Minutes of the Council meeting held at Riverside, Canning Road, Lowestoft on Wednesday, 21 September 2016 at 6.30 pm.

Members present:


Officers present:

S Baker (Chief Executive), A Charvonia (Strategic Director & Monitoring Officer), P Goldsmith (Food & Safety Officer), P Gore (Head of Environmental Services & Port Health), A Jarvis (Strategic Director), H Javadi (Chief Finance Officer and S151 Officer), S Martin (Head of Internal Audit), P Moore (Environmental Health Officer), M Sims (Food & Safety Manager), S Taylor (Finance Manager – Compliance) and N Wotton (Democratic Services Manager)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors I Graham, L Harris-Logan and S Logan.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor G Elliott declared a Local Non Pecuniary Interest in Item 10 – East Suffolk Food and Health and Safety Service Plan 2016/17 – as he operated a registered food business within the District.

3. MINUTES

RESOLVED

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 20 July 2016 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

4. COMMUNICATIONS

Devolution Meeting

The Chairman advised that there would be an Extraordinary Council meeting, followed by a pre-scheduled Cabinet meeting on Wednesday, 2 November 2016. The meeting would be to consider the latest developments regarding Devolution. All Members were requested to add this additional meeting to their diaries.

Joint Christmas Carol Service

The Joint Christmas Carol Service, held by the Chairman of Waveney District Council and the Mayor of Lowestoft would take place on Friday, 9 December 2016 at the London Road Baptist Church. Invitations would be sent out in early October.

Riverside Building

The Chairman reminded Members that the Riverside Building would close 30 minutes after the Full Council meeting finished, to enable Members to collect any post from their pigeon holes.
Death of a former Waveney District Councillor

Members were saddened to note that former Chairman of the Council, Frank Devereux, had recently passed away. His funeral would be taking place on 22 September 2016 at noon, at the Waveney Memorial Park in Beccles, should any current Members wish to attend.

All those present then stood for a minute's silence in memory of former Chairman of the Council, Frank Devereux.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE / LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Leader of the Council

Audit Results

The Leader of the Council was pleased to report that Ernst & Young LLP (EY), the Council’s external auditors, had announced that they would be issuing an unqualified audit opinion and unqualified Value For Money opinion for the Council. A very in depth review of the Council’s Medium Term Financial Strategy and financial plans had been undertaken, as instructed by the National Audit Office. This meant that achieving an unqualified Value for Money opinion, with no caveats or recommendations was an excellent achievement for the Council.

Members were advised that the narrative report by the Chief Finance Officer, which formed part of the Statement of Accounts, highlighted that the Council had not only delivered its services within budget but also had delivered additional in year savings of £643,000 during the 2015/16 financial year.

The Leader of the Council took the opportunity to thank the Financial Services Team for their hard work in delivering an excellent set of Financial Statements by the statutory deadlines, supported by high quality working papers. This made the external auditors work easier, ensured that the Council remained low risk and kept audit fees to a minimum. The Financial Services Team then received a round of applause from the Councillors, in recognition of their hard work.

6. NOTICES OF MOTION

A Notice of Motion had been received from Councillor K Patience:

‘That Waveney District Council calls upon the Government to make fair transitional state pension arrangements for all women born on or after 6th April 1951, who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the State Pension Age (SPA) with lack of appropriate notification. Large numbers of women had significant pension changes imposed on them by the Pensions Acts of 1995 and 2011 with little or no personal notification of the changes, leaving them with no time to make alternative arrangements. Many women had only two years notice of a six-year increase to their state pension age. Many women born in the 1950's are living in hardship. Retirement plans have been shattered with devastating consequences. Many of these women are already out of the labour market, caring for elderly relatives, providing childcare for grandchildren, or suffer discrimination in the workplace, so struggle to find employment. Women born in this decade are suffering financially. These women have worked hard, raised families and paid their tax and national insurance with the expectation that they would be financially secure when reaching 60. It is not the pension age itself that is in dispute - it is widely accepted that women and men should retire at the same time.

The Council calls upon the Government to reconsider transitional arrangements for women born on or after 6th April 1951, so that women do not live in hardship due to pension changes they were not told about it until it was too late.’
In accordance with the Council’s Constitution, it was proposed and seconded “That the Motion be discussed immediately.” On it being put to the Vote the Motion was CARRIED and the Motion was therefore duly discussed.

The Chairman took the opportunity to welcome the representatives from the Women Against State Pension Inequality (WASPI) campaign to the meeting and reassured those present that the Council was keen to show its support for this important campaign, as many women had been adversely affected in Waveney.

The Leader of the Council reported that the campaign was supported by the Conservative Group and he proposed to add to the Notice of Motion. The Leader of the Council stated that the MP for Waveney, Peter Aldous, was taking a petition on this matter to Parliament. All those present were also encouraged to sign this important petition and to raise awareness on this matter in their Wards.

The Leader reported that he would also write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on behalf of the Council, raising the concerns of the Council and asking for the transitional arrangements for the women adversely affected to be reconsidered.

It was therefore unanimously resolved

RESOLVED

1. That the Notice of Motion was unanimously approved by Full Council.

2. That the Leader of the Council would support the petition created by Peter Aldous, MP for Waveney, which would be taken to Parliament shortly.

3. That the Leader of the Council would write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to raise the concerns of the Council that women were being adversely affected by transitional arrangements.

7. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

With the agreement of the Council, the Chairman changed the order of business to enable the reports to be considered prior to receiving Members Questions.

8. PETITIONS

No Petitions had been received.

9. QUESTIONS FROM THE ELECTORATE

No Questions from the Electorate had been received.

10. EAST SUFFOLK FOOD AND HEALTH AND SAFETY SERVICE PLAN 2016/17 (REP1412)

The Cabinet Member for Community Health & Safety presented the report, which sought approval of the East Suffolk Food and Health and Safety Service Plan for 2016/17. It was noted that the Council’s performance in meeting targets identified within the 2015/16 Service Plan was contained within this year’s Service Plan, attached as Appendix A to the report.

Members’ attention was drawn to the key achievements delivered in 2015/16, as well as areas for service improvement. The performance figures for 2015/16 were the best the team had delivered, with improvements in the percentage of premises inspected against the programme, an increase in the number of the highest rated premises in the National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme, and an increase in the percentage of food businesses broadly compliant with food hygiene requirements.
Members then received a presentation from a Food & Safety Officer, regarding a serious case they had been involved with in Lowestoft, to give Members an understanding of the wide variety of issues which the Team can be called upon to deal with. It was noted that the Food and Safety Team had been contacted by a member of the public, who was concerned that some residents who lived above an off licence had become unwell. Upon detailed inspection of the premises, it was discovered that the tenants of the off licence had had their utilities supply cut off due to non-payment. In order to provide electricity, they were using a petrol generator in the premises with no ventilation which had led to high levels of carbon monoxide, and the generator had been using non-compliant wiring. The store rooms and off licence were also being used as living accommodation and the conditions in which they were living were extremely poor. Due to the severity of the conditions involved, a number of partner organisations were also involved including Private Sector Housing and the Fire and Rescue Service, with the Food and Safety Team taking the lead role. The actions of the team in improving the safety conditions within the building, ultimately prevented the risk of death or serious injury from burns, poisoning or fire.

A Member queried what could be done to help prevent the off licence tenant from starting up another business elsewhere in the country and causing similar problems. It was reported that all premises must be registered by law and local authorities can share information or alert other authorities or agencies about any concerns they may have regarding individuals.

An Environmental Health Officer then provided a presentation on their work regarding the Eat Out, Eat Well campaign, which sought to improve the number of healthy choices available when eating out. The aim of the scheme was to reduce obesity, which currently affected 65% of adults and was costing the NHS £5 billion a year to treat. Members were pleased that the number of businesses wishing to participate in the scheme was increasing and noted the processes involved in gaining the award.

A Member commended the scheme and queried whether any fast food outlets had become involved. It was confirmed that locally Greggs and Pizza Hut had expressed interest and that the scheme may be extended to include takeaway premises in the future.

RESOLVED

1. That the East Suffolk Food Safety and Health and Safety performance against the Service Plan for 2015/16 be noted.

2. That the East Suffolk Food and Health and Safety Service Plan for 2016/17 be adopted.

11. TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTFLOW REPORT FOR 2015/16 AND MID YEAR REPORT FOR 2016/17 (REP1335)

The Cabinet Member for Resources and Welfare Reforms presented the report and advised Members that the Treasury Management Policy Statement required both an annual and a mid-year report to be produced by 30 September 2016, and approved by Council. The report reviewed the performance of the Treasury Management function, including prudential indicators, in 2015/16, and a mid-year view of the first half of 2016/17.

The report outlined the economic background within which the Council had operated, and set out the Council's borrowing and investment activity over the previous year.

The 2015/16 summary showed that investments totalled £27.15m as at 31 March 2016. Interest received during the year totalled £239k and the Council had maintained its policy of investing in the short term rather than longer term, due to market conditions.
The Council had held an average cash balance of £28.3m during the year and received investment income of £239k, which exceeded its planned budget of £195k for 2015/16. As at 31 August 2016 the Council held £35.2m of investments, and interest received totalled £92k.

Members noted that the current debt portfolio of the Council was a total of £91.05m. This was summarised by £77.4m which was attributable to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA), including £68.3m of Self-Financing Loans taken out in 2011/12 and £13.65m of General Fund loans.

The report concluded that the Council had operated its Treasury Management function within the prescribed Treasury Management Policy and Prudential Indicators for 2015/16 and for the first half of 2016/17. The Council had maintained a healthy cash balance during 2016/17 to date, and had ensured that an improved interest rate return had been achieved.

RESOLVED

1. That the Annual Report on the Council’s Treasury Management activity for 2015/16 incorporating the Mid Year review for 2016/17 be approved.

2. That the Prudential Indicators Outturn position for 2015/16 in Appendix A be noted.

12. ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF EXTERNAL AUDITORS (REP1461)

The Cabinet Member for Resources & Welfare Reforms advised that the Council needed to choose one of three options set out in the report for appointing external auditors, following the closure of the Audit Commission and the end of the transitional arrangements at the conclusion of the 2017/18 audits.

The three options available to the Council were: a) establishing a stand-alone Auditor Panel to make the appointment on behalf of the Council, b) commencing work on exploring the establishment of local joint procurement arrangements with neighbouring authorities, or c) opting-in to the national Sector Led Body, Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA). The advantages and disadvantages of each option were set out in the report, which recommended to Full Council option c) – opting in to the national Sector Led Body.

The Cabinet Member for Resources & Welfare Reforms advised that he would like to propose an additional condition, ‘That delegated authority be given to the Cabinet Member for Resources & Welfare Reforms and the Section 151 Officer to communicate the willingness of the Council to ‘opt-in’ to the sector led body (PSAA) and to enter into the scheme after a satisfactory examination / negotiation of the proposed terms and conditions is concluded.’

RESOLVED

1. That the recommended option to “opt-in” to the sector led body (Public Sector Audit Appointments Ltd (PSAA)) for the independent appointment of the council’s External Auditor, beginning with responsibilities for the financial year 2018/19, be approved.

2. That delegated authority be given to the Cabinet Member for Resources & Welfare Reforms and the Section 151 Officer to communicate the willingness of the Council to ‘opt-in’ to the sector led body (PSAA) and to enter into the scheme after a satisfactory examination / negotiation of the proposed terms and conditions is concluded.
13. WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY (REP1253)

The Cabinet Member for Resources & Welfare Reforms presented a report which sought approval of the revised Whistleblowing Policy. It was noted that that the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) suggested a regular review of the organisation’s Whistleblowing Policy. The Council’s Whistleblowing Policy was last reviewed in January 2013, and the main body of the Policy remained compliant with expected good practices, with minor changes made to contact points. The Audit & Governance Committee had considered the report at their meeting on 15 September 2016 and had recommended that Council approved the revised Whistleblowing Policy.

A Member queried whether the Whistleblowing Policy had been used and the Head of Internal Audit reported that there had been no instances reported in the last year.

In terms of the presentation of the Whistleblowing Policy, a Member commented that it would be clearer for the reader if tracked changes were used to highlight any amendments. It was also noted that reports would be standardised in the third person in future.

**RESOLVED**

1. That the comments from Full Council regarding the Whistleblowing Policy be received.

2. That the Whistleblowing Policy set out at Part 5 of the Council’s Constitution be replaced with the Suffolk Coastal District Council and Waveney District Council Whistleblowing Policy August 2016, as set out at Appendix A to Report REP1253.

14. ANTI FRAUD AND CORRUPTION STRATEGY (REP1254)

The Cabinet Member for Resources & Welfare Reforms presented a report which advised Members that the Council’s existing Fraud and Corruption Management Strategy had been refreshed, and was to be known as the Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy, which was aligned to the current UK fraud and corruption environment and best practices. Waveney District Council had a zero tolerance approach to fraud and corruption, and as such had a designated team specialising in anti-fraud and corruption activity. The updated Strategy would be promoted on the intranet and this would commence in September 2016.

A Member queried whether the Council was protected against online fraud and it was noted that the Council was active in this respect. The Council had a long history of tracing fraud and was keen to publicise its efforts, as a deterrent.

**RESOLVED**

1. That the comments from Full Council regarding the Anti Fraud and Corruption Strategy be received.

2. That the Fraud and Corruption Management Strategy set out at Part 5 of the Council’s Constitution be replaced with the refreshed Suffolk Coastal District Council and Waveney District Council Anti-Fraud and Corruption Strategy August 2016, as set out at Appendix A to Report REP1254.

15. WAVENEY DISTRICT COUNCIL CIVIC MEMORABILIA (REP1385)

The Leader of the Council presented a report, which sought a way forward regarding the various items of Waveney District Council Civic Memorabilia currently in storage, following the Council’s move out of the old Town Hall in Lowestoft. The report also dealt
with the Notice of Motion which was referred by Full Council on 23 March 2016 to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, which stated:

“This Council believes that it is the role of the Full Council to make any decision on the disposal of any of the historic items and gifts in the care of Waveney District Council. Further, that no disposal either by gift, sale or long-term or permanent loan shall take place without the express permission of the Full Council.”

The Overview & Scrutiny Committee duly considered the matter at their meeting on 6 July 2016, and proposed one amendment to the recommendation, which was that the membership of the Board should include one other Member from the Leading Group (in addition to the Leader and Cabinet Member) rather than two.

The Leader of the Council took the opportunity to clarify some misinformation that had been circulated on social media regarding the current storage arrangements for the Civic Memorabilia. He reported that the opportunity to provide the storage facilities for the items had gone out to competitive tender, in accordance with the current processes and procedures for awarding contracts. Neither Councillor Ardley, Cabinet Member for Operational Partnerships & Lowestoft Rising, nor Lowestoft Auction House had been involved in the process and they had not taken part in the competitive tender. The civic items were in the storage facilities of an entirely unrelated business.

Councillor Ardley made a personal statement in this respect and advised that he would like to move on and look to the future. The Board would be performing a very important role and making difficult decisions about the future of the civic items. This would be a long term project and if a new Town Council was established for Lowestoft, they would be able to make decisions regarding the items pertaining to Lowestoft.

A Councillor queried if there was a list of the items which had been gifted to the Lowestoft Twinning Association and it was reported that the ownership of the civic items were listed and the final decisions on the future of the individual items would be made by the Board, in due course.

Members welcomed the news that the future of the civic items was to be decided, and were pleased to note that items would be brought out of storage and would hopefully be displayed for the public to enjoy and to share the history of the town. It was confirmed that expert advice and guidance would be required to ensure that the items were valued correctly. It was also confirmed that regular updates would be provided on the work of the Board.

RESOLVED

That the discussion paper set out at Appendix A to this report be considered, and that a cross-party Board be set up, membership to be confirmed with reference to Paragraph 2.1 above and the suggested amendment from the Overview & Scrutiny Committee, with delegated authority to decide the future of the various civic items in the care of the Council.

16. REVIEW OF THE POLITICAL COMPOSITION OF THE COUNCIL, COMMITTEE REPRESENTATION AND APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND WORKING GROUPS (REP1456)

The Leader of the Council presented the report regarding the revised overall political balance of the Council, which sought approval for the revised representation on some Council Committees, Outside Bodies and Working Groups. Since the Annual Council meeting, Councillors N Webb and S Webb, two of the three Ward Councillors for Whitton Ward had resigned from the Waveney Labour Group to become Independent Councillors. As a consequence, the Labour Group must lose three seats on the Council’s Committees and the Independents would gain those seats.

Members were informed that since the papers for the meeting had been published, Councillor R Neil had also resigned from the Waveney Labour Group to become an Independent Councillor. The Strategic Director and Monitoring Officer advised that the
Council should consider the report before them, as presented and that a further updated report would be brought to the Full Council meeting scheduled for 16 November 2016.

It was therefore proposed that Councillor S Webb remained on the Appeals and Disciplinary Committee as an Independent Member, that Councillor N Webb replaced Councillor L Harris-Logan on the Planning Committee and that Councillor N Webb remained on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee as an Independent Member.

Also, due to work commitments, Councillor S Logan has advised that he would no longer be able to attend any Committee or Outside Body meetings.

It was proposed that Councillor A Green replaced Councillor S Logan on the Audit & Governance Committee, that Councillor J Murray replaced Councillor S Logan on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and that Councillor K Patience replaced Councillor S Logan on the Lowestoft Community Governance Review Councillor Working Group.

Since Councillor N Webb became an Independent Councillor, it was also proposed that since he was no longer the Council’s main opposition group representative on the Sentinel Leisure Governance Board and that he should be replaced by Councillor A Green, from the Labour Group.

The Leader of the Council advised that two recommendations were inadvertently omitted from the report, therefore an additional document containing all of the recommendations had been circulated, for information.

In response to a query from a Member, the Strategic Director and Monitoring Officer provided some clarification regarding how the political proportionality of the Council was to be reflected in the membership of the Committees. It was noted that the aim was to mirror the proportion of political groups of the Council in the Committee membership, however it would be impossible to get an exact replication. When the mathematical formulations were undertaken, they provided a basis from which to work and usually resulted in percentages rather than whole numbers. However it was a balancing act, which required negotiation and flexibility and a ‘best fit’ approach had to be taken in this respect.

**RESOLVED**

1. That the results of the review into the political proportionality of the Council and allocation of Committee seats on a politically proportionate basis be noted.

2. That Councillor N Webb be appointed to the Planning Committee as an Independent Member for the remainder of his current term of office, replacing Councillor L Harris-Logan.

3. That Councillors N Webb and S Webb remain on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and Appeals & Disciplinary Committee respectively, as Independent Members for the remainder of their current term of office.

4. That the Substitution arrangements for the two Independent Members and the Green Party Member as an informal ‘Minority Opposition Group’ be approved.

5. That Councillor K Patience replaces Councillor S Logan as the Council’s representative on the Lowestoft Community Governance Review Councillor Working Group.

6. That Councillor A Green replaces Councillor N Webb as the Council’s representative on the Sentinel Leisure Governance Board.

7. That Councillor A Green replaces Councillor S Logan on the Audit & Governance Committee.
8. That Councillor J Murray replaces Councillor S Logan on the Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

17. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS

(a) Question from Councillor J Smith to the Cabinet Member for Resources & Welfare Reforms

Waveney District Council is part of the national pilot scheme for the introduction of Universal Credit. Can Councillor Barnard inform the Council about the data being collected regarding the efficiency of the introduction of the new system.

Response from Councillor M Barnard

The Universal Credit system is not a Waveney District Council system. It was developed by and belonged to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). Customers have to apply online and then have appointments with their DWP work coach. The Council was aware and had raised concerns with the DWP that residents claiming Universal Credit were experiencing difficulties providing evidence at Job Centre Plus office appointments. The Council had obtained assurance from the DWP that they are aware of these delays and are implementing improvements to their processes.

This was not a pilot scheme; the DWP were undertaking a staged rollout across the country, and Lowestoft had been chosen by the DWP as a full service location from May 2016. Council Officers were working closely with DWP representatives to support the rollout of Universal Credit.

Customers that need to apply for Universal Credit could seek assistance with applying online from the Marina Customer Service Centre.

To date the DWP have not provided any performance data regarding Universal Credit – however, further information could be obtained at the Universal Credit page on the gov.uk website.

Supplementary Question from Councillor J Smith

Some Universal Credit claimants are experiencing real hardship, as they are having to wait 6 weeks or even longer before they receive any payments. What can we do to help them?

Response from Councillor M Barnard

We are aware of some cases, therefore if any claimants have been waiting for payments, they can come to the Marina Centre for advice and they will also be referred to the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB). We are working closely with the CAB to help with the transition towards Universal Credit.

(b) Question from Councillor L Gooch to the Cabinet Member for Resources & Welfare Reforms

In the light of the announcement by Waveney District Council that there would be a competition prize of £5,000 to a ‘lucky’ new subscriber to direct debit payments of Council Tax. Can the Council be informed of the exact number of residents who took up this offer?

Response from Councillor M Barnard

887 customers have signed up to direct debit for their Council Tax during the period in which the campaign has been running. The campaign helped to raise awareness of the benefits that paying by direct debit can provide.

BACS Payment Systems; the organisation that runs direct debits, arranges national direct debit campaigns, provides the prize draw funding and they also supply the marketing
material for organisations to download and use. Other Local Authorities also take part. More information on their campaigns can be found from www.directdebit.co.uk

**Supplementary Question from Councillor L Gooch**

If some of our local residents do not have bank accounts, they cannot take part in these campaigns. What can we do to help those people without a bank account?

**Response from Councillor M Barnard**

We are unfortunately unable to help individuals to open a bank account, however help and advice can be sought in this respect, from the Citizens Advice Bureau.

(c) **Question from Councillor M Cherry to the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning & Coastal Management**

It has recently been announced that Cardy Construction, the Kent company which got planning permission to build 850 dwellings on the Brooke Peninsular/Jeld Wen site, has gone into administration and is unable to fulfil its contracts. Can Councillor Ritchie inform the Council whether Cardy Construction owe Waveney District Council any money?

**Response from Councillor D Ritchie**

Cardy Construction does not owe Waveney District Council any money. The S106 agreement has triggers for the payment of developer contributions but only after development has started, which clearly isn’t the case in this instance.

**Supplementary Question from Councillor M Cherry**

Two large housing developments at the former Sanyo Site and Brooke Peninsula have not taken place, despite planning permission being granted. Are any risk assessments undertaken regarding the building companies which submit the planning applications? Although Cardy Construction has gone into administration, they still appear to be trading within Waveney.

**Response from Councillor D Ritchie**

The planning permissions for the two sites are still in place, therefore if another developer was found, then the developments could still happen. I am not aware of Cardy Construction building elsewhere in Waveney. It is very frustrating when planning permission has been granted for a large development and then it stalls but that is out of our control.

I am aware that the landowner of Brooke Peninsula is planning to complete 30 homes in 2017/18, which is positive news, and the Sanyo site is being cleared ready for future development. The Local Plan Working Group has been working on the 5 year land supply policy document for the Council, so we are taking future housing development very seriously.

(d) **Question from Councillor J Murray to the Cabinet Member for Community Health & Safety**

Following the recent announcement that Norfolk & Waveney’s NHS & Social Care services were staring into a £545M deficit by 2020/21. A new Consultation is being launched called ‘A Sustainability & Transformation Plan (STS)’ just a year after ‘The Shape of the System’ Public Consultation was instigated, resulting in the decision made in November 2015 by the Great Yarmouth & Waveney CCG to close two community hospitals in Waveney (and one in Great Yarmouth) and use community care, claiming it was a more efficient use of resources which would benefit patient care. Can Councillor Rudd tell the Council what the response of the Council will be to this latest Consultation?
Response from Councillor M Rudd

We have just received a very detailed presentation from Andy Evans about the latest developments regarding the Great Yarmouth and Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group, prior to this meeting, which has answered your question.

Supplementary Question from Councillor J Murray

Will the Cabinet Member for Community Health & Safety liaise with Councillor Cackett, who is the Waveney representative on the County Council’s Joint Health Scrutiny Committee, to ensure that we can provide an improved and sustainable NHS for the residents of Waveney?

Response from Councillor M Rudd

I do liaise with Councillor Cackett and am also a Member of the Joint Health Scrutiny Committee, working to improve the health care provision for Waveney.

(e) Question from Councillor J Ford to the Cabinet Member for Operational Partnerships & Lowestoft Rising

Can Councillor Ardley explain what is happening to the beach huts and cliff area that have been cordoned off on the Jubilee Parade on Lowestoft seafront?

Response from Councillor S Ardley

The chalets are subject to a survey into the condition of the cliff face and potential subsidence issues. We await the final advice document relating to the reinstatement programme for the sea wall to the rear of the chalets and the demolition of the chalets thereafter. The report is expected in October.

Once the budget and programme has been determined and approved the next step is to identify options for the redevelopment of the site. In terms of next year, a planning application was submitted for a temporary beach hut site to be placed directly in front of the chalets on the Lower Esplanade. The application requests 3 year temporary permission on the basis that the timeline should allow sufficient time to develop and deliver an approved redevelopment option for the site. WDC view this as an important site with significant tourism and development potential, therefore several options are being explored that will be presented to Members in due course.

Supplementary Question from Councillor J Ford

There is a lot of concern about the safety of the cliffs behind the beach huts on Jubilee Parade, as there may be subsidence and they could be unsafe. Who is going to look at the safety of those cliffs?

Response from Councillor S Ardley

I have also heard those rumours and that is why we have got a civil engineering company to thoroughly survey those cliffs to find out what is happening with them. We will receive their report in October. It may be necessary for rods and concrete to be put into the cliffs to stabilise them but we will know more when the report has been received. We will liaise with the owners of the beach huts should there need to be any work undertaken to the cliffs.

(f) Question from Councillor K Patience to the Leader of the Council

Could the Leader inform the Council when repairs to the Battery Green Car Park are going to take place?
Response from Councillor C Law

Given the number of issues that relate to this car park, including the repair liability, a report is to be prepared providing options for the redevelopment of the asset for consideration by Cabinet shortly.

Until the report has been considered there is no plan to carry out major repairs to the car park, minimum repairs will be undertaken where required.

Supplementary Question from Councillor K Patience

I use the car park frequently and there is no lighting on Level 5, which is dangerous, as it is getting dark much earlier now. We need suitable lighting to protect the public. Also, one of the lifts is currently broken. We need to provide a good service to the people that use the car park.

Response from Councillor S Ardley

Those are operational issues and I will take them forward, to ensure they are fixed shortly. The car park is inspected regularly for these sorts of issues but thank you for bringing them to my attention.

(g) Question from Councillor S Barker to the Leader of the Council

The Chief Constable of Suffolk explained recently on Radio Suffolk that of 327 Local Authorities, only 27 did not have car parking restriction civil powers, six of those LA’s are in Suffolk. Can Councillor Law update the Council as to where the negotiations are with Suffolk County Council regarding the introduction of car parking restriction civil powers in Waveney?

Response from Councillor C Law

At the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders Group (SPSLG) on the 15th January 2016, the Chief Constable presented a paper that sought agreement to develop a business case to move the responsibility for the enforcement of parking restrictions in the whole of Suffolk from the police to local authorities. It was agreed at that meeting that a Suffolk Civil Parking Enforcement Working Group (SCPEWG) would be established of representatives from the police and local authorities across the County to take forward the development of a business case for the advancement of CPE. The Working Group has met 11 times and constructively explored a range of relevant issues.

Progress was presented to SPSLG (on 13 May 2016) and SCOLT (on 24 August 2016). The PSLG met on 16th September 2016 and reviewed the findings of a jointly funded Financial Feasibility report. The following next steps were agreed:

1. It is taken forward to full individual business cases by SCC and the district and borough councils.
2. All Councils aim to seek formal political agreement to the proposed arrangements and business case sign off by the summer of 2017.
3. All Councils aim to introduce CPE by spring 2019.

Supplementary Question from Councillor S Barker

Suffolk County Council were discussing this over a year ago and then it went to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for consideration. I also had to speak to the Suffolk County Council Cabinet Member, James Finch, about this. Will all of the discussions be completed by 2019 in order for this to actually happen?
Response from Councillor C Law

There has been an issue with progress but I have spoken to the Chief Executive of Suffolk County Council and she has helped to move things along. There are going to be regular meetings going forwards and we hope to make real progress soon.

The meeting was concluded at 8.10 pm

Chairman