
BRECKLAND COUNCIL

At a Meeting of the

CABINET

**Held on Tuesday, 30 May 2017 at 9.30 am in
Norfolk & Dereham Rooms, The Conference Suite, Elizabeth House, Dereham**

PRESENT

Mr J.W. Nunn (Chairman)	Mr J.P. Cowen
Mr S H Chapman-Allen (Vice-Chairman)	Mr M. S. Robinson
Mr S.G. Bambridge	Mr A.C. Stasiak
Mr P.D. Claussen	Mrs A M Webb

Also Present

Mr W.P. Borrett	Mrs J. Hollis
Councillor M. Chapman-Allen	Mrs S.M. Matthews
Mr D M Crawford	Mr K. Martin

In Attendance

Ross Bangs	- Housing Manager
Alison Chubbock	- Chief Accountant (Deputy Section 151 Officer) (BDC)
Anna Graves	- Chief Executive
Maxine O'Mahony	- Executive Director of Strategy & Governance
Phil Mileham	- Strategic Planning Manager
Matthew Hogan	- Strategic Housing Manager (Shared)
Teresa Smith	- Democratic Services Team Leader
Mark Stinson	- Executive Manager Governance (Deputy Monitoring Officer BDC)
Rob Walker	- Executive Director Place

Action By

54/17 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 April 2017 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

55/17 APOLOGIES

None.

56/17 URGENT BUSINESS

None.

57/17 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

None.

Action By

58/17 NON-MEMBERS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE MEETING

Councillors Borrett, M Chapman-Allen, Crawford, Hollis, Martin and Matthews were in attendance.

59/17 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY)

None.

60/17 BRECKLAND COMMUNITY FUNDING APPLICATIONS (STANDING ITEM)

(a) Caston Village Hall

The Executive Member for Place presented the report.

It was highlighted in the report there could be uncertainty about the cost involved and was asked that a condition be added that any proposed works, preparation and building survey be completed before the grant was released.

Options

- 1) Fully fund the application as set out in the report
- 2) Partly fund the application as set out in the report
- 3) Do nothing

Reasons

The grant application meets the criteria of the scheme.

RESOLVED that Cabinet approves £20,000 (or 24.4% of the project costs, whichever is the lower amount) to Caston Village Hall to replace outdated kitchen and toilet areas and provide a new entrance porch.

61/17 ANGLIA REVENUES AND BENEFITS PARTNERSHIP

The Deputy Leader was in attendance at the previous meeting and provided a brief update for Members.

The Chairman announced that since Councillor Dimoglou's resignation from Cabinet, he formally appointed Councillor Paul Claussen onto the Anglia Revenues and Benefits Partnership Joint Committee.

The minutes of the meeting of the Anglia Revenues and Benefits Partnership Joint Committee held on 28 March 2017 were noted.

62/17 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2016-17 OUT-TURN

The Executive Member for Finance presented the report. He highlighted that due to the success of the Anglia Revenues Partnership Enforcement service, an additional sum of £174,575 was received as income. The waste collection had also seen a large underspend due to the contamination costs being lower than expected.

The Executive Member was keen to see a minimal underspend going forward and there would be a refocus on the re-allocation of money.

Action By

There were some financial risks the Council were facing with regard to Footway lighting where costs may not be able to be fully recovered due to council tax capping.

The Executive Member explained the Capital programme reflected a variance which Members were being asked to reallocate the funds.

Councillor Borrett suggested the Towns should undertake the responsibility of the footway lighting as they were not subject to the capping rules.

Councillor Crawford said it was very good report but stressed there were still units at Riverside that were not occupied. It was confirmed that discussions were taking place with prospective tenants about the remaining units being let.

Councillor Crawford also expressed his concern on the current staff vacancy rate within Breckland. The Chief Executive said she was aware of some pressure points with regard to filling the vacancies and the Executive Manager for Strategy and Governance, and the Deputy Leader would be monitoring this.

Councillor M Chapman-Allen asked why there had been an underspend with the disabled facilities grant and if this had been as a result of not being able to get physio therapists. The Housing Manager said there were a number of committed spends but had not been invoiced as yet, and was confident that the majority of the grant would be allocated. An appointment had been made within the team to carry out low level assessment on basic adaptations.

Councillor Bambridge agreed with the comments Councillor Borrett had made regarding the footway lighting.

Options

- 1) That the report and appendix be noted and recommend to Full Council that capital budgets (& associated funding sources) of £1,965,394 be carried forward into 2017-18 to support projects in progress.

- 2) That the report and appendix be noted and not recommend to Full Council that capital budgets (& associated funding sources) of £1,965,394 be carried forward into 2017-18 to support projects in progress.

Reasons

To provide timely information to Members on the overall financial position of the Council, enabling resource re-allocation to priorities where necessary.

To enable approved capital projects to continue to deliver in the new financial year.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- 1) That the report and appendix be noted
- 2) Recommend to **FULL COUNCIL** that capital budgets (& associated funding sources) of £1,965,394 be carried forward into 2017-18 to support projects in progress.

63/17 QUARTER 4 2016-17 PERFORMANCE REPORT OVERVIEW

The Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Strategy, Governance and Transformation, presented the report informing Members that there had been a change of layout following feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Commission.

Quarter 4's performance had been assessed as 'fair' with 4 indicators marked as 'red'. One related to residual waste, and due to a national drive in reducing contaminated waste resulted in a change to figures which had been mirrored across other local authorities. The short term investment and return on cash investments were both reported as red due to the actual income being reported slightly higher than expected. There had been 11 leavers within the authority during Quarter 4, which included vacancies from the ARP. There were currently 5 vacant posts across the Authority to date.

Councillor Cowen complimented the new format and said to see the trend was extremely useful.

The content of the report was noted.

64/17 YAXHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN - MAKING (ADOPTION) OF THE YAXHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

The Executive Member for Growth presented the report, and explained that it was for Breckland to make any amendments to the Plan and not for the Parish to do so. The report before members contained a version of the plan in which some relatively minor changes had been made. However, as this now differed from the version that the public had voted upon at the referendum, he felt it would be better to revert to the referendum version.

Councillors Claussen and Webb agreed that the plan to be adopted should be the version that had been the subject of the referendum.

The Executive Manager for Governance agreed that this was the safest option. Any change to the document post referendum brought some risk of challenge and the more substantive the change the greater the risk.

The Chairman was in favour of using the original plan that the parish had been consulted upon, as a large proportion of the parish had liked this. It was therefore recommended that a slight amendment to recommendation one was added to reflect 'as per the referendum version'.

A member of the Yaxham Neighbourhood Plan working group said 53% of the village were in favour of the Yaxham Neighbourhood Plan. He had made queries with regard to the minor amendments and whilst they would prefer to see the minor amendments, understood the logic of reverting to the referendum version.

Options

- 1) Cabinet to recommend to Full Council to "make" the Yaxham Neighbourhood Plan as "made" as part of the statutory development plan for Breckland Council, as required by paragraph (4)(a) of section 38A of the Town and Country Planning Act as "...more than half of those voting to have voted in favour of the plan...", and to undertake

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the required publication, advise the Parish Council and other prescribed persons and subsequently update the district policies map.

- 2) Cabinet to recommend to Full Council to refuse to make the Yaxham Neighbourhood Plan where “...it considers that the Plan would breach, or would otherwise be incompatible with any EU obligation or any of the Convention Rights (within the meaning of the Human Rights Act 1998).

Reasons

It is recommended that Members endorse Option 1 as there was a positive vote in favour for making the Yaxham Neighbourhood Plan through a referendum and there is considered to be compliance with, rather than being incompatible, with the European obligations and Human Rights conventions.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cabinet recommend to Full Council:

- 1) To confirm that Yaxham Neighbourhood Plan, as written at the time of and consulted upon during the referendum, is “made” as part of the statutory development plan for Breckland Council, as required by paragraph (4)(a) of section 38A of the Town and Country Planning Act.
- 2) To publish the decision as required by paragraph (9) of section 38A of the Town and Country Planning Act.
- 3) To advise Yaxham Parish Council and any other prescribed persons about this, to meet the requirements of paragraph (10) of section 38A of the Town and Country Planning Act.
- 4) To amend the Breckland District policies map, to meet the requirements of paragraph (9) of the Town and Country (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012.

65/17 HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY 2017-21

The Executive Member for Growth presented the report.

Councillor Crawford felt the emphasis had been taken off social housing and asked who would be responsible for the residents who were on low income and low cost rented housing. The Strategic Housing Manager said that the authority’s focus was to ensure that a broad range of housing tenures would be provided locally, and that officers are working with local housing associations to increase the type of housing they supply.

Councillor Crawford asked how Breckland would supply the housing if the emphasis had moved to the right to buy and was concerned about those that could not afford their own home.

The Executive Member felt the answer to this was encompassed under Priority One: Preventing Homelessness.

Councillor Robinson was pleased to see strong partnership working across local authorities providing support to victims of domestic abuse. Although he felt that moving the victims to a safe haven sometimes removed support systems that were available for the individual such as allowing children to continue their education.

Councillor Claussen said it was a good report but queried the preventing

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Homelessness indicator in the Performance Report as in the past he had seen data that provided information on the amount of spend on Bed and Breakfast. The Executive Manager for Place said that data was still available and would feed this into the performance report in future.

Councillor Webb asked how often the Gypsy and Traveller assessment needs was carried out. It was confirmed this was completed every 2 years.

Councillor Martin informed Members that there was a building in Attleborough which had been boarded up and was a disgrace, but would provide additional housing needs if required. The Strategic Housing Manager said he was working with the owner of the building to determine the best level of housing to use.

The Chairman asked for more information to be added under the fourth bullet point in Priority Three: Supporting Housing Growth to allow investigation of initiatives. He also asked how the Housing Strategy linked with the Planning Policy, especially as it is mentioned there was a commitment to support initiatives that promoted growth of custom and self-build housing across the district. He felt there could be a challenge if the policies were not aligned.

The Executive Member for Growth had made a note of the items and both were being actively considered.

The Chairman was concerned that it was a strategy document and considered if the item should be deferred until the amendments had taken place.

The Chief Executive said she was in discussions with the new Director of Capita on the planning policy and the plans for growth strategy. It was suggested that the fourth bullet point be amended to add 'new initiatives such as a housing ladder' be added which would allow the framework to carry out investigations. The Chairman was happy with this approach.

Options

- 1) Do Nothing (not recommended). Under this option, the document will not be adopted by the authority.
- 2) That Cabinet considers the Breckland Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2017-21 for adoption (recommended option). Under this option, the strategy will be adopted by the authority.

Reasons

To enable the Breckland Housing and Homelessness Strategy 2017-21 to be adopted by the authority.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cabinet adopts the Breckland Housing and Homelessness Strategy for 2017-21.

66/17 NEXT MEETING

The arrangements for the next meeting held on 11 July 2017 in the Norfolk Room, Elizabeth House, Dereham were noted.

Action By

67/17 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED that under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

68/17 GROWTH & COMMERCIALISATION DELIVERY UNIT

Members were asked to increase the delivery capacity at both Councils with regards to key strategic programmes of activity.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- 1) Cabinet recommends to FULL COUNCIL approval of the establishment of a new delivery unit the proposed structure in respect of which is set out at section 1.5 of the report and Appendix B.
- 2) That Members approved the use of the Growth Reserve to support the cost of this unit initially, with the unit moving to self-financing as part of the Medium Term Financial Plan.

The meeting closed at 11.10 am

CHAIRMAN