

Borough Council of
**King's Lynn &
West Norfolk**



COUNCIL MEETING

Agenda

Thursday, 28th April, 2016
at 6.30 pm

in the

**Assembly Room
Town Hall
Saturday Market Place
King's Lynn**



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King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 1EX
Telephone: 01553 616200
Fax: 01553 691663

Dear Councillor

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the **Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk** which will commence at **6.30 pm** on **Thursday, 28th April, 2016** in **The Assembly Room, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn** to transact the business shown below.

Yours sincerely

Ray Harding
Chief Executive

BUSINESS TO BE TRANSACTED

1. PRAYERS

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

3. MINUTES

To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 24 March 2016 (previously circulated).

4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Please indicate if there are any interests which should be declared. A declaration of an interest should indicate the nature of the interest (if not already declared on the Register of Interests) and the agenda item to which it relates. If a disclosable pecuniary interest is declared, the member should withdraw from the room whilst the matter is discussed.

5. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

To receive Mayor's communications and announcements.

6. URGENT BUSINESS

To receive any items of business which in the opinion of the Mayor are urgent.

7. PETITIONS AND PUBLIC QUESTIONS

To receive petitions and public questions in accordance with Standing Order 9.

8. CABINET MEMBERS REPORTS

In accordance with Standing Order 11.1 to receive reports from Cabinet Members in the following order and under Standing Order 11.2 (a) Members of the Council may ask questions of the Cabinet Member on their reports and Portfolio areas:

(Councillors are reminded that this is a question and answer session not a debate.)

- 1) **Culture Heritage and Health - Councillor Mrs E Nockolds** (Pages 6 - 8)
- 2) **Development - Councillor R Blunt** (Pages 9 - 10)
- 3) **Environment - Councillor B Long** (Page 11)
- 4) **Housing and Community - Councillor A Lawrence** (Pages 12 - 13)
- 5) **ICT, Leisure and Public Space - Councillor D Pope** (Page 14)
- 6) **Special Projects - Councillor Lord Howard** (Page 15)
- 7) **Deputy Leader and Regeneration and Industrial Assets - Councillor A Beales** (Pages 16 - 17)
- 8) **Leader and Resources - Councillor N Daubney** (Pages 18 - 21)

9. MEMBERS QUESTION TIME

In accordance with Standing Order 11.2 (b), Members of the Council may ask any questions of the Chairman of any Council Body (except the Cabinet).

10. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM COUNCIL BODIES

To consider the following recommendations to Council:

- 1) **Cabinet: 5 April 2016** (Pages 22 - 26)

To consider the following recommendations from the Cabinet meeting on 5 April 2016:

CAB153 Report of Scrutiny Structures and Policy Development Task Group

CAB154 Review Of Members Allowances

CAB156 Strategic Land Acquisition - King's Lynn

11. NOTICE OF MOTION

i) To consider the following Notice of Motion (2/16), submitted by Councillor J M Tilbury:

“This Council opposes the imposition of an elected mayor upon East Anglia.”

ii) To consider the following Notice of Motion (3/16) submitted by Councillor N J Daubney:

“This Council wishes to properly and fully debate the acceptance or otherwise of devolved powers before end June 2016 taking account of all aspects, positive and otherwise of what is on offer for the residents and businesses of the Borough. This

Council request its Cabinet to make clear to those liaising with potential combined authority partners at both local and national levels the Councils opposition to acceptance of a directly elected Mayor.”

Ray Harding
Chief Executive

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

28 April 2016

**COUNCILLOR MRS EA NOCKOLDS
CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, HERITAGE AND HEALTH**

For the period 25th March to April 18th 2016

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.



The Town Hall was open to the public on Good Friday. There has been some excellent media coverage by the regions press as well as live radio interviews. The comment wall has had many complimentary reports from visitors posted on to it. Many children have commented on being frightened in the Gaol House.

The environment temperature and humidity in the Archive storage/strong room area, where mobile racking has been installed, is expected to be suitable during late May to receive the KL Archives from the Norfolk Record Office (NRO). During the storage at County's Record Office 62 charters and 3 volumes have been cleaned, repaired and prepared for digitization and later to be displayed on the NRO web-site.

The recently appointed Town Hall Marketing officer has joined the Town Hall App working party who is working towards a target of completion in July. The App will include information of all the heritage sites in King's Lynn including the walking trails.

The external pavement up-lighting which will illuminate the Town Hall should be switched on at the end of this month. The lighting will be programmed to

change colour on the hour for short periods. There is also the capability of using them during remembrance of certain charities.

The Lynn Museum will be opening on Sundays from 12midday until 4pm for the 2016 summer season. This will add support to the marketing of King's Lynn as a town to visit during the week-end.

Lynn Museum has adapted Learning Packs for schools following recent changes to the history curriculum. Seahenge is proving popular with schools. Friends of the Museum and other volunteers meet regularly to scan and catalogue many drawing collections by local artists Henry Baines and Walter Dexter .The team have scanned a total of 2000 items from the Museum's prints and drawings collection. In addition to the scanning project a small team of volunteers, supported by Assistant Museum Curator, are undertaking an audit of collections at the museum stores.

Norfolk County Councils Community Clinics at Kings Court will be in operation next month. The aim of the scheme is to provide adult social care to older people and to inform them of their options of maintaining independence in their own home. The Ask LILY co-ordinator will also be in attendance to demonstrate to the attender/carer the LILY website which will inform them of many other options available, including those with Dementia.

Due to the success last year, for the 2016 summer season we have organised many elaborate events in partnership with the Vancouver Quarter, RAF Marham, Norfolk Museums Service and many other community groups. There will be a minimum of one major event fortnightly which will increase to every week-end during August. The first of the events will be during the week-end of May 20th the Hanse Festival and the KL In Bloom Plant Fair with Radio Norfolk.

The second event, held in June, will be the launch of the Tornado Trail and the RAF Marham Freedom Parade who are celebrating their 100th Anniversary. The Council has purchased 2 Tornados. I have invited MIND Charity and Gaywood Scout Cubs, who are also celebrating their 100th Anniversary, to decorate them.

June 12th. celebrations will be held to celebrate the Queens 90th birthday, 1920's event in the town hall garden and the Lions Fun Day in The Walks.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

The registration for Bepak GEAR 10K and the mini GEAR is almost full to capacity. At the time of writing almost 2300 for 10K and 1200 for the mini GEAR has registered.

During April – July Alive Leisure are offering a range of 6 week specialist fitness courses at each of the 3 venues across the Borough. At Downham Mkt. a new cycling programme on Wednesdays for young people aged

between 10-16 is starting, which are ran by British Cycling qualified coaches.

The campaign for KL In Bloom has begun. Arrangements are in place for the Front Garden competition and the Allotment Challenge. The KL Horticultural Society is sponsoring both events. It has been decided to raise the awareness of In Bloom by organising a photographic competition for both under 18years of age and over 18yrs. The theme is 'Love my Park' which will coincide with 'Love Parks Week' in July. This competition is sponsored by Wolfys Photography and KL Camera Club.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Portfolio meetings with;

- Ray Harding Chief Executive
- Chris Bamfield Exe. Director Commercial Services
- John Greenhalgh Environmental Health Manager
- Sarah Moore Allotments & KL in Bloom
- Sarah Dennis Partnership and Funding Officer

Cabinet

GEAR 10k Working Group

Town Hall Marketing Officer

Norfolk Records Committee

Norfolk Joint Museums Committee

Norfolk Cycling & Walking Strategy Working Group

WN Tourists Forum Executive

WN & KL Girls' School Trust

KL Festival AGM

Retired Professional Business Men, Probus, luncheon

Mayors Volunteers Awards evening

IT Training

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

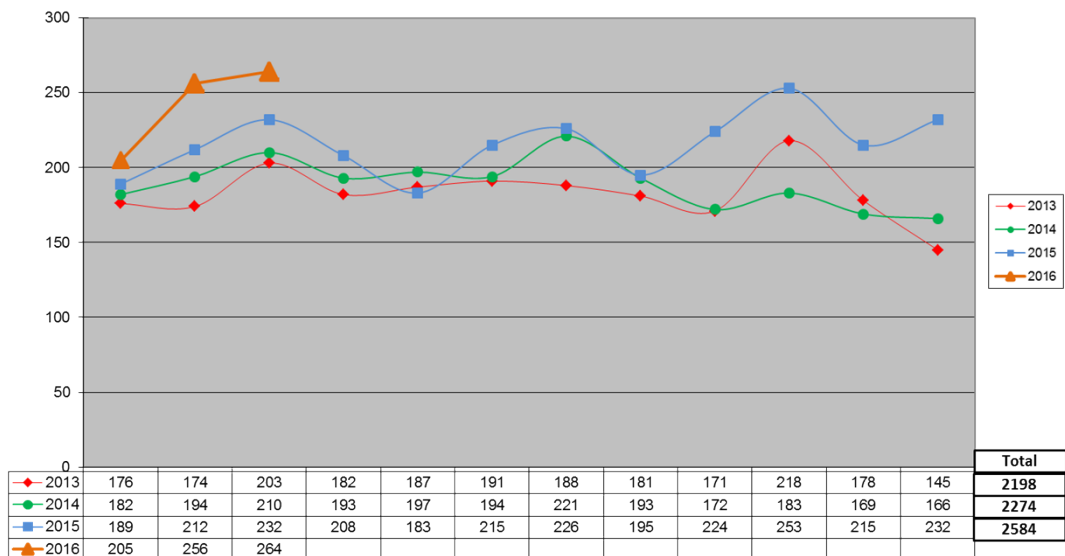
28 April 2016

COUNCILLOR RICHARD BLUNT - CABINET MEMBER FOR DEVELOPMENT

For the period 11 March 2016 to 19 April 2016

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Planning and discharge of condition applications received



Planning Applications and Five Year Land Supply

Application numbers continue to be grow, 264. That is 8 more than last month 4 year high. The reallocated internal resources plus the existing planning officers are working very hard to ensure all applications are processed within recommended time scales.

After careful consideration of the number of recent planning application approvals and the closeness of the final approval of the Local Development Framework and discussions with Cabinet, the Borough Council announces it believes it now has a five year land supply. A statement to that affect will be included in the evidence being presented at the Heacham Inquiry in May. The implications of this statement are that all planning decisions made after Tuesday 19 April where appropriate will be considered using Local Planning Policies not National Planning Policies.

E-consultation

In order to ensure the smooth migration to the new system several training sessions have been arranged and offered to Parish Councils.

Drop in training events have been scheduled for Wednesday 11 May (10 am, 2pm and 5pm) and Friday 13 May (10 am and 2 pm). Further dates will be offered if required.

To date 10 Parish Councils representatives are attending these events.

Community Infrastructure Levy

The formal public consultation of the Draft Charging Schedule began on Monday 14 March and will end at 5 pm on Monday 25 April. Late responses cannot be accepted. 6 responses have been received as at 13 April.

Local Development Framework

The Site Allocations and Development Management Policies modifications approved by Council last month are now open for further consultation. The consultation is for six weeks. From Wednesday 6 April until 5 pm on Wednesday 18 May. Late responses cannot be accepted. 3 responses have been received as at 13 April.

2 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Council
Cabinet
Cabinet Sifting
LDF Task Group
Various meetings with Officers
Planning Committee as an observer.

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL**28 April 2016****COUNCILLOR BRIAN LONG - CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT**

For the period 24 March to 18 April 2016

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.**Waste and Recycling**

From 1st April residual waste collected by us is now not going to landfill. Following Norfolk County Council decision that no waste should be landfilled we are now taking all waste collected in West Norfolk just over the border into Cambridgeshire where a commercial operator is crushing and baling waste for export as waste derived fuel (WDF). It is already being found that tipping onto hard standing at this facility and also at NEWS depot is quicker and better for the equipment on board the refuse collection vehicle.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.**Local Green Points**

As previously announced we have awarded Local Green points to lead our DCLG funded initiative to increase recycling levels and participation across the borough. At the time of writing the scheduled launch for this is set for 21st April. After which it is hoped we will have a briefing on the scheme for councillors.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

In addition to my usual round of portfolio and Cabinet meetings I have also attended the following:

Public Briefing On the Centre For Advanced Knowledge Engineering in Downham Market

Norfolk Coast Partnership Core Management Group

Norfolk Waste Partnership

Monthly Catch up with Wash European Marine Site project manager.

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

28 April 2016

COUNCILLOR ADRIAN LAWRENCE - CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING AND COMMUNITY

For the period 24 March to 19 April 2016

Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Home Choice

The number on the register at the end of March 2016 was 1,614. A decrease of 44 on the number at the end of February 2016.

68 applicants were housed into Housing Association accommodation during March.

The data transfer from Open Housing was taken at the beginning of March and new applicants have only recently been able to apply on-line using the new system. This accounts for the seeming decrease in numbers on the register and is likely to be the case for a few weeks until the numbers build up again.

West Norfolk Homechoice is now in its 12th year of operation. A lot of changes have happened in those years and the latest is developing the online service available.

West Norfolk Homechoice is a partnership of 13 Housing Associations and is administered by BCKLWN Council. It is a choice based lettings scheme where applicants on the Housing Register are able to 'bid' for vacant Housing Association homes each week.

By the end of 2013, 93% of all bids were being received via the Homechoice website and since 2014 all bidding for properties has been done online. Property photos were introduced later that year.

From March 2016 we have introduced online applications for housing applicants too.

There is also a new look website with differences in how properties are presented for people on the Housing Register together with additional information such as links to mapping.

The next step is for more housing advice to be available online and for new systems to be used within the housing options team.

As well as increased access to information and applications on the internet outside office hours, the new methods of working will allow people to update changes in their circumstances online. This can be done via smartphones as well as PCs, laptops and other devices

For those not able to access the internet at home, computers are available at the Council's offices in King's Lynn, Downham Market and Hunstanton. Staff can also guide and aid the public in the completion of online forms.

Custom Build Register

The Custom Build Register went live on 1st April and can be accessed via the Custom and Self-Build page on the website (<http://www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=28047>). The register operates in partnership with South Norfolk Council, Breckland and The Broads Authority. We currently have 4 individuals on the register and work will start on actively promoting the register shortly.

Meetings attended

Cabinet
Freebridge Community Housing
Discovery Centre
Planning
Full Council
Meetings with Officers

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

28 April 2016

COUNCILLOR DAVID POPE - CABINET MEMBER FOR ICT, LEISURE AND PUBLIC SPACE

For the period -25th March to 28th April 2016

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

The capital investment in fitness facilities has been completed at Lynnsport and Downham and has been well received. The new area at Lynnsport “Synergy 360” offers a greater range of exercises particularly focussed on body weight training. The move of the toning equipment into its own space has received some complaints but feedback has been mainly positive. Officers are continuing to discuss opportunities to improve the areas with customers.

I visited Lynnsport to look at the capital works to create the new hockey and tennis facilities made possible by the Major Housing Development scheme for Lynnsport. The facilities are a fantastic improvement for the site and I look forward to opening them next month.

The pay by phone parking opportunity first tested on Tuesday Market Place is now available on all short-term car parks in King’s Lynn and also the disabled pay and display parking area in the multi-storey car park.

The Council has commenced management and operation of the Burnham Market car park and toilets. I attended the opening ceremony on the 9th April. The quality of the car park is excellent and I am sure will be well used, particularly once the County Council completes its line marking.

2 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

30 March	Portfolio meeting
05 April	Matthew Henry meeting
05 April	Cabinet
06 April	Downham Mkt SNAP meeting
19 April	LAC meeting
22 April	Visit to Lynnsport with Dale Gagen
28 April	Full Council

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

28 April 2016

COUNCILLOR LORD HOWARD - CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL PROJECTS

For the period March to April 2016

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Consideration has been given to a suitable commemorative gesture for Her Majesty The Queen's 90th birthday.

Agreement has been reached on the wording to accompany the King John statue

2 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Cabinet
Meeting with Chris Bamfield
Council

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

28 April 2016

COUNCILLOR ALISTAIR BEALES - CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION

For the period 24 March to 18 April 2016

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Having discharged all the necessary planning conditions, work has started on the new road at Lynnsport. This significant new infrastructure will provide the access originally planned for Lynnsport as well as providing good access to the new developments on Marsh Lane and other areas and also improve access for the existing and very large North Lynn Estate. The road and new car parking should be completed by Christmas 2016.

In a slight departure from the norm, I should like to use this, my 54th Cabinet report to Council to record my thanks and appreciation of the leadership and guidance of Cllr. Nick Daubney in all of the years I have been privileged to serve as a Cabinet member of this Council. I shall miss Nick's calm and capable management of all manner of situations at Council and I wish his successor well.

2 Forthcoming Activities and Developments.

Given the forthcoming change of Leader this may be my last report on Regeneration matters and I thought a brief recap of some of the past and ongoing projects may be in order.

- Installation of the pontoons on the South Quay.
- Completion of the Spinney project in Hunstanton.
- Regeneration & refurbishment of the Saturday Market Place.
- Construction (ongoing) of King's Lynn Innovation Centre.
- Regeneration & refurbishment of the Tuesday Market Place.
- Ongoing build & sale of 155 homes at Nar Valley Park.
- Securing of an Enterprise Zone on Nar Ouse Regeneration Area.
- Securing agreement of Council to pursue the circa £80 million Major Housing Scheme to develop 400 new homes and build new roads, car parks, sporting facilities and create/enhance wildlife areas.

- Acquisition of former Morston Assets land at the Nar Ouse Regeneration Area which allow this Council to progress remediation and development of this important brown field site.
- Evaluation of the Council's land holding across the Borough and pursuit of planning permission and/or sale where appropriate.
- Acquisition of strategic (and often difficult) sites for investment or future sensitive development.
- Ongoing Analysis of the structure and staffing of the entire department in the light of budget pressures.
- Townscape Heritage Initiative.

3 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

29th March – meeting with Henry Bellingham MP.
 1st April – Enterprise Zone launch (had to send apologies last minute).
 4th April – meeting at Princess Theatre, Hunstanton.
 5th April – conference call re Better Broadband for Norfolk.
 5th April – meeting on silo site with Property Services Manager.
 5th April – Cabinet.
 6th April – meeting with operators of Marriott's Warehouse.
 7th April – meeting with Henry Bellingham.
 11th April – Gayton PC.
 13th April – Leziate PC.
 19th April – meeting with Leader & Chief Exec.
 20th April – meeting at Lynnsport with Corporate Projects Officer.
 20th April – Sibelco Liaison meeting.
 27th April – THI board meeting.
 28th April – full Council.

CABINET MEMBERS REPORT TO COUNCIL

28 April 2016

COUNCILLOR N J DAUBNEY - CABINET MEMBER FOR RESOURCES AND LEADER

For the period 24 March to 20 April 2016

1 Progress on Portfolio Matters.

Budget 2015/2016

The budget monitoring report as at 29 February 2016 was issued at the beginning of this month and it shows that the budget for 2015/2016 still remains on track with additional savings of £150,050 being reported. Our Financial Services team is now working on the closure of the 2015/2016 accounts.

Budget 2016/2017

As we end the first month of the 2016/2017 Financial Year there is nothing new to report on the budget which was approved at the February 2016 Council meeting. The Financial Plan 2015-2020 and the Fees and Charges 2016/2017 documents are available on the Council website, links below:

[Financial Plan 2015-2020](#)

[Fees and Charges 2016/2017](#)

SPARSE

SPARSE is a subsidiary of The Rural Services Network and has a particular interest in representing the interests of those Rural Councils with significant urban centres and responsibilities. This Council is an active member of SPARSE and I attend all meetings where at all possible.

We have benefited greatly from their work; most particularly they have marshalled our MPs to lobby for a fairer share of the Revenue Support from central Government.

The late announcements of extra assistance following this year's settlement are as a direct result of their work.

They are now in detailed and extensive discussions with Government

regarding the greater reliance on business rate retention and the effect on rural areas.

It is often forgotten that to deliver support services in rural areas especially in cases of challenge (such as deprivation) is extremely expensive when compared to urban conglomerations...BUT the revenue support is considerably less. SPARSE works hard to close the margin and that has been to our considerable benefit.

Devolution

As you know there is considerable unhappiness regarding the imposition of a directly elected mayor were we to agree to join a Combined Authority. Certainly Henry Bellingham shares this view. The difficulty we as a Council have is that the message from the Secretary of State, Greg Clarke, and from the Treasury. **“no mayor no deal”**.

I recognise that there are those in our number who would say well fine, no deal.

As I have said many times, that will be a decision for full Council, but I see it as my responsibility to continue exploring all avenues so that the fullest information can be made available to Council.

On 13th April there was a further meeting of all Leaders of Cambridgeshire, Peterborough Unitary, Norfolk and Suffolk. Not all attended and indeed Peterborough Unitary was absent. The Leader of Cambridgeshire was present and contributed significantly to the discussions. The meeting was chaired by a District Councillor from Cambridgeshire, and was facilitated by Sir Merrick Cockell (the former chairman of the LGA and former leader of Kensington and Chelsea). I think that, out of that meeting, came the clear view that communication was (as it so often is) the biggest challenge and indeed a challenge not being undertaken successfully.

Trying to devise a narrative of a vision within a few short words is in fact quite challenging and this will be worked upon in the next week or so. Rather more confusing (to me at any rate) was a presentation by civil servants from Department for Communities and Local Government Local (DCLG). This party was led by Paul Rowsell. Mr Rowsell is Deputy Director from DCLG. I have had many dealings with Mr Rowsell before, in that he led the Labour charge for a unitary Norfolk. I have to tell you that I found his presentation most confusing. Actually, not so much his presentation as his message. To be frank, I think had he delivered the message some months ago, a lot of soul searching would have been saved.

My understanding, assuming I have read the terms of the legislation correctly, is that the Secretary of State can direct councils to join a combined authority should any particular district choose not to do so.

I think it's been made clear by the Secretary of State, since, that he has no

particular appetite to do so, hence, Cambridge City are not being directed to join. However, according to Paul Rowsell – should any **County Council** refuse to join a combined authority then that would automatically veto membership of any District Council within that county (although Paul Rowsell kept referring to areas) That is to say should the County Council of Cambridgeshire refuse to join, then no Cambridgeshire District could join. However, once the combined authority was formed then any Cambridgeshire district could apply for membership later. Should a later application be accepted by the existing members, then, that district would not only join but would take with it the powers that would normally be devolved to a county council. (that is to say those powers devolved to county councils; currently they would be transport and any subsequent and additional powers ,say social care).

There was considerable debate at the meeting since it would also mean that the residents or the electorate of that particular district that joined after the fact would **have had no vote in the election for the directly elected mayor.**

I have to say some of the Cambridgeshire districts (those that are keen to join straight away) are extremely concerned about this fact. Paul Rowsell went on to say that he would not expect a district to apply to join until the next round of the elections. However, It was also explained that a possible way around this, would be to form a combined authority in say May 2017, but delay the Mayoral election until the autumn so that all those affected could vote.

Last Report

This will be my last report to council as Leader. I want to thank all Members of all Parties.

Of course, I thank my own group for giving me the privilege of holding the position for the last 9 years and every Member for the engagement, debate, criticism (usually constructive) and on those vital occasions when cross party support has been generated when the integrity of West Norfolk has been under threat.

2 Meetings Attended and Meetings Scheduled

Held since last Council

Launch of Enterprise Zone
Meetings re Downham and surrounds
Cabinet
Chairman Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough Local Enterprise Partnership
Liaison Calls with Norfolk, Suffolk Cambs Leaders
Roundtable discussion On Social Mobility and Attainment (Chaired and called

by Chloe Smith)
SPARSE – LGA
H Bellingham
East Anglia Leaders Meeting Ref Devolution
Meeting Re Doctors Surgery N Lynn
Alive Management Board
Meetings CAB Chairman and Chief Executive
NWES Board

Scheduled before next Council

College Of West Anglia - Audit Committee
CITB
Citizens Advice Bureau
Dutch Hanse Business Representatives

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL ON 28 APRIL 2016
FROM CABINET ON 5 APRIL 2016**

CAB153 REPORT OF SCRUTINY STRUCTURES AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT TASK GROUP

The Chief Executive presented a report which set out the conclusions of the Scrutiny Structures and Policy Development Task Group in response to the feedback from the Peer Review, consequent report of the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) report and the feedback from the Member workshop held on 8th October 2015.

It also made a number of recommendations to Cabinet and Council which sought to implement the principle recommendation of the CfPS report with effect from the beginning of the municipal year 2016/17.

It was noted that the Cabinet meeting previously scheduled for 17 May 2016 had been moved to the 24 May 2016.

Under Standing Order 34, Councillor J Collop addressed the Cabinet. He expressed disappointment that some of the recommendations from the CfPS had not been taken on board. However he did hope that the proposals would help improve the current scrutiny arrangements. He supported the decoupling of Audit Committee from the Resources and Performance Panel, and hoped that the re-arrangement would be suitably resourced. He referred to recommendation 12 in the report which made reference to the ability to add agenda items to Panels, and expressed concern that there may not be representation by each Group on the Panels, and that any items put forward could be brushed aside.

Councillor Pope stated that he was of the opinion that all Members could ask for items to be added to panel agendas through the Chairman.

Councillor Beales drew attention to the fact that the Peer Review report stated that scrutiny was not working and the Administration had acted upon this amongst the overall task group findings with a radical recommendation that Panels should appoint their own Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen. He also proposed that if all Members were free to put an item onto each agenda without reference to the Chairman it could make the meetings far too unwieldy, therefore that right should be limited to Opposition Groups, with a requirement for them to be discussed. He hoped that this would encourage active participation.

Councillor Long endorsed those proposals re-iterating concern that the original proposal could have caused logistical problems.

Councillor Blunt particularly supported recommendation 3, and encouraged post project appraisals. He hoped that the accountability for projects and its aims and objectives were clearly identified to enable scrutiny of them. It was confirmed that constitutional changes had to be submitted through Council.

It was also agreed that the new arrangements should be reviewed in 12 months time.

The Resources and Performance Panel had considered the report and had supported the recommendation, in particular the point about the entitlement to place items on Panel agendas.

RECOMMENDED: 1. That the Cabinet Scrutiny Committee and the Scrutiny and Overview Liaison Committee are abolished.

2. That the Audit Committee be 'decoupled' from the Resources & Performance Panel, and reduced in size to nine members with a meeting schedule linked to key audit events.
3. That the Resources & Performance Panel be renamed as the Corporate Performance Panel and it's terms of reference be extended to provide for the Panel to consider the following:-
 - call-ins of Cabinet decisions;
 - post implementation reviews of both major projects and significant
 - policy changes/introduction of new policies;
 - Monitoring of the Medium Term Financial Plan.
4. That the Terms of Reference for all Panels be amended to explicitly place a greater emphasis on 'policy development' of proposed policy changes and new projects/initiatives, incorporating, where appropriate, clear recommendations for Cabinet and Council to consider.
5. That Council, Cabinet and Panels move to a six-weekly cycle of meetings and that the programme of meetings attached at Appendix 1 to the report be adopted for 2016/17, with the change in Cabinet date to 24 May 2016 from 17 May 2016.
6. That in future years Panels elect their own Chairman and Vice Chairman.
7. That the recording of meetings be changed to provide for a more succinct summary of discussion, decisions taken/recommendations made and the principle rationale for the decisions taken.
8. That additional member scrutiny and policy development training be arranged to coincide with the introduction of the above changes.
9. That the scheme of delegation be amended, delegating authority to Portfolio Holders to authorise the implementation of policy changes required as a consequence of the introduction of primary or secondary legislation by government. Noting that Portfolio Holder delegated decisions are open to scrutiny and the call-in process in the same way as Cabinet decisions are.
10. That the Democratic Services Manager and Legal Services Manager be instructed to draft the consequential changes to the Council's constitution to give effect to the proposals outlined above.
11. That the Task Group be invited to undertake a subsequent review of the Council's constitution and the effectiveness of the changes made, 12 months following the implementation of the changes.
12. That the Opposition have the right to place an item on any Panel agenda for discussion, without the requirement to get agreement of the Chairman.

CAB154 REVIEW OF MEMBERS ALLOWANCES

Councillor Daubney welcomed Mike Press, a Member of the Independent Members Allowances Panel who had prepared the report for the Council. Mr Press presented the report for the 2016/2017 financial year, explaining that because over the years the allowance levels had been changed on an ad hoc basis, the Panel had carried out a total review, taking into account comments from Members in the process. He drew attention to the calculations carried out taking into account public service discount element of the work of Councillors,

along with calculation for median average hourly rate for staff. Comparisons with other local authorities had also been made. Mr Press made reference to the proposed increase to the Special Responsibility Allowance for the Planning Committee Chairman which reflected the large increase in workload and associated responsibility for the role. He considered that the proposal for the Licensing changes reflected the workflow at the present time. In relation to the carers allowances proposed, as had previously been the case, the Panel had made a recommendation for basic childcare, and also where full medical support carers were required, all of which had to be supported by receipts. In looking at the proposed increases, he drew attention to the fact that since 2007 the increase showed a 1.6% pa increase in that time.

Councillor Daubney thanked Mr Press and the other members of the Independent Panel for the work put into the report.

Under Standing Order 34, Councillor J Collop expressed disappointment that the Opposition Deputy Leaders allowance had been recommended to be deleted because it was not deemed significant enough to attract an allowance. He also drew attention to the fact that the King's Lynn Area Committee Chairman had been awarded an allowance, but not the Vice-Chair. He considered that the Deputy leaders should retain an allowance as they did have a meaningful role to play. He couldn't comment on the Vice-Chair of the Area Committee due to having an interest. He also considered that the linking to officer rises was a sensible approach.

Under Standing Order 34, Councillor Mrs K Mellish addressed the Cabinet on the proposals. She considered that the Licensing proposal could be justified, but did not accept that the proposed increase to the Planning Chairman's role was justified. She did not consider that any increase should be based on the personal performance of a Member. She acknowledged that the Planning Committee had a heavy workload at the moment, but reminded Members that the role was still voluntary, and she considered that when matched against the role of the Mayor or a Cabinet Member she considered it that it did not equate, as the Chairman of Planning Committee was always with officers support in its role, whereas the Mayor and Cabinet Members were not.

Councillor Mrs Mellish considered that the uplift should not be due solely to workload, which would usually balance itself out further down the line.

Councillor Daubney acknowledged that the Council had to give consideration to the Independent Panel's recommendations, and any recommendations and final decisions would go to Council for a decision.

Councillor Pope concurred with Councillor Mrs Mellish's comments, acknowledging that the workload should go down. He considered that Cabinet Members worked hard for their allowances. Councillor Pope did not agree with the proposal for the differential in Licensing Chairs, as the workload for each changed over time, and both acted as each other's Vice-Chairman. He considered the fee should be equal.

Councillor Long agreed with the comment on the parity of Allowances for the Licensing Committee and Appeals Board, as the roles were to carry out a quasi-judicial role and did balance each other across the year workload wise.

Councillor Beales commented that it should be looked at objectively, and not as individuals, he asked for the rationale behind the recommendations.

Mr Press responded that the Panel had considered the evidence presented, and the Planning Committee Role had greater responsibility than the Licensing Chairmen He

considered that the licensing Committee workload had decreased since the changes in legislation brought about its creation. In response to further questions on the devolvement of workload from responsibility, Mr Press confirmed they were linked.

Councillor Lord Howard commented that he considered that the proposed abolition of the Opposition Deputy leaders Allowance should not be agreed, as, in opposition, the Leaders needed the support. He considered that if any limitation was added, it should be on the minimum number in a Group.

Following the debate, Council Daubney proposed that:

- the Deputy Opposition Leaders Allowance be re-instated as there was a responsible role to be played.
- there be differentiation between the Licensing Committee and Licensing and Appeals Board Chairmen's Allowances.

Councillor Lawrence proposed that the Chairman of Planning Committee's increase be set at 50% of the proposed increase. (This equated to £544, instead of £1,088 increase.) This proposal was agreed.

The Resources and Performance Panel had considered the report and had supported the recommendations.

RECOMMENDED: 1) That the recommendations of the Panel be adopted with the following amendments to set the levels of remuneration for Councillors with effect from 21 May 2015:

- i. That the IT allowance for Members continue to be paid.
- ii. That the Opposition Deputy Leaders Allowances continue to be paid at the original amounts
- iii. That the proposed differentiation of Licensing Chairmen not be agreed (they continue to receive 50% of the overall amount each.)
- iv. That the Planning Committee Chairman increase be limited to 50% of the proposed increase making it £5,594.

2) That the Cabinet recommend to Council that the Scheme of Allowances be updated accordingly.

3) That for the next four years, any increases in allowances be linked to staff pay awards.

CAB155 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: "That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and 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 12A to the Act."

CAB156 STRATEGIC LAND ACQUISITION - KING'S LYNN

The Property Services Manager presented the report which set out outline terms for a proposed strategic land and property acquisition of a prominent site in King's Lynn. Authority was sought from Cabinet to progress this acquisition through to completion, subject to agreeing acceptable terms in consultation with the relevant Portfolio Holder.

Cabinet commended the acquisition of the site which was an important entry to the town. The Regeneration and Development Panel had also considered the report and had supported the proposed acquisition.

RECOMMENDED: 1) That the acquisition of this land asset is progressed along the lines set out within this report.

2) That the Capital Programme is adjusted to accommodate the acquisition of the site identified within this report.

3) That delegated authority is given to the Property Services Manager to finalise the terms of the proposed disposals set out within this report in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Industrial Assets.

4) That authority is granted to the Legal Services Manager to progress the necessary transfer, or any other associated, documentation through to completion.