributed to the provision of local public services together with an overview of how associated risk was managed and the implications for future financial sustainability. The report highlighted how the Council's decisions on capital spend had financial implications for the future and financial planning of the Council.

PROPOSER: Councillor Smith

SECONDER: Councillor Plant

That Council approve the 2020/21 Capital Strategy.

CARRIED.

## **7 INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2021**

Council received and considered the report from the Capital Projects and Senior Accountant.

The Leader presented the report to Council. The Leader reported that the report provided a framework which informed decisions in relation to the Council's investments and supported other strategies including the treasury management strategy.

PROPOSER: Councillor Smith

SECONDER: Councillor Plant

That Council approves the 2020/21 Investment Strategy.

CARRIED.

## **8 HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT – OUTTURN 2019- 20**

Council received and considered the report from the HRA Service Accountant.

The Leader presented the report to Council. He reported that the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) annual outturn had a deficit of !1.876m against a forecasted deficit of £2.858m, resulting in a variance of £982k.

PROPOSER: Councillor Smith

SECONDER: Councillor Plant

That Council approve:

(i) the outturn position for the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) for 2019/20 as included in the report and appendices,

(ii) the updated 2020/21 HRA revenue and expenditure budget as detailed at Appendix C; and

(iii) the updated 2020/21 HRA capital programme and associated financing as detailed within the report and at Appendix D.

CARRIED.

## **9 FINANCIAL OUTTURN REPORT 2019-20**

Council received and considered the report from the Finance Director.

The Leader reported that the draft outturn position for the General Fund Account and capital programme for the 2019/20 financial year which had been used to inform the production of the statutory accounts for Audit and subsequent approval by the Audit & Risk Committee later in the year. The report detailed the more significant year-end variances compared to the current budget for 2019/20. The report gave recommendations for contributions to and from earmarked reserves and the general reserve as applicable between financial years and an update on the financial impact of Covid19 for the Council.

Councillor Plant reported that the £150k taken from the general reserve for the Norfolk Strategic Fund in respect of Covid19 recovery would help businesses in the Borough to get back on their feet.

PROPOSER: Councillor Smith

SECONDER: Councillor Wainwright

That Council agree:

- (i) the outturn position for the general fund account fro 2019/20 as included in the report and appendices,
- (ii) the transfers to and from reserves (General and Earmarked) as detailed within the report and Appendix together with an updated reserves statement (Appendix C),
- (iv) to transfer the surplus of £46,484 to the general reserve to mitigate the impact of Covid19,
- (v) the financing of the 2019/20 capital programme as detailed within the report and at Appendix D; and
- (vi) the updated capital programme fro 2020/21 as included at Appendix E.

## **10 ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2020**

Council received and considered the report of the Housing Director.

The Leader presented the report to Council. he reported that as a result of the current Covid19 pandemic, the Council had accommodated 153 people who were rough sleepers or at risk of rough sleeping with 63 still accommodated as at 30 June 2020. To ensure that the needs of these individuals could be met, and that there would be a sustained reduction in the number of rough sleepers across the Borough, as well as a reduction in street drinking and begging, a Rough Sleeping strategy and costed Action Plan had been produced.

PROPOSER: Councillor Smith

SECONDER: Councillor Plant

That Council approve:

(i) the adoption of the Rough Sleeping Strategy and Action Plan 2020 and approval of the actions set out in the action Plan; and

(ii) the additional capital spend of up to £6.4m and revenue commitment of up to £118,750 identified in the Action Plan, subject to approval of the Capital Strategy.

CARRIED.

## **11 GREAT YARMOUTH FUTURE HIGH STREET FUND**

Council received and considered the report from the Chief Executive Officer & Development Director.

The Leader reported that a Great Yarmouth Future High street Fund bid for £19.9m was submitted to Government on 5 June 2020 to deliver a series of inter-connected projects with a total project cost of £49.2m to transform Great Yarmouth Town Centre. The proposals introduced new residential and contemporary living and combine an exciting mix of traditional market, heritage centre, arts programme and a modern, technology-led library and learning offer, where the economic, social and wellbeing benefits would be extended to both residents and visitors.

PROPOSER: Councillor Smith

SECONDER: Councillor Plant

That Council agree:

(i) that £24.6m be earmarked for the Future High Street Fund in the capital programme to be funded by borrowing. The earmarked funding is to be released on approval by Policy & Resources Committee and subject to a report on the business case for each intervention being received; and

(ii) to delegate authority to the Policy & Resources Committee to acquire and dispose of assets in delivering the Future High Street Programme.

CARRIED.

**12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

His Worship the Mayor reported that there was no other business being of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration.

**13 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC**

RESOLVED:

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of Part I of Schedule 12(A) of the said Act.

**14 CONFIDENTIAL BEACON PARK HOUSING APPRAISAL - PHASE 2**

(Confidential Minute on this Item)

**15 GREAT YARMOUTH FUTURE HIGH STREET FUND - CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX B**

(Confidential Minute on this Item)

**16 CONFIDENTIAL SERVICE COMMITTEE DECISION LIST FOR THE PERIOD 4 FEBRUARY 2020 TO 23 JUNE 2020**

(Confidential Minute on this Item)

**17 GREAT YARMOUTH OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE CAMPUS IN SOUTH DENES**

(Confidential Minute on this Item)

The meeting ended at: 20:30