

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2026 FROM THE CABINET MEETING HELD ON 8 SEPTEMBER 2026

CAB45 APPOINTMENT OF HONORARY ALDERMEN

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The Leader of the Council presented the report and expressed his support for the former councillors nominated for Honorary Alderman status. He highlighted the significant contributions they had made through their civic duties, Council responsibilities and ward representation, together with their dedicated service to the local community.

Members of the Cabinet spoke in support of the nominations and agreed that the individuals concerned were worthy recipients of the honour in recognition of their long-standing commitment and service to the Borough and its residents.

RECOMMENDED:

1. That the Council places on record its sincere appreciation and gratitude for the eminent services rendered to the Borough Council by former Councillors Carol Bower, Colin Manning, Lesley Bambridge and Lord Greville Howard.
2. That, pursuant to Section 249(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the title of Honorary Alderman be conferred upon former Councillors Carol Bower, Colin Manning, Lesley Bambridge and Lord Greville Howard in recognition of their eminent service to the Borough.
3. That an Extraordinary Meeting of the Council be convened on Thursday 29 October 2026, immediately following the ordinary meeting of the Council, for the formal conferment of the title of Honorary Alderman and the presentation of aldermanic badges to the recipients.

REASON FOR DECISION:

To formally recognise and record the Council's appreciation of the service of the former Borough Councillors listed above through the conferment of the title of Honorary Alderman and the holding of an Extraordinary Council meeting for that purpose.

CAB46 FUTURE SWIMMING PROVISION FOR WEST NORFOLK

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The Monitoring Officer advised Cabinet that the report was being considered in open session. However, she noted that a separate report contained exempt information and that, should Cabinet wish to discuss any of the exempt elements, it would be necessary to temporarily exclude the press and public from the meeting.

Councillor Beales proposed amendments to the recommendations, namely that the allocation of £845,609.17 should be approved as the maximum amount and that the Leader should be consulted in relation to the exercise of the delegated authority

proposed for the Chief Operating Officer and the Section 151 Officer. Cabinet agreed to the amended recommendations.

The Strategic Adviser to the Chief Executive and Leader presented the report and outlined the preferred option for replacing St James Swimming Pool with a standalone facility at Lynnsport. Cabinet was informed that approval was sought to progress the project to RIBA Stage 3, at which point a detailed business case would be available and a further decision would be required regarding whether the project should proceed.

The Strategic Adviser provided an overview of the current position at St James Swimming Pool, explaining that the facility was ageing, approaching the end of its operational life and becoming increasingly costly to maintain.

Cabinet noted that, following the pause in Local Government Reorganisation, any future decision on whether to proceed with the project would likely rest solely with the Borough Council.

Councillor Rust referred to the potential public perception of the costs involved, noting that the sum requested related solely to progressing the project to RIBA Stage 3. She also highlighted the importance of maintaining swimming provision to improve water literacy and ensure that residents and communities had opportunities to learn to swim and develop water safety skills.

In response, the Strategic Adviser acknowledged that the proposed expenditure was significant but explained that it covered design work, ground investigations, the preparation of a business case and other professional services required to progress the project. She advised that a detailed cost breakdown was contained within the exempt appendix to the report. It was further noted that costs of between 6% and 10% of an overall project value were typically required to reach this stage of development, whereas the amount requested represented 3.7% of the estimated total project cost.

The Leader explained that the costs had been benchmarked against industry standards and that the expenditure was a necessary requirement to enable the project to progress.

In response to a question from Councillor Rust, the Assistant Director for Leisure and Culture advised that a 2024 survey had indicated that levels of drowning had doubled and that more than one million pupils due to enter secondary education in 2026 were unable to swim or remain safe in the water. She also reported that over 200 water-related incidents had been recorded in the previous year and that 22 people had drowned in Norfolk during the preceding five-year period.

Councillor Lintern commented that beach awareness and sea swimming safety courses had been delivered during the summer period.

Councillor Squire referred to the statistics provided and emphasised the importance of ensuring that appropriate facilities were available to enable people to learn to swim and develop water safety skills.

In response to a question from Councillor Squire, it was confirmed that the Lynnsport site had been identified as the preferred location as it would enable continuity of

service. It was anticipated that St James Swimming Pool would remain operational until the new facility had been constructed and was ready for use.

Cabinet was advised that, subject to progress, a final decision on whether to proceed with the project was expected to be presented to Cabinet and Council in March 2027. If approved, completion of the new facility was anticipated by March 2029.

Councillor de Whalley spoke in support of measures to improve water literacy, particularly within deprived communities, and noted that the proposals aligned with the objectives of the Marmot approach.

In response to a question from Councillor Morley, it was confirmed that the £845,609.17 requested to progress the project to RIBA Stage 3 formed part of the overall estimated project cost of £22.93 million.

The Leader highlighted that the Corporate Performance Panel had considered the proposals and had supported the recommendations presented to Cabinet.

Councillor Morley commented on the importance of retaining swimming pool provision within King's Lynn and the positive contribution such facilities made to the health and wellbeing of residents. In response to a further question from Councillor Morley, the Assistant Director for Leisure and Culture provided details of the proposed movable pool floor, explaining that it had become an industry standard feature due to the flexibility it offered in programming activities and improving accessibility for users.

RECOMMENDED:

That Council:

1. Approve the allocation of a maximum of £845,609.17 from reserves to fund the new Lynnsport Project through to RIBA Stage 3.
2. Delegate authority to the Section 151 Officer, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Finance, to determine the appropriate reserve to fund the work.

REASON FOR DECISION:

To progress the project to build a new standalone swimming pool at Lynnsport to RIBA Stage 3 to provide the Council with the final design, project cost-certainty and business case to provide members with the information required to determine whether to proceed to the construction of the new pool.

The timing of this decision reflects both the condition of the existing facility and the maturity of the work undertaken to date. St James Swimming Pool is continuing to deteriorate, with increasing maintenance requirements, rising operating costs and a growing risk to the long-term continuity of swimming provision. Progressing to the next steps now will maintain project momentum and preserve the value of the work already undertaken.