

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL FROM CABINET ON 4 FEBRUARY 2020

CAB97: NOTICE OF MOTION 5/19 CLLR DE WHALLEY - CLIMATE CHANGE

Councillor Devereux presented a report which referred to the Notice of Motion 5/19 submitted to Full Council in October 2019 by Councillor M de Whalley. Council referred the matter to Cabinet to consider the issue further and then report back to Full Council in due course.

Cabinet had requested a report to consider the Motion and its potential impacts. The appendices to the report set out the work being done, and planned to be carried out by the Council.

In presenting the report Councillor Devereux explained that it addressed how the Council was addressing climate change, which had been ongoing for a number of years. The report suggested officers be instructed to produce a Climate Change Policy and strategy with an action plan. He informed members that an officer working group on the subject was ongoing and drew attention to the list of work within the authority which was being carried out. He explained that the Chief Executive was involved with the County Climate Change Group. In referring to the carbon footprint of the borough he reminded members that it was a reasonable observation to make that a lot of the areas of responsibility were global and national and were out of the council's control, but referred to the action plan prepared addressed those issues which were within the councils remit. He acknowledged that there was still much work to do and that circumstances would change but the Council needed to remain active in dealing with the issue. He moved that recommendation 1a in the report be put forward with recommendations 2 and 3.

Under standing order 34, Councillor M de Whalley spoke in support of his Motion drawing attention to the town of Stroud which had achieved carbon neutrality, and the district was working towards this for 2030.

He drew attention to a survey which showed that 56% of respondents wanted this by 2030. He drew attention to Sir David Attenborough's call for 2020 to be the year of action on climate change and urged cabinet to declare a climate emergency.

Under standing order 34 Councillor Parish drew attention to the views of the Planning Committee on the wish to insist on photovoltaic panels being included on new builds particularly when it was a Council project. He considered officers should be instructed to do so.

Under standing order 34, Councillor Joyce commented that he felt decisions were taken outside of policies which were already in place.

Councillor Long drew attention to the work he had been undertaking since his position as portfolio holder for Environment, for example working with the IDBs, Charing the Norfolk Coast Partnership which administered the AONB. He considered that if the council had not been involved to the degree it had the area would be in a much worse position.

Councillor Long drew attention to the fact that this authority had for many years been applying for Salix funding, and was investing in a “Refit” scheme which looked across the council’s property portfolio to upgrade the properties. He acknowledged that West Norfolk had high CO₂ levels, but reminded members about the types of industries which were present in the area. He acknowledged that the Council wasn’t able to force the hand of the industries in the area, but through the Climate Change Strategy could try to influence them to change.

Councillor Long drew attention to the Intern post which was being extended in order to help progress the work involved.

RECOMMENDED: 1) That officers be requested to prepare a climate change policy & separate climate change strategy with action plan.

2) That the Council fully recognise the evolving climate crisis and work towards Borough Council carbon footprint neutrality and net zero district carbon emissions. The dates will be determined taking into account emerging policies at the national and local level.

3) The current 12 month UEA Intern post should be extended to a temporary 2 year fixed term post.

Reason for Decision

- 1) To ensure the Council is able to mitigate its carbon footprint
- 2) To consider and respond to Motion 5/19
- 3) To ensure the work plan and other areas of work are progressed

CAB98: NOTICE OF MOTION 4/19 - CLLR A KEMP - HARDINGS WAY

Councillor Gidney presented a report on Notice of Motion 4/19 which was submitted to Full Council in September 2019 in respect of proposed works affecting Harding’s Way, King’s Lynn. The report set out the background to the project and the wider policy initiatives developed by the Council over a period of time. The purpose of the report was to enable Cabinet to consider the Notice of Motion and determine whether, or not, to accept the requests made under the Motion.

Councillor Gidney explained that the town would undergo a lot of investigations into traffic and routes. Those investigations would be put together in the process required and would be considered in due course.

Assistant Director Property and Projects explained that the report set out the history of the site which was a link point for 2 regeneration areas for the provision of sustainable living in the area. The CIF bid made for the road was for transportation improvements and to secure housing for the area. He explained that a traffic regulation order was required to open Hardings Way to allow for the residential development in the near future.

Under standing order 34 Councillor Kemp spoke to her motion and stated that the funding for the CIF road was provided as a bus lane more of which were needed to

cover the number of additional houses being built. She drew attention to there being no green infrastructure, and that the NCC equalities impact assessment stated there would be implications for disabled people. She considered that the CO₂ levels on London Road would reduce if more buses used Hardings Way in line with the original vision of 26 buses phr, and expressed concern that permitting traffic on the road would mean HGVs using it.

Under standing order 34 Councillor Joyce made reference to a section 14 notice originally put on the road by Highways authority which was lifted in later years. Part of the then strategy was for a park and ride in the south of Lynn. He considered Hardings Way needed more buses on it but to have cars on it would negate the benefits of quicker access by buses.

Under standing order 34 Councillor Bone spoke on this and the next item 6/19 which was his notice of motion as he had to leave the meeting shortly. He echoed what had been said by other speakers and was concerned that Hardings Way would become another bottle neck for traffic. He felt that the traffic plan should be less car orientated and more sustainable for public transport. He had concern on the detrimental impact of cars on Whitefriars School. He wanted it to remain as a bus lane. He felt that the Enterprise Zone buildings would be a good opportunity to encourage green travel.

Under standing order 34 Councillor de Whalley wished to highlight the element of active travel such as walking and cycling of which Hardings Way was a green active travel link to King's Lynn. He drew attention that if opened up to traffic those walkers and cyclists would be breathing fumes.

Council Gidney responded that he did not necessarily disagree with what had been said, but evaluations had to be carried out across the town, and Hardings Way couldn't be ignored or shown any favouritism and could only be evaluated along with the air quality management issues.

Councillor Middleton drew attention to the fact that he lived in the vicinity of Hardings Way and passed through the area regularly. He drew attention to the differing views of people, some wanting to keep it closed and others wanting it opening. He referred to the bigger picture for the town and the Transport Strategy which had a list of options for the future, all of which should be examined. He stated that if the council were to consider making a decision to open it there would be consultation. He was happy to reject the motion.

Councillor Long drew attention to the press article recently about the Southgates on which he had received messages about Hardings Way, however he reminded members that nothing could happen without knowing the impact on the town, so it was proper to reject the Motion, as it would impact on the future development along the road, the plans for which had been in place for some time.

RECOMMENDED: That having considered the requests made under Notice of Motion 4/19 together with the background information set out within this report; the proposals set out in the Notice of Motion 4/19 be rejected.

Reason for Decision

The Council has progressed a number of significant regeneration initiatives within the borough over several years with inputs from a variety of other public bodies and agencies. Significant amounts of funding have been secured from partner agencies to facilitate these initiatives that will help drive the growth, development and sustainability of King's Lynn as a sub-regional centre. The requests made under Notice 4/19 are considered contrary to long-standing Council policies.

CAB99: NOTICE OF MOTION 6/19 CLLR F BONE - HARDINGS WAY

Councillor Blunt presented a report which responded to Notice of Motion 6/19 from Councillor F Bone on Hardings Way. It sought to review the use of Harding's Way for general traffic which had been put forward as one of two options for Harding's Way as part of the King's Lynn Transport Strategy. He reassured members that no decision had been taken on this matter, but that it would be looked at when the projects were reviewed, modelling to see what Hardings Way could absorb, so in essence what had been requested in the Motion would happen, but in due course.

Councillor Bone had spoken in support of the Motion during the previous item.

Under standing order 34 Councillor Joyce made reference to a legal implication which he felt could potentially cause problems and would trigger a legal challenge. He undertook to speak to Councillor Blunt after the meeting.

RECOMMENDED: That Motion 6/19 be noted but that the detailed work requested as part of the Motion be completed as part of the future detail design phase and as part of any planning application should that option be taken forward as part of the King's Lynn Transport Strategy (KLTS).

Reason for Decision

To consider Motion 6/19

CAB104: HUNSTANTON COASTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Councillor Devereux presented a report setting out the Hunstanton Coastal Management Plan (HCMP) which was an operational plan to determine what works were required to the Hunstanton sea defences and cliffs over the next 100 years breaking down into short medium and long term projects.

The HCMP followed the general policies laid down in the Shoreline Management Plan 4 (SMP 4) which covered the coastline between Gibraltar Point and Old Hunstanton, and the joint Environment Agency / BCKLWN Wash East Coastal Management Strategy (WECMS).

Councillor Devereux gave information on the proposals set out in the Plan with monitoring and repairs.

Councillor Middleton expressed his disappointment that so many members of the public and councillors had left the meeting when the item was demonstrating work the Council was carrying out to protect the coastline.

Councillor Long commented that it was practical work being carried out that was needed for the area, funded by the Borough along with funding from the successful bid for funding by the Regional Flood & Coastal Committee.

Councillors Morley and Parish commented that they were in support of the proposal and many had seen the detail at the Regeneration and Development Panel.

RECOMMENDED: That the Hunstanton Coastal management Plan be adopted and the financial contributions be approved.

Reason for Decision

To enable the Council to plan prepare and carry out coastal works to meet its obligations under the Shoreline Management Plan 4 (SMP4) and Wash East Coast Management Strategy (WECMS).

CAB105: 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.

CAB106: NAR VALLEY PHASE 4 (TRADITIONAL BUILD)

Councillor Gidney presented the report which considered a viability appraisal for Nar Valley Park Phase four, built using traditional building methods. The previous proposal allowed for the project to be built using Modular Homes units which was not now possible. The land was acquired from the Receiver of Morston Assets in December 2016, following Morston Assets going into receivership.

Assistant Director Companies and Housing Delivery, D Gagen explained that following discussions with the Portfolio Holder, it was agreed that the scheme should be progressed as a traditional build project, in line with the Cabinet and Council approval in 2018, that proposed that, should the 'modular proposal become undeliverable the site should be delivered by traditional building methods', but that a report be presented to Cabinet and Council for approval prior the construction phase of the development taking place.

The surplus generated by the proposed scheme exceeded the benchmark of traditional build costs in the 2018 report. However, it was less than the proposed Modular proposal which had been demonstrated as being undeliverable on this site. The financial impact on the scheme was set out in the report should the Council agree to sell 50% of the units to West Norfolk Property Ltd at 90% of open market value. The ultimate purpose being to create a revenue stream for the Council.

Under standing order 34 Councillor Joyce suggested it may be an opportunity for the Council to resist climate change by building the properties more efficiently, and influencing the Local Plan Task Group to persuade others to do so.

Under standing order 34 Councillor Kemp indicated her support for the scheme and suggested green measures.

Councillor Lawrence commented that he was pleased the project was progressing and would provide a mix of tenure. He thanked officers and members for this.

It was confirmed that the properties were being built in accordance with the agreement with Homes England, but some of the properties would have photovoltaics. It was noted that future Council developed sites were being planned to deliver more eco friendly properties. This was encouraged by Cabinet members. It was hoped to deliver homes within 18 months. It was also noted that this area would not have been developed if the Council had not stepped in to do so.

RECOMMENDED: 1) That the scheme be progressed as a traditional build project, in line with the Cabinet and Council approval in 2018.

2) That this site be developed using the Major Housing contract with Lovell Partnerships Limited.

3) That the PRS units be sold to West Norfolk Property Ltd at 90% of open market value.

Reason for Decision

1) To develop this site using the Major Housing contract with Lovell Partnerships Limited.

2) To allow the scheme to be developed using traditional methods.

3) To include the tenure mix shown in section 2.5 of this report.

4) To build properties for West Norfolk Property Ltd to manage for the benefit of the residents of the Borough.