

**BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK**

**JOINT PANEL MEETING**

**Minutes from the Meeting of the Joint Panel Meeting held on Tuesday, 26th January, 2021 at 4.45 pm in the Remote Meeting on Zoom and available for the public to view on WestNorfolkBC on You Tube - Zoom and You Tube**

**PRESENT:**

**PANEL AND AUDIT COMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Councillors L Bambridge, C Bower, F Bone, T Bubb, A Bullen, J Collingham, I Devereux, A Dickinson, C Hudson, H Humphrey, A Kemp, J Lowe, J Moriarty, C Morley, T Parish, C Rose, A Ryves, C Sampson, V Spikings, S Squire, M de Whalley, D Whitby

**PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:**

Councillor R Blunt – Portfolio Holder for Development  
Councillor P Kunes – Portfolio Holder for Commercial Services  
Councillor B Long – Leader of the Council

**OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councillors A Holmes, M Howland, J Rust.

**OFFICERS:**

Lorraine Gore – Chief Executive  
Michelle Drewery – Assistant Director Resources and Section 151 Officer  
Geoff Hall – Executive Director  
Martin Chisholm – Assistant Director Operations and Commercial  
Becky Box – Assistant Director Central Services

1 **APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR FOR THE MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** Councillor Dickinson was appointed Chair for the meeting.

2 **WELCOME TO THE MEETING**

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and informed those present that the meeting was being streamed on You Tube.

[You can view the You Tube recording here.](#)

3 **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR FOR THE MEETING**

**RESOLVED:** Councillor Moriarty was appointed Vice Chair for the meeting.

4 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors Manning, Nockolds, Patel and Mrs Wilkinson.

5                    **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

6                    **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was no urgent business.

7                    **MEMBERS PRESENT PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 34**

There were no Members present under Standing Order 34.

8                    **CHAIR'S CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no Chair's correspondence.

9                    **BUDGET AND CAPITAL PROGRAMME**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube.](#)

Members received a presentation on the Budget and Capital Programme from the Assistant Director (Section 151 Officer). A copy of the presentation is attached.

It was noted that the Budget and Capital Programme would be presented to Cabinet at its meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2021.

The Chair thanked the Assistant Director for her presentation, and invited questions and comments from those present at the meeting.

Officers responded to questions about Alive West Norfolk, and explained the financial support available to them.

Officers and the Leader of the Council responded to questions relating to the Internal Drainage Boards explaining how drainage boards were funded, outlined the contributions made to them and how the contributions were displayed on council tax bills. Members were reminded that there were Borough Council representatives on Internal Drainage Board.

In response to a question it was confirmed that there were currently no plans for redundancies in the financial plan.

In response to a question on whether there was a rule of thumb percentage increase in costs which would need to be met as a result of

increases in the council tax base the Chief Executive explained that the budget included increases in costs within specific service areas. In addition other income would be generated, for example brown bins and other fees and charges, however there was no rule of thumb on this. Additional contributions towards infrastructure from developers including Section 106 and CIL was also highlighted.

It was also clarified that the Police were limited to a ten pound increase, County Council were limited to 2% with an additional increase of 3% for health and social care over a two year period. There was no limit on Parish Precept increases.

A question was also asked about the Future High Street Fund and it was explained that if this had been successful it would have been included in the financial plan along with any match funding included.

The Leader of the Council also highlighted the role of Policy Review and Development Panels in looking at efficiencies and the councils finances.

The Section 151 Officer and Chief Executive agreed to clarify the processes and lead in time required for a Referendum.

**RESOLVED:** That Cabinet note the comments from the Panel.

**The meeting closed at 6.12 pm**