

RECOMMENDATIONS TO COUNCIL ON 24 JANUARY 2019 FROM CABINET ON 8 JANUARY 2019

CAB104: COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME 2019/2020 FINAL SCHEME

Cabinet considered a report which explained that the council must review and agree its 2019/2020 Council Tax Support (CTS) scheme for working age people by 11 March 2019. A 'no change' draft CTS scheme was agreed for 2019/2020 by delegated decision. The draft CTS scheme was then opened to public consultation from 25 September 2018 to 9 November 2018.

The report detailed the results of the consultation and the recommended final CTS scheme for 2019/2020. Disappointment was expressed at the small number of comments received on the draft proposal.

RECOMMENDED: 1) That the responses from the Council Tax Support scheme consultation at Section 3 and Appendix B to the report be noted, and

2) That the draft Council Tax Support scheme be approved as the final Council Tax Support scheme for 2019/2020

Reason for Decision

To ensure a Council Tax Support scheme for 2019/2020 is agreed by full council by the deadline

CAB108: MINOR UPDATE TO THE SCHEME OF DELEGATION

The Leader presented a report which recommended an updated scheme of delegation for approval. The Scheme had been amended to take account of an additional area of responsibility, and to provide the Chief Executive with a formal Deputy Returning Officer and Electoral Registration Officer.

Councillor Long reported on a question from Councillor Moriarty which asked if the proposal to create a Deputy returning Officer would cost any more. It was confirmed that it would not cost any more.

RECOMMENDED: 1) That Council approve the amended Scheme of Delegation
2) That the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader be given delegated Authority to make minor amendments to the Scheme to resolve any anomalies which may occur.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that the Delegation Scheme mirrors the decision making structure

CAB109: POLLING DISTRICT AND PLACE REVIEW

Councillor Long presented a report which reminded Members of the Council's duty to undertake a review of the polling districts and polling places in respect of

Parliamentary electoral areas that fall within the boundaries of the Borough. The review was last conducted in 2013 and needed to be concluded again by January 2020. However in the meantime the Local Government Boundary Commission for England had published new electoral arrangements for the Borough Council of King's Lynn & West Norfolk, which required an interim review to be undertaken ahead of the May 2019 elections. It was the Returning Officer's responsibility to keep polling stations under review.

Comments had been received as shown with the report, with an amendment proposed for approval with a further review of the other station in the future.

RECOMMENDED: The Polling District and Polling Place Review Schedule attached to the report be adopted.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that the Council meets its statutory obligations.

Exempt Report

CAB111: **WEST NORFOLK PROPERTY COMPANY - GOVERNANCE AND BUSINESS PLAN**

The Housing Services Manager presented a report which explained that previous Cabinet reports, most recently on 9 January 2018, agreed the setup of West Norfolk Property Ltd (WNPL), a wholly owned local authority company. WNPL had been established to hold and manage private rented housing units being developed by the Council. The Council continued to look for opportunities to generate additional income to support its revenue budget and the retention of some of its housing development for private rental provides such an opportunity.

WNPL would manage the properties and grow a portfolio over time, providing a return to the Council.

This report presented the Business Plan for WNPL and proposed amendments to the structure of WNPL.

The Housing Services Manager reminded Members that the Council as the enforcer of housing standards intended to raise the bar in terms of housing quality and management practices. An assessment of demand would be carried out, the homes would transfer at market value and the future arrangements for developments would be examined. He also responded to questions relating to the level of finance to be held for repairs etc in the future. It was noted that the Business Plan would be regularly reviewed and updated.

The Deputy Chief Executive reminded Cabinet that the company had been set up in order to provide new revenue stream for the Council in times of reducing Government subsidy.

RECOMMENDED: 1) That the Business Plan for WNPL be approved and delegated authority be granted to the Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer) to make

amendments to the Business Plan in respect of recommendation 3 in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Corporate Projects and Assets, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community, Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer and Housing Services Manager.

2) That the principle of retention for private rent of a minimum of 20% of the housing units developed by the Council on the large urban sites over 50 units as detailed in the report be approved.

3) That delegated authority be given to the Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer) to approve the amendments to the Articles of Association for WNPL as set out in the report in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Corporate Projects and Assets, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community, Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer and Housing Services Manager.

4) That delegated authority be given to the Deputy Chief Executive (S151 Officer) to agree the financing arrangements as detailed in the report in consultation with the Portfolio Holders for Corporate Projects and Assets, Portfolio Holder for Housing and Community, Chief Executive, Monitoring Officer and Housing Services Manager.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that the Council has a suitable vehicle to hold, manage and develop private rented housing.