



GREAT YARMOUTH
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Full Council

Date: Tuesday, 26 January 2016
Time: 19:00
Venue: Council Chamber
Address: Town Hall, Hall Plain, Great Yarmouth, NR30 2QF

AGENDA

Open to Public and Press

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

You have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in a matter to be discussed if it relates to something on your Register of Interests form. You must declare the interest and leave the room while the matter is dealt with.

You have a Personal Interest in a matter to be discussed if it affects

- your well being or financial position
- that of your family or close friends
- that of a club or society in which you have a management role
- that of another public body of which you are a member to a greater extent than others in your ward.

You must declare a personal interest but can speak and vote on the matter.

Whenever you declare an interest you must say why the interest arises, so that it can be included in the minutes.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

To receive any apologies for absence.

3 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

a) Question from Helen Farrow, Chair of Great Yarmouth Indoor Bowls Club:-

"The members of Great Yarmouth Indoor Bowls Club would like to ask the Council which of the various options available to them, they have decided to implement in the redevelopment of the Marina Centre. This decision is vital to the future of the bowls club moving forward, and it is essential we know as soon as possible, so we can plan our next season. We are also enquiring, should the Marina plans, despite our vigorous campaign, go against us remaining in the existing building, what is Council going to do about rehousing us elsewhere in the Borough?"

b) Question from Mr J Cannell, Great Yarmouth Trades Council:-

"The characteristics of Great Yarmouth's economy include low wages, seasonal, part-time work and a dependency on welfare benefits such as in work tax credits.

Does the Leader of the Council believe that the introduction of a £8.25 living wage and the ending of the dependency on seasonal employment in favour of full-time, 52 weeks a year jobs would improve the local economy?

Do you agree that the Council should seek to ensure that rate payers money is not used to subsidise employers that offer zero hour contracts and that do not pay a living wage, that through doing so contribute to the poor state of the local economy?"

4 REPORTS TO COUNCIL FOR DECISION

Honorary Aldermen

5 - 6

Report attached.

5 MINUTES

a) Minutes of Council 24 November 2015

7 - 16

Minutes Attached

b) Minutes of Council 21 December 2015 - public

17 - 22

Minutes Attached

c) Minutes of Scrutiny 3 December 2015

23 - 26

Minutes Attached

- d) **Minutes of Audit & Risk 7 Dec 2015** **27 - 30**
Minutes attached
- e) **Minutes of Cabinet 9 December 2015 - public** **31 - 36**
Minutes Attached
- 6 **MOTION ON NOTICE** **37 - 38**
To consider the attached Motion on Notice from Councillors
Jeal, Pratt, T Wainwright, H Wainwright, Sutton and Williamson
- 7 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**
To consider any other business as may be determined by the Chairman of
the meeting as being of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration.
- 8 **EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC**
In the event of the Committee wishing to exclude the public from the
meeting, the following resolution will be moved:-

"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."
- 9 **MINUTES - PRIVATE ITEMS**
- a) **Minutes of Cabinet 9 December 2015 - private**
Details
- b) **Minutes of Council 21 December 2015 - private**
Details

Subject: Honorary Aldermen

Report to: Council – 26th January 2016

Report by: Cabinet Secretary and Deputy Monitoring Officer

SUBJECT MATTER/RECOMMENDATIONS

To appoint Councillors Linden and Blyth and former Councillor Stone as Honorary Aldermen in accordance with the agreed criteria.

1. Appointment of Honorary Aldermen

Members will recall that Council at its meeting on 26 November 2013 approved the criteria for conferring the title of Honorary Aldermen on former Councillors in recognition of their eminent services in the Borough.

2. Criteria

The agreed criteria is as follows:-

- (a) Having held high office in the positions of Leader, Deputy Leader or Shadow Leader.
- (b) Having held some lesser office but also having demonstrated eminent service (eg. long service as a Borough Councillor), for a minimum cumulative period of 16 years.
- (c) Past Mayors and Chairman of the Borough Council will be excluded from being Honorary Alderman.
- (d) If a Member has stated that he/she intend not to seek re-election then the nomination for the position of Honorary Alderman may be agreed in advance.

3. Proposed Nominations

The Labour Group, have proposed that Councillors Linden and Blyth be appointed as Honorary Aldermen.

Councillors Linden and Blyth meet the criteria as detailed in 2(b) and (d) above.

The Conservative Group, have proposed that Councillor Stone be appointed as Honorary Aldermen, and he meets the criteria in 2(b) above.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Purchase of badges at £100 each.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

None

EXECUTIVE BOARD OR DIRECTOR CONSULTATION:

RECOMMENDATION:

That Council be recommended to agree that Councillors Linden and Blyth and former Councillor Stone be appointed as Honorary Aldermen of the Borough of Great Yarmouth with effect from 1 June 2016.

Does this report raise any legal, financial, sustainability, equality, crime and disorder or human rights issues and, if so, have they been considered?	Issues	
	Legal	Yes
	Financial	No
	Risk	No
	Sustainability	Yes
	Equality	No
	Crime and Disorder	No
	Human Rights	No
	Every Child Matters	No

W:\Central services\Member Services\MemberServices\Robin Hodds\Reports\Honorary Aldermen - Cllrs Linden and former Cllrs Stone and Wright.doc

Full Council

Minutes

Tuesday, 24 November 2015 at 19:00

PRESENT :

Councillor Weymouth (In the Chair) Councillors Andrews, Annison, Bird, Carpenter, B Coleman, M Coleman, Collins, Cutting, Davis, Fairhead, Fox, Grant, Grey, Hanton, Jeal, Jermany, Jones, Lawn, Mavroudis, Myers, Plant, Pratt, Reynolds, Robinson-Payne, Rodwell, Stenhouse, Sutton, Thirtle, H Wainwright, T Wainwright, Walker, Williamson and Wright.

Also in Attendance were :

Mrs S Oxtoby (Chief Executive Officer), Mr C Skinner (Monitoring Officer), Mrs J Beck (Director of Customer Services), Mr R Read (Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods), Mrs K Watts (Transformation Programme Manager), Mrs K Sly (Section 151 Officer) and Mr R Hodds (Cabinet Secretary).

1 WELCOME TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

The Mayor welcomed Mrs Sheila Oxtoby to the Borough Council as the recently appointed Chief Executive Officer.

2 TERRORIST INCIDENT - PARIS

Council stood for one minutes silence in tribute to those people who had lost their lives in the recent terrorist incident that had occurred in Paris France last week.

Council agreed that a letter of sympathy should be sent to the President of France from the Leader and Mayor expressing the Borough Councils sympathy to the French people.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Blyth, C Smith and J Smith.

5 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

(a) Question from Mr R Hudson

"Given that Cllr B Coleman has invested approximately £170,000 of tax payers money in to a temporary ice rink, can he please explain the financial benefits this will bring to local businesses, the estimated subsidy per skater and whether this ice spectacular represents good value for money in a time of frozen budgets and melting services?"

In response the Cabinet Member for Tourism and Business Services stated that the previous administration announced in February this year the formation of a one million pound Town Centre Initiative Fund which was new money for the purpose of combating the decline in footfall and retail outlets in the town centre of Great Yarmouth. It had been agreed to appoint Consultants to conduct a master plan exercise at a cost of £88,000. Also there was a scoping meeting with the Administration and Town Centre Partnership when one of the main aims was to deliver a package of initiatives to improve the visitor experience. As a result the proposal to introduce an ice rink in the Market Place over the Christmas period had been agreed by the Cabinet Member for Tourism and Business Services as a Single Cabinet Member decision.

The Cabinet Member reported that to date the Borough Council had surpassed sponsorship expectations and income so far is better than budget as are the on line bookings. For the outlay invested in the provision of the ice rink the Borough Council had :-

- Raised the profile of the Borough to another level
- Received press and media coverage that would have cost commercially more than £100,000
- The construction and manning of the rink for six weeks brings secondary spend to the Borough.
- Had received a fantastic feedback from the public, and it has been the biggest story ever on the Mercury Facebook and Twitter accounts.
- New shops are coming to the Town and Market Gates is completely full for the first time in years.

The Cabinet Member stated that this is far more beneficial to the future prosperity of the Borough than spending money on refurbishing empty properties. In conclusion the Cabinet Member stated that referring back to the question put, does this spectacularly represent good value for money the answer is a resounding yes.

The Cabinet Member also reported that the project had been discussed with both opposition Group Leaders and the Chairman of Scrutiny Committee with the outline costings and there had been general approval to proceed. Following further consultations with the said councillors the Cabinet Member had decided that the installation of the rink would have a massive positive effect on the Town Centre which would outweigh the risks.

In accordance with the Constitution, Mr Hudson was then entitled to ask a supplementary question.

Mr Hudson asked that as Great Yarmouth was a low wage area how would it be possible for the public on low incomes to be able to spend money on this particular facility.

In response, the Cabinet Member stated that he understood that Great Yarmouth was a low wage area but felt that the pricing policy for the ice rink could be met by most

people and that as this was a new approach for Great Yarmouth it should be fully supported.

6 REPORTS TO COUNCIL FOR DECISION

(a) Committee/Cabinet Form of Governance

Council was reminded that at their meeting on 26th January 2015 Members had agreed to establish a Cross Party Working Group to consider in detail issues relating to the establishment of a Committee Form of Governance.

Accordingly Council considered the Committee/Cabinet Form of Governance Working Group's report which summarised the work undertaken by the Council culminating in the three reports to Scrutiny Committee on the 4th December 2014, Cabinet on the 10th December 2014 and Council on the 26th January 2015. In addition the Working Groups report looked at Councils that had explored changing to the Committee System and a practice of the change and identified the implications that the Council will face if it decided to change the current form of governance.

The Director of Customer Services reported that the Localism Act 2011 specifies that Governance arrangements can be changed either by a Council resolution which will lock in the decision for five years or by a Council resolution mandated by a referendum which would lock the decision for a ten year period. Any change in formal governance arrangements must occur at a specified "Change Time" which is at the Council's Annual General Meeting or at a special Council meeting. Prior to the change time, the Council needs to have resolved formally to make a governance change. For the purposes of the Working Groups report any resolutions taken at this Council meeting would be binding for adoption at the AGM in May 2016.

Council was advised that any change in Governance would naturally involve costs and the one off costs of making the transition plus the potential for higher costs on a ongoing basis or cost savings in the long term. The Working Group's report detailed the one off cost of implementing any change including Member and Officer training and Constitution review and also detailed an estimate of costs of providing additional officers support in the Member Services section. It was pointed out that the ongoing financial implications would be dependent upon the model adopted and would need to be factored into the budget for 2016/17 and future years as no financial implications were previously taken into account of within the Medium Term Financial Strategy as presented to Members in September.

Council was advised that there are significant implications for the Council in changing its decision making structure to any new governance arrangements as follows :-

- A comprehensive review of the Councils Constitution, governance and decision making processes would be required.
- Comprehensive review of the scheme of delegation to Chief Officers.
- Decisions are taken through politically balanced Committees, appointed by Full Council.
- There are no restrictions on the amounts of Committees, meeting frequency, or the size of membership, but there are cost implications.
- A new approach would be required to engage with Partners and Partnerships.
- Impact on the decision flow and relationship with current Director/Officer structure.

- Significant resource implications for those Officers involved in formal and informal engagement with Councillors with specific significant implications for Member Services.
- Review of the Members remuneration arrangements.
- Additional extensive training for Members and Officers.
- There would no be requirement for a formal Scrutiny Committee, however Council could decide to continue with a Scrutiny Committee under a Committee Form of Governance.

Proposer : Councillor Plant Seconder : Councillor Hanton

Paragraph 13.4 of Part 4 (Rules of Procedure) of the Constitution be waived in respect of speeches on this item.

CARRIED

Proposer : Councillor Plant Seconder : Councillor Hanton

That a formal recorded vote be taken on this item.

CARRIED

Councillor Plant reported that his opinion the current cabinet form of administration was working well and should continue in its present form. Councillor Reynolds commented that the current system is efficient and cost effective and felt that under a committee system there would need to hold meetings probably on a four weekly cycle.

Councillor T Wainwright reported that he was now in favour of moving to a Committee Form of Governance and that if approved the Working Group over the next 5 months would work up the details of any new system to be implemented after the AGM in May 2016. Councillor Sutton stated that the retention of a Scrutiny Committee would still be an option under a Committee system and that a committee system would enable Members to debate matters more fully than at present. He also made the point that back bench Members would be more involved in the decision making process. Councillor Williamson commented that a Committee System could be devised to be cost neutral.

Councillor Thirtle stated that he was not in favour of the change to a Committee Form of Governance because this would result in a slower decision making process would be less accountable and would be likely to involve more costs. Councillor Myers stated that there had been no definitive cost of implementing a Committee system but that in his opinion it could fit in with the current budget provision. He also made the point that Committees could be empowered to carry out certain delegated matters. Councillor walker stated that both systems can work well and that the Constitution could be amended in such a way to make a Committee System work efficiently. He also made the point that any change to the democratic process could come at a cost but that this should not be a factor in Council deciding to any change to its form of governance. Councillor Fox stated that he was in favour of a Committee System which will provide better decision making processes. Councillor Jermany stated that there was a need to know what the Committees will be what they are and how often they will be likely to meet.

Councillor Grey made the point that the Working Groups membership had consisted of representation from all the four political groups on the Council and that that they

had agreed at their meeting that the issue of looking at a hybrid system should not be considered. Councillor B Coleman stated that he disagreed with the proposal to introduce a Committee form of Governance and made the point that there had been little desire from the previous administration to introduce this system in the past.

Proposer : Councillor Plant Seconder : Councillor B Coleman

That the Borough Council maintain the current Cabinet Form of Governance, and that the Councils current Constitution be reviewed and that the introduction of Cabinet Advisory Groups be considered as part of that review.

For the Motion :-

Councillors Carpenter, B Coleman, M Coleman, Collins, Grant, Hanton, Jermany, Lawn, Linden, Mavroudis, Plant, Reynolds, Thirtle and Weymouth.

Against the Motion :-

Councillors Andrews, Annison, Bird, Cutting, Davis, Fairhead, Fox, Grey, Jeal, Jones, Myers, Pratt, Robinson- Payne, Rodwell, Stenhouse, Sutton, H Wainwright, T Wainwright, Walker, Williamson and Wright.

LOST

Proposer : Councillor T Wainwright Seconder : Councillor Grey

That the Borough Council move from the Cabinet Form of Governance to a Committee Form of Governance with effect from the AGM in May 2016.

For the Motion :-

Councillors Andrews, Annison, Bird, Cutting, Davis, Fairhead, Fox, Grey, Jeal, Jones, Myers, Pratt, Robinson- Payne, Rodwell, Stenhouse, Sutton, H Wainwright, T Wainwright, Walker, Williamson and Wright.

Against the Motion :-

Councillors Carpenter, B Coleman, M Coleman, Collins, Grant, Hanton, Jermany, Lawn, Linden, Mavroudis, Plant, Reynolds, Thirtle and Weymouth.

CARRIED

(b) Returning Officer/ Electoral Registration Officer

Proposer : Councillor Plant Seconder: Councillor B Coleman

That approval be given to the appointment of Sheila Oxtoby, the Interim Chief Executive Officer, as the Councils Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer.

CARRIED

(c) Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2016

Council considered the Group Manager Customer Services report which sought approval of the 2016 Local Council Tax Support/Reduction Scheme.

Proposer : Councillor Thirtle Seconded : Councillor B Coleman

That approval be given to option 1, current scheme as detailed in the Group Managers report, for the 2016 Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme.

CARRIED

(d) Health and Safety Service Plan 2015/16

Council considered the Environmental Health Safety Service Plan 2015/16.

Proposer : Councillor Plant Seconded : Councillor Williamson

That the Health and Safety Service Plan 2015/16 be approved.

CARRIED

(e) Licensing Policy 2016

Council was advised that under the Licensing Act 2013, licensing authorities are required to review their Licensing Policy every 5 years. The Borough Council's current policy will expire on the 6th January 2016 and Council were now asked therefore to approve the final draft Licensing Policy for publication.

Proposer : Councillor Plant Seconded : Councillor Williamson

That the Licensing Policy 2016 be agreed, incorporating the amendments, and that once approved the new policy will be published on the 1st December 2015 and will come into effect on the 7th January 2016.

CARRIED

(f) Gambling Policy

Council were advised that Section 349 of the Gambling Act 2005 requires licensing Authorities to publish a "Statement of the Principles" that they propose to apply in exercising their functions under the Act applicable to a 3 year period. The Borough Councils existing Statement of Principles expires on the 30th January 2016 and a new policy must be published by the 3rd January 2016. Members were advised that a draft policy had been subject to consultation over a six week period during September and October.

Proposer : Councillor Plant Seconded : Councillor Williamson

That the amended Gambling Policy be agreed as the final Gambling Statement of Principles which will be published on the 3rd January 2016 and will come in to effect on the 31st January 2016.

CARRIED

(g) Scrutiny Committee Annual report 2014/15

Councillor Plant as Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee in 2014/15 presented for information the Scrutiny Committee Annual Report for 2014/15.

Proposer : Councillor Plant seconder : Councillor B Coleman

That the Scrutiny Committee Annual Report 2014/15 be approved.

CARRIED

(h) Great Yarmouth Development Company

Proposer : Councillor Plant Seconder : Councillor B Coleman

That Councillor Hanton and Mrs Sheila Oxtoby Chief Executive Officer be appointed as Directors to serve on the Great Yarmouth Development Company.

CARRIED

(i) Appointments to Outside Bodies 2015/16

Proposer : Councillor Grey Seconder : Councillor Annison

That Councillor Stenhouse be appointed to the vacant position on the Sentinel Leisure Trust.

CARRIED

(j) Standards Committee - Appointment of a Parish Council Representative.

Council was asked to formally agree to the Standards Committee decision to appoint Mr P Manifold to the vacant Parish Council Representative position on the Standards Committee for a 3 year period.

Proposer : Councillor Lawn Seconder : Councillor Andrews

That approval be given to the appointment of Mr P Manifold to the vacant Parish Council Representative position on the Standards Committee.

CARRIED

7 MINUTES

(a) Council Minutes - 22nd September and 15th October 2015

The Mayor presented the minutes of the Council meetings held on the 22nd September and 15th October 2015.

With regard to the item on the Town Centre Initiative, Councillor Sutton raised the issue of support that had not been given to the Roller Skating Club at the Marina Centre. The Leader confirmed that no decision had been made on this particular matter. In connection with the same item, Councillor Jeal asked that his proposal as detailed in the minutes be amended to state that the allocation should be made to all of the Bus companies and also reference to those people who visit Great Yarmouth should be deleted. The Mayor confirmed that the minute would be amended accordingly.

In connection to the item relating to Budget Housing Measures, Councillor T Wainwright stated that the minutes had not recorded the derogatory comments made by Councillor Grant on this item and asked that the Leader should not associate with that type of language.

With regard to the item in respect of the Interim Chief Executive Officer and Interim Section 151 Officer, Councillor T Wainwright recorded the Labour Group's welcome to the appointment of Shelia Oxtoby as the Chief Executive Officer of the Borough Council.

With regard to the item in relation to the Trial Period for Free Car Parking on Saturdays and Sundays in the Town Centre, Councillors B Coleman and Plant commented on the success this initiative had produced.

(b) Cabinet Minutes - 7th October and 11th November 2015

The Leader presented the minutes of the Cabinet meetings held on the 7th October and 11th November 2015.

(c) Scrutiny Minutes - 22nd October 2015

The Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee presented the minutes of the Scrutiny Committees meeting held on the 22nd October 2015.

With regard to the item in relation to the Great Yarmouth Sport and Leisure Trust, the Chairman commented that if any Member is invited to attend Scrutiny Committee to give information on particular items then that Member should be expected to attend the Scrutiny Committee Meeting.

8 MOTIONS ON NOTICE

(a) British Steel Industry

Council was advised that the following Motion on Notice had been received from Councillors Sutton, Williamson, T Wainwright, Walker, Jeal and Linden :-

" This Council resolves that Great Yarmouth Borough Council sends the message of support via Redcars Mayor Brenda Forster a former employer of British Steel and North Lincolnshire's Mayor Helen Rowson to the steel workers and their families impacted by the closure of the SSI Steel Works at Redcar and those at TATA's Steel Works in Scunthorpe on behalf of the people of Great Yarmouth stating our support for British steel.

Proposer : Councillor Sutton Seconder : Councillor B Coleman

To underpin our support Great Yarmouth Borough Council resolves to write to the Prime Minister David Cameron to ask his government to do more to support the British Steel Industry through banning the import of steel dumped on the World Market and through reviewing UK energy prices and business rates to provide a mechanism where needed to enable the UK steel industry to compete fairly with other European Union Member States and that in taking this action Great Yarmouth Borough Council recognises the strategic importance of supporting British Industry and British jobs and hopes that the government will intervene to ensure the UK is not

disadvantaged".

CARRIED

(b) Trade Union Bill

Council was advised that the following Motion on Notice had been received from Councillors T Wainwright, Jeal, Walker, Williamson, H Wainwright and Sutton :-

" The Second Reading of the Trade Union Bill was passed by the House of Commons on the 14/09/2015 and now enters the committee stages. The lack of evidence to justify such wide-ranging restrictions for instance, the number of days lost to industrial action per year has fallen dramatically over the last 30 years. Since 2010, on average 647,000 days have been lost to industrial action each year, compared to over 7 million in the 1980s. The 50% turnout required in the Bill for all industrial action, but a requirement that 40% of those entitled to vote support action in certain unreasonably broad but ill-defined important public services. Abstentions in ballots for industrial action will be treated as "No votes".

The Government is to encourage the use of agency workers to break strikes without due consideration for service provision, health and safety and long term relationships in the workplace. The continuing denial of Union Members the right to vote by "ebaloting" ensuring high turnout and democratic participation. The legislation would force Union Members to opt in, rather than opt out, to payment of union political funds. The Bill seeks to interfere in the rights of Local Authorities in discussion of facility time for Trade Union representatives. The decision of government to prevent automatic payment of Union Subscription fees by Public Sector employees so obliging Union Members to organise their own subscription fees.

This Council believes that these provisions of the Trade Union Bill are unfair, unnecessary and undemocratic, putting Britain beyond the normal expectations or international law and standards, and will involve considerable bureaucracy and red tape, largely to be funded by ordinary workers from their subscriptions.

It further believes all these measures will undermine constructive employment relations and civil liberties of working people in Britain within Local authorities and throughout the Public and Private Sector, and is concerned the Bill may criminalise pickets, already tightly regulated or possibly embroil Local Authorities in the deployment of Antisocial Behaviour Orders for otherwise model citizens. In summary, the Council believes the proposals in the Bill restrict the right to freedom of association and in some cases may also restrict the right to freedom and assembly".

In connection with the above motion Council considered the comments of Members of all Political Groups on the Council with regard to the provisions of the Trade Union Bill.

Proposer : Councillor T Wainwright Seconder : Councillor Walker

That as the legislation is likely to have a serious effect on the Authorities relationship with its workforce this Council requests that Chief Executive Officer to write to the Government expressing the Councils dismay at these proposals, and that the LGA requests the association to protest against the Bill and supports any legal action

seeking to challenge the Trade Union Bill in the European Court of Human Rights.

LOST

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

The meeting ended at: 21:40

Full Council

Minutes

Monday, 21 December 2015 at 19:00

PRESENT :

Councillor Weymouth (In the Chair); Councillors Andrews, Annison, Bird, Carpenter, B Coleman, M Coleman, Connell, Davis, Fairhead, Fox, Grant, Grey, Jeal, Jermany, Jones, Lawn, Linden, Myers, Plant, Pratt, Reynolds, Robinson-Payne, J Smith, Sutton, Thirtle, H Wainwright, T Wainwright, Walker and Wright.

Also in attendance were : Mrs S Oxtoby (Interim Chief Executive Officer), Mr D Johnson (nplaw), Mrs J Beck (Director of Customer Services), Mr R Read (Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods), Mrs K Watts (Transformation Programme Manager), Mr D Glason (Group Manager - Growth) and Mr R Hodds (Cabinet Secretary).

1 PROCEDURAL MATTERS

Mr D Johnson (nplaw) advised Members on the details of the rules of procedure as detailed in the Council's Constitution.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Blyth, Collins, Cutting, Hanton, Mavroudis, Rodwell, C Smith, Stenhouse and Williamson.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor B Coleman declared a personal interest in relation to the item regarding the Arts, Culture and Heritage Investment 2015/16 in his capacity as Chairman of St Georges Theatre Trust, and Councillor Plant declared his personal interest in item 5 similarly in his capacity as a Member of the Trust.

4 LOCAL PLAN - CORE STRATEGY ADOPTION

Council considered the Group Manager – Growth's report on the Local Plan – Core Strategy Adoption.

Members were advised that the Core Strategy is the first document of the new Local Plan which sets out the overarching development strategy and core planning policies for the Borough to 2030. It also allocates two key strategic sites, one in the heart of Great Yarmouth along the riverside and one at land south of Bradwell. The Local

Plan Core Strategy has been published for several rounds of consultation with the public and statutory consultees which have informed the content of the Plan. The Council submitted the Local Plan Core Strategy to the Secretary of State in April 2014 and a number of changes, called the main modifications, were recommended by the inspector following the hearing sessions and were published for public consultation from the 11 May to 23 June 2015.

On 30 November 2015 the Council received the Planning Inspector's final report on the Local Plan Core Strategy.

In relation to Policy CS4 – Delivering Affordable Housing, Councillor Sutton requested that Ward Councillors should be informed of discussions that take place with regard to affordable housing that affect their particular wards.

Proposer: Councillor Plant
Secunder: Councillor B Coleman

- (i) That the Council notes (Appendix 1) the conclusion of the Planning Inspector's final report and accepts all the recommendations (Appendix 1A).
- (ii) That the Council adopts the Local Plan Core Strategy (Appendix 2) which incorporates all the "main modifications" as recommended by the Planning Inspector and all the "additional (minor) modifications" (listed in Appendix 3) and, further delegates to officers prior to the publication of the Local Plan Core Strategy, the correction of any further grammatical errors together with any improvements from a presentational perspective.

CARRIED

5 ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE INVESTMENT 2015-16

Council considered the Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods' report which asked Members to consider the current investment in Arts, Culture and Heritage and was recommended to approve a further one year's grant to St Georges Theatre Trust for 2016/17.

Councillor T Wainwright reported that as the Borough Council only currently nominates one representative to serve on the Theatre Trust, the Trust should now be requested to increase the Borough Council's representation to three Members. In response, the Leader stated that if the Trust was minded to increase the Borough Council's representation then this would need the approval of the Charity Commission.

In response to a question from Councillor Sutton as to the reason why a sum of £57,059 had been included in the budget for St Georges, the Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods reported that £17,000 of this sum was for repairs and maintenance at the Theatre. Councillor Myers also raised the issue of what liability the Council has in respect of the St Georges Theatre building.

Proposer: Councillor Plant
Secunder: Councillor Reynolds

- (i) That the current investment profile for Arts, Culture and Heritage within the Council's budget be noted.
- (ii) That approval be given to include a further year's grant of £40,000 for St Georges Theatre Trust to support the development of a business plan in the Council's budget

for 2016/17, and that the £32,000 saving from the changes to the management of the public conveniences will be a permanent saving and as such should be included within the base budget as an ongoing saving year on year, and the request for £40,000 to support the St Georges Theatre Trust will be a one off cost and will therefore be met in year from reserves.

(iii) That the St Georges Theatre Trust be requested to give their written assent that they will seek the approval of the Charity Commission that the Borough Council's representation on the Trust is increased to three representatives before the grant of £40,000 is released.

CARRIED

6 COMMITTEE SYSTEM OF GOVERNANCE

Following the Council's decision at its November meeting to change its form of governance from Leader and Cabinet to committee system, as provided for under the Local Government Act 2000, Council considered the Interim Chief Executive Officer's report with regard to the appointment of a Governance Committee with the specific task of drawing up the necessary structural arrangements for the committee system. Members were advised that the Governance Committee would be politically balanced.

In order to implement the Council's decision by the chosen date of the 16 May 2016, Council would need to resolve upon its proposed committee structure, number of committees, membership numbers and terms of reference. Under the Act the Authority must draw up proposals for the change which must include a timetable with respect to the implementation of the proposals and details of any transitional arrangements which are necessary for the implementation of the proposals. Details of the proposed terms of reference for the Governance Committee were considered and endorsed.

Proposer: Councillor Plant
Seconder: Councillor Walker

- (i) To approve the creation of a Governance Committee as detailed in the Interim Chief Executive Officer's report, comprising Councillors, Annison, Carpenter, Grey, Myers, Plant, Thirtle, T Wainwright, Walker and Williamson.
- (ii) To agree the terms of reference of the Governance Committee as detailed in the Interim Chief Executive Officer's report.
- (iii) To approve the proposed budget for the change in governance.
- (iv) To require the Governance Committee to formulate proposals, which are as far as possible, cost neutral, without compromising on the efficiency of the decision making of the Council.

CARRIED

7 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MONITORING OFFICER

Council noted for information that under Section 5(7) of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, the Monitoring Officer had decided to appoint David Johnson from nplaw as a Deputy Monitoring Officer for Great Yarmouth Borough Council.

8 APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2016-17

Proposer: Councillor Grey
Secunder: Councillor Jones

That Councillor Malcolm Bird be appointed as Mayor of the Borough of Great Yarmouth for the Municipal Year 2016/17.

CARRIED

9 APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

(a) Great Yarmouth Transport Steering Group (formerly Car Parking Strategy Steering Group)

Proposer: Councillor Plant
Secunder: Councillor Jeal

That Councillors Grey, Plant and Sutton be appointed to serve on the Great Yarmouth Transport Steering Group.

CARRIED

(b) Great Yarmouth Municipal Charities

Proposer: Councillor T Wainwright
Secunder: Councillor B Coleman

That Councillor Jeal replace Councillor Davis on the Great Yarmouth Municipal Charities.

10 BUDGET COUNCIL - FEBRUARY 2016

The Leader reported that as the County Council would not be holding their Budget Council meeting until the 22 February 2016, it would be necessary for the Borough Council to change its Budget Council meeting date from the 16 February to the 24 February 2016.

Councillor Sutton requested that Members should be provided with a line by line account of the budget for consideration at the Budget Council meeting, and the Interim Chief Executive Officer gave an assurance that these details would be provided.

Proposer: Councillor Plant
Secunder: Councillor Thirtle

That Budget Council be held on Wednesday 24 February 2016 at 7:00pm.

CARRIED

11 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

Proposer: Councillor Plant
Secunder: Councillor Reynolds

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 involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of the said Act on the grounds that the report contains confidential commercial contract terms.

CARRIED

12 SITE 4 - BEACON PARK

There is a confidential Minute on this item.

SITE 4 BEACON PARK

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman had not been advised of any other business.

The meeting ended at: 19:55

Scrutiny Committee

Minutes

Thursday, 03 December 2015 at 17:30

PRESENT :

Councillor B Williamson(In the Chair), Councillors Collins, M Coleman, Grey, Jones, Mavroudis, Thirtle, T Wainwright and Walker

Councillor Myers attended as a substitute for Councillor Fox.

Mrs S Oxtoby (Chief Executive Officer), Mrs J Beck (Director of Customer Services), Mrs K Watts (Transformation Programme Manager), Mrs K Sly (Section 151 Officer) Mr C Rowland (Corporate Policy and Performance Officer), Mr G Jones (Information Manager),Mr R Hodds (Cabinet Secretary) and Mrs S Wintle (Member Services Officer)

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no Declarations of Interest declared at this meeting.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lawn, Grant, Sutton and Fox.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 22nd October were confirmed subject to an amendment to those present, that Councillor Grey was in attendance.

5 TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

The Chairman informed the Committee that he had asked the Chief Executive Officer for an overview of how shared services would affect the Transformation Programme, and asked the following questions :-

(i) What is your perspective on the current Transformation Programmes and streams of work? Is its delivery being effective in delivering the budget as outlined in the current MTFS?

The Chief Executive Officer responded as follows :-

- The areas that were being focussed on as a Council were exactly the areas that needed the most attention.

- That there seemed to be no clear link between Transformation and the Mid Term Financial Strategy.
- No clear picture of savings.
- Base budget - area needed more focus.
- MTFS is delivering savings in terms of the Transformation Programme, although could not comment on next years savings.
- Progress has been made and continues to be made.
- A clearer picture should be delivered at the next Scrutiny Committee meeting.

(ii) Do you agree that it is imperative to keep to the completion of these cost reductions without changes or interference to deliver the financial savings as laid out in the Mid Term Financial Strategy?

The Chief Executive Officer responded as follows :-

- Completion was imperative
- More savings and income will need to be sought for the Transformation Programme.
- That the Council needs to continue to drive forward.
- Other pieces of work needed to be identified to deliver savings.

(iii) What are the aspects/elements of the Transformation Programme you have taken over from the former Chief Executive Officer Gordon Mitchell? Are these achievable in a shared Chief Executive role?

The Chief Executive Officer responded as follows :-

- Asset Management and a review of Assets and how we can use these more effectively.
- Asset commercialisation, links directly to staff. Appraisals/Competency framework stand to set the tone for what you expect of your staff.
- Organisation Development - No savings have been identified but confident there will be.
- Sickness - Councils biggest area of spend to be addressed.
- Growth Agenda.
- Different System of Finance announced by Chancellor, that the Government Grant will be no longer from 2020 and that the main income for Councils will be through Council Tax and Business Rates.
- The need to look at "How we grow our Businesses"
- That our aim is to retrieve the best value out of all services provided.

(iv) From 16/17 there is a 2.7m saving in the MTFS?

The Chief Executive Officer responded:-

- That at this time until an up to date MTFS had been produced, it would be difficult to clarify exactly what savings there would be.

The Chairman agreed that it was imperative to stick to the plan, although questioned where possible future changes could be made to FTE posts. The Chief Executive Officer advised the Chairman that having only been in the post for three weeks she would be unable to give a definite answer, although stated that everything that was being proposed had a purpose and that savings could be made through being a Shared Service. The Chairman asked that if savings were not delivered, would cuts

within the Council be imminent, and was informed by the Chief Executive Officer that from an initial impression the need to drive out further savings that were already banked needed to remain the focus.

A Member asked what provisions were to be put in place to achieve maximum income from Council Tax and Business Rates. The Chief Executive Officer reported that there was a need to build more houses to maintain a continuing Housing Stream and that Business Rates required attention, although noted that Business Rate Relief is protected and that analysis of businesses together with an understanding of them was important.

Concern was raised by a Member over the Business Rates Collection and the proposed plans for devolution.

The Section 151 Officer reported that work was being undertaken to ascertain figures for an up to date MTFS, although stated that the main focus was at present to deliver a Budget for 2016/17. The Chief Executive Officer pointed out that additional support was required within the Finance Team to enable a detailed breakdown of Budget for 2016/17 based on current areas and the need for further investigation.

A member asked the Chief Executive Officer what was seen as future funding and investments opportunities, it was reported that the Beacon Park Project was a major investment together with further potential investors interested in the Town Centre, and that interventions would be required from the Council to build confidence in Great Yarmouth and potential investors.

The Chairman thanked the Chief Executive Officer and the Officers for their delivery of the Programme.

The Transformation Programme Manager informed Members that there was to be a Members Briefing Session in January.

6 QUARTER 2 PERFORMANCE REPORT

The Committee received the Quarter 2 Performance Report.

A Member expressed concern regarding CM18 : No. of empty homes brought back into use, and asked for clarification on what is deemed as an empty home, and was advised that the figures were based on long term empty properties, and that the Council are working with the home owners to bring those homes back into use.

A Member asked the influences that GYBC have over Housing Authorities and Private Sector Housing, and was advised that enforcing Council Legislation on Private Sector Housing would be a costly process and that at present Voids properties were being focussed upon to reduce the period.

Members were concerned regarding CM23 : Collection Rates Council Tax and how it appeared there was a continual decrease, however members were informed that due to customers opting to pay over 12 months and not 10 has increased and a more stable profile would be available once the increase trend settled down. The Chairman noted that this could not be an automatic change. It was reported by the Corporate Policy and Performance Officer that this was also the same for CM22: Collection rates NNDR.

The Director of Customer Services advised members regarding CM34: Contact Centre telephone calls, that having two members of staff focussing mainly on general enquiry line had kept call levels more controlled and that they were continually looking at ways to work more effectively.

The Transformation Programme Manager pointed out to Members the Improved Performance of CM19: Tonnage of Waste Recycled.

RESOLVED :

That the Quarter 1 Performance Update Report, and the Quarter 2 Performance Report be received.

7 TRANSPARENCY CODE/PUBLICATION SCHEME

The Committee considered the Information Manager's report on the Publication Scheme.

The Information Manager reported that the Councils Publication Scheme now contained the mandatory items as prescribed by the DCLG. The Chairman confirmed that this document was on the Councils Website.

RESOLVED :

That the Information Manager's report be received.

8 GREAT YARMOUTH SPORTS AND LEISURE TRUST

The Chairman informed Members that the Leader was unable to attend due to prior commitments but would report at the next meeting of Scrutiny on the 14th January 2016 on the above matter.

9 SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME 2015-16

The Cabinet Secretary updated Members on the Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2015/16.

The Cabinet Secretary reported that a Budget Monitoring Report should have been presented at the meeting and this would now be reported at the next meeting.

Councillor Grey suggested that The Wintergardens and the proposals for this, should be added to the Work Programme.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

It was noted that there was no other business as might be determined by the Chairman of the meeting as being of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration.

The meeting ended at: 18:50

Audit and Risk

Minutes

Monday, 07 December 2015 at 18:30

PRESENT:

Councillor Grey (in the Chair); Councillors Grant, Walker and Williamson.

Mrs J Beck, Mr G Buck, Mr R Read, Mrs K Sly, Mrs K Watts and Mrs C Webb
(GYBC Officers)

Mrs E Hodds (Internal Audit Consortium Manager)

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was reported that there were no Declarations of Interest declared at the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was noted that apologies for absence had been received from Councillor Jeal.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 24 September 2015 were confirmed.

4 MATTERS ARISING

It was noted that there were no matters arising from the above minutes.

5 PROGRESS REPORT ON INTERNAL AUDIT ACTIVITY BETWEEN 09/09/2015 AND 24/11/2015.

The Committee received and considered the comprehensive report from the Internal Audit Consortium Manager.

The Internal Audit Consortium Manager reported that her report reflected the progress made between 9 September 2015 and 24 November 2015 in relation to the delivery of the Annual Internal Audit Plan for 2015/16 and included abbreviated executive summaries in respect of six audit reviews; Procurement, Planned & Responsive Maintenance & Great Yarmouth Norse Contract Management, Great Yarmouth Borough Services Contract, Markets, Change Control & Patch Management and

Network Security and Infrastructure which had been finalised during this period.

The Internal Audit Consortium Manager reported that progress in relation to delivery of the revised Internal Audit Plan 2015/16 was in line with expectations. However, during the period covered by this report, six audits had been finalised concluding in 73 recommendations being agreed with management; eight priority one (urgent), 32 priority two (important) and 33 priority three (needs attention). These agreed recommendations, together with those currently outstanding, amounts to over 100 recommendations requiring attention. The Internal Audit Consortium Manager reported that this was a serious issue which needed to be addressed as a matter of urgency as it indicated significant weaknesses in the Council's control environment.

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods circulated copies of an Action Plan which detailed how the agreed audit recommendations relating to procurement issues would be addressed.

The Transformation Programme Manager reported that a thorough review of the Market was being undertaken which would result in a central Market Policy document which would address all of the current failings. A Member welcomed this initiative as a review of the Market was long overdue. He hoped that the review would rectify the current situation whereby the Market Manager was not obliged to work on a Saturday.

The Chairman requested that an update on the Market be reported at the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

- (i) That the Committee receive and note the outcomes of those audits finalised during the period.
- (ii) That an update report regarding the Market be given at the next meeting.

6 REPORT ON THE STATUS OF AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS DUE FOR IMPLEMENTATION BETWEEN 1 AUGUST AND 30 SEPTEMBER 2015

The Committee received and considered the comprehensive report from the Internal Audit Consortium Manager.

The report informed Members on the latest progress made in relation to management implementation of agreed audit recommendations which fell due between 1 August 2015 and 30 September 2015.

The Internal Audit Consortium Manager reported that as of 30 September 2015, there were a total of 31 recommendations outstanding as 3 had been closed down since the report was written; 29 of which had been previously reported to the Committee and five of which were reported as outstanding for the first time. Completion of audit recommendations has slowed down again and a review of management responses indicates that in some areas, work is under way to address the recommendations. However, in some areas, resourcing issues appear to be affecting implementing the recommendations.

In addition, as noted in the progress report, 73 recommendations had recently been agreed by management in relation to completed audits which represented a serious number which required action by management and indicated issues with the Council's control environment.

The Environmental Health Group Manager reported details of an Action Plan currently being undertaken to address the outstanding recommendations relating to Business Continuity and Data Centre, Back Up and Disaster Recovery. a new Resilience Officer had been appointed and the tasks to complete the recommendations were on track with revised deadline dates having been provided.

The Director of Customer Services reported that there were two IT recommendations outstanding from audits completed in 2011/12 which were Integra Application Review and capita Application Review. Support to address these is required from Norfolk County Council and revised deadline dates have been provided.

A Member raised concerns regarding the recommendation from the audit of Property and Portfolio Management in relation to reconciling the asset management data to the finance asset register which was dependent on resourcing and had not been progressed.

The Section 151 Officer reported that the number of outstanding audit recommendations would be discussed with Group Managers at their next meeting in January 2016.

RESOLVED:

That the Committee receives and notes the current position in relation to the completion of agreed audit recommendations.

7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman reported that there was no other business as being of sufficient urgency to warrant consideration.

8 EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC

The meeting ended at: 19:15

Cabinet

Minutes

Wednesday, 09 December 2015 at 18:30

Present :

Councillor Plant (In the Chair), Councillors Carpenter, B Coleman, Hanton, Smith and Thirtle.

Councillors T Wainwright, Walker, Williamson and Reynolds attended as observers.

Mrs S Oxtoby (Interim Chief Executive Officer), Ms K Sly (Section 151 Officer), Mrs J Beck (Director of Customer Services), Mr R Read (Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods), Mrs K Watts (Transformation Programme Manager), Mr D Glason (Group Manager - Growth), Mr R Hodds (Cabinet Secretary), Mr A Dyson (Group Manager - Property and Construction) and Mr D Wiles (Communications Officer)

1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors B Coleman and Plant declared a Personal Interest in the item relating to Arts, Culture and Heritage Investment but were allowed to speak and vote on the item.

Councillors Williamson and B Coleman declared a Personal Interest in the item relating to the St Georges Theatre Trust in their capacity as Members of SeaChange Arts but were allowed to speak and vote on the item.

2 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were no apologies for absence.

3 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on the 11th November 2015 were confirmed.

4 LOCAL PLAN - CORE STRATEGY ADOPTION

Cabinet considered the Group Manager (Growth's) report in respect of the Local Plan - Core Strategy Adoption.

The Group Manager (Growth) reported that Core Strategy is the first document of the new Local Plan which sets out the overarching Development Strategy and Core Planning Policies for the Borough to 2030. It also allocates two key strategic sites,

one in the heart of Great Yarmouth on the riverside and one at land south of Bradwell. The Local Core Plan Strategy has been published for several rounds of Consultation with the Public and Statutory Consultees which have informed the content of the Plan. The Council had submitted the Local Plan Core Strategy to the Secretary of State in April 2014 for an examination in public. A number of changes called the main modifications were recommended by the Inspector following the hearing sessions and were published with public consultation from the 11th May to 23rd June 2015. On the 30th November 2015 the Council received the Planning Inspector's final report on the Local Plan Core Strategy.

RESOLVED :-

(1) That Council be recommended to note Appendix 1, the Conclusions of the Planning Inspectors final report and accept all the recommendations as detailed in Appendix 1.

(2) That Council be recommended to adopt the Local Plan Core Strategy (Appendix 2) which incorporates all the "main modifications" as recommended by the Planning Inspector and all the "additional (minor) modifications" (listed in Appendix 3) and, further delegates to Officers prior to the publication of the Local Plan Core Strategy, the correction of any further grammatical errors together with any improvements from a presentational perspective.

5 NORTHERN PARISH TOILET REVIEW

Cabinet considered the Director of Customer Services report which identified and outlined the potential savings in delivering a hybrid service throughout the Northern Parish Public Toilet and North Drive for the 2016/17 season. The Cabinet Secretary advised Cabinet that this matter would be subject to the Call In Procedure.

RESOLVED :

That approval be given to the management solutions for the operation of the Northern Parish Toilets and North Drive for the 2016/17 financial year as detailed in the Director of Customer Service's report.

6 ARTS, CULTURE AND HERITAGE INVESTMENT 2015-16

Cabinet considered the Director of Housing and Neighbourhood's report which asked Members to consider the current investment in Arts, Culture and Heritage and also recommended approval of a further one year's grant to St Georges Theatre for 2016/17.

The Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods reported that the St Georges Theatre Trust was requesting a grant from the Council of £40,000 for a further year. The Arts Council for England had expressed an interest in match funding Council investment in the Theatre through a bid in Grants for the Arts Programme and a commitment from the Borough Council would enable a discussion about the level and type of support that they are able to provide. The Arts Council expertise would help to support St George's in developing into a more sustainable business model.

Cabinet also discussed the Council's representation on the St George's Theatre Trust which was currently restricted to one Member appointment. Cabinet discussed the possibility of the Trust increasing the number of representatives allowed to sit on the

Trust from the Borough Council. Members were advised that this would be a matter for the Trust to determine themselves.

RESOLVED :

(1) That the current investment profile for Arts, Culture and Heritage within the Council's Budget as detailed in the Director of Housing and Neighbourhoods report be noted.

(2) That Council be recommended to agree to a further year's grant of £40,000 for the St Georges Theatre Trust to support the development of a Business Plan and that this be included in the Council's Budget for 2016/17, and that £32,000 of the funding to be drawn from the savings on Northern Parish Public Toilets with a further £8000 of saving being sought from within the Service, subject to the following conditions :-

- A bid to Arts Council England is submitted but the Business Plan must ensure that the Theatre Trust can financially break even by 2017/18 at the latest and no further funding is required from the Council, and the Arts Council must not compromise this aim with conditions associated with the type of "offer" the venue can provide.
- That the Board of Trustees secures external support in reviewing their own effectiveness and ensuring they have the right mix of skills and experience moving forward.
- That the Board of Trustees explore all possible avenues to secure future funding including more commercial uses for the assets (e.g. through franchises or similar).

7 COUNCIL TAX - TAX BASE

Cabinet considered the Revenues Manager's report with regard to the Council Tax - Tax Base.

Members were advised that the Council Tax Base is a technical calculation that has to be formally set each year and is the first stage of the Council Tax setting process that will be finalised once the budget has been agreed. The report asked Cabinet to approve the calculation of the 2016/17 Tax Base totalling £26,722. This is the total number of Domestic Properties in the Borough using Band D as the average property band.

The Cabinet Secretary advised Members that this matter would be subject to the Call In Procedure.

RESOLVED :

That the estimated Tax Bases for the Borough and for each Parish as detailed in the Revenue Managers report be approved.

8 APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2016-17

Cabinet was asked to recommend to Council that Councillor Malcolm Bird be appointed as Mayor of the Borough of Great Yarmouth for the Municipal Year 2016/17.

RESOLVED :

That Council be recommended to approve that Councillor Malcolm Bird be appointed as Mayor of the Borough of Great Yarmouth for the Municipal Year 2016/17.

9 GREAT YARMOUTH TRANSPORT STEERING GROUP

Cabinet was asked to consider the report from the County Council's Director of Community and Environmental Services with regard to the proposed new Constitution and Terms of Reference for the Great Yarmouth Transport Steering Group (formally the Car Parking Strategy Steering Group). The Cabinet Secretary advised Members that this matter would be subject to the Call In Procedure. Members were also advised that appointments to the Steering Group would be a matter for Council to determine.

RESOLVED :

That the Constitution and Terms of Reference for the Great Yarmouth Transport Steering Group (formally the Car Parking Strategy Steering Group) be agreed, as detailed in the County Council's Director of Community and Environmental Services report.

10 CAR PARK AT BEACONSFIELD ROAD GREAT YARMOUTH

Cabinet was reminded that at its meeting on the 12th August 2015 Members had considered and approved a reference from the Car Parking Strategy Steering Group to agree in principle to Norse taking over part of the Beaconsfield Road car park. At the meeting in August the representative from GYB Services had reported in detail on the proposal of GYB services to utilise part of the Beaconsfield Road car park and on the issue of the surfacing that would be used at this location.

Members expressed their concern that it had been understood that GYB Services would be undertaking a consultation with local residents in this area prior to any work commencing on site. It was understood that GYB Services had not carried out the consultation separately but Members were advised that a pre planning application consultation could be carried out on this matter. The Director of Customer Services also confirmed that the area to be used by GYB Services was that as detailed at the meeting on the 12th August.

11 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.

12 PROPOSAL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A 31,000 SQUARE FOOT OFFICE ON SITE 4 BEACON PARK

There is a confidential Minute on this item.

SITE 4 BEACON PARK

The meeting ended at: 20:00

Resolution to Council

Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service proposals if implemented would see daytime cover in Gorleston and Great Yarmouth reduced to two whole time crews and one retained crew and night time cover reduced to one whole time crew and one retained crew. Night time cover will in effect be cut in half.

The loss of a whole time crew at night will inevitably lead to an increase in response times as retained crews take between three and seven times longer (up to 7 minutes 20 seconds longer) to dispatch than whole time crews.

Modelling data in the proposals indicates this will lead to an increase in the loss of life, the exact increase for our borough is unclear as projections of 1.14 lives lost for the whole time and 0.51 lives lost for the retained reductions each year include other areas.

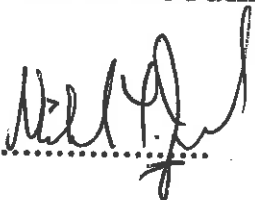
Norfolk County Council has saved over £245 million in the last three years and through further cuts to local government funding is faced with finding a further £111 million in savings. This is a result of the 29% cut at the Department for Communities and Local Government announced in November and agreed by ministers that are being passed on to fire and local authorities. It is because of this pressure on its budget that Norfolk County Council finds itself in the unenviable position of considering cuts to one of the most efficient fire and rescue services in England.

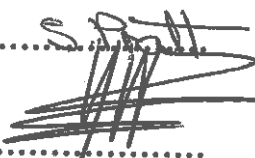
This council recognises difficult decisions must be made as result of Westminster imposed cuts however this council resolves to write to the leader of Norfolk County Council to object to the proposed reduction in fire crews and the loss of a fire tender from the Borough. That any reduction in service at

our three fire stations of Martham, Gorleston and Great Yarmouth would lead to an increase in the risk to the lives of residents and visitors, that this is unacceptable and is opposed by this council.

Furthermore it is noted that an one off grant from Norfolk County Council and DEFRA funded a flood rescue capability in Norfolk, that in our 'hour of need' during the storm surge of December 2013 deployed 17 specialist teams and has recently been commended for work in flood rescue in northern England. This funding ends in 2017.

This council resolves to write to Brandon Lewis MP to request that Norfolk's flood rescue capability is again supported through a grant from Government. Recognising the benefit and reassurance that such a capability brings to a community at risk of flooding.

Signed 1.  MICHAEL T. JEAL

Signed 2.  SYLVIA PRATT

Signed 3.  HILARY WAINWRIGHT

Signed 4.  HILARY WAINWRIGHT

Signed 5.  CEF SUTTON

Signed 6.  BERNARD WILLIAMS