

Minutes of the Council meeting held at Riverside, Canning Road, Lowestoft on **Wednesday, 21 March 2018 at 6.30 pm.**

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Members present:

F Mortimer (Chairman), S Allen, P Ashdown, E Back, S Barker, M Barnard, M Bee, N Brooks, A Cackett, J Ceresa, M Cherry, Y Cherry, L Coulam, J Craig, G Elliott, T Gandy, T Goldson, L Gooch, I Graham, K Grant, A Green, M Ladd, P Light, T Mortimer, J Murray, K Patience, M Pitchers, B Provan, C Punt, T Reynolds, D Ritchie, C Rivett, K Robinson, J Smith, L Smith, K Springall, C Topping, N Webb, S Webb and S Woods.

Officers present:

R Best (East Suffolk Communities Manager), C Bing (Legal Services Manager), S Hubbard (Principal Planner for Policy & Delivery), A Jarvis (Strategic Director), N Khan (Strategic Director), D Povey (Principal Planner for Policy & Delivery), D Reed (Planning Policy & Delivery Manager), N Rickard (Head of Communities), M Sims (Food & Safety Manager), S Taylor (Finance Manager & Deputy Section 151 Officer), and N Wotton (Democratic Services Manager)

The Chairman welcomed all those present to the meeting. In particular, he welcomed the Finance Manager & Deputy Section 151 Officer who would be updating Members on the Treasury Management & Investment Strategy report, the Planning Officers who were in attendance for the Final Draft of the Local Plan and the Food & Safety Manager for the Communicable Diseases item.

The Chairman took the opportunity to report that Phil Aves had recently been taken unwell and was therefore not able to attend this meeting. Councillors joined the Chairman in wishing Mr Aves a speedy recovery. Members were pleased to note that the Head of Communities and the East Suffolk Communities Manager would be providing the presentation on Lowestoft Rising in his place. He also welcomed the Legal Services Manager, who was in attendance in place of the Monitoring Officer and Head of Legal & Democratic Services.

The Chairman advised that he would be changing the order of business, so that item 14 – Appointment of a Proper Officer for Communicable Disease Control and Associated Matters – would be taken at Item 10 on the agenda.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S Ardley, P Byatt, G Catchpole, J Ford, J Groom, L Nicholls and M Rudd.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor S Barker declared a Local Non Pecuniary Interest in Item 14 – Update on the Artefacts from the Town Hall, as she had been on the Civic Memorabilia Working Group which had met to consider the future of the artefacts.

Councillor A Green declared a Local Non Pecuniary Interest in Item 14 – Update on the Artefacts from the Town Hall, as he was a Lowestoft Town Councillor and it was possible that some of the artefacts may be transferred to Lowestoft Town Council in due course.

Councillor I Graham declared a Local Non Pecuniary Interest in Item 14 – Update on the Artefacts from the Town Hall, as he was a Lowestoft Town Councillor and the Mayor of Lowestoft and it was possible that some of the artefacts may be transferred to Lowestoft Town Council in due course.

**3. MINUTES**

**RESOLVED**

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 21 February 2018 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**4. COMMUNICATIONS**

Councillor J Ford

The Chairman of the Council took the opportunity to advise that Councillor J Ford was recuperating well from her operation and sent her the best wishes of the Council.

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

Chief Executive

There were no announcements from the Chief Executive on this occasion.

Leader of the Council

Verbal Update on the Artefacts from the Town Hall

The Leader reported that Item 13 - the verbal update on the Artefacts from the Town Hall – had been withdrawn from the agenda this evening. He reported that instead, a written report would be brought to the next Full Council meeting on 18 April 2018 and it would be presented by Councillor S Ardley, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Merger & Communities.

Simultaneous Full Council Meeting

The Leader of the Council took the opportunity to remind all Councillors that a Simultaneous Full Council meeting would be taking place, with Suffolk Coastal District Council on Monday, 30 April 2018 at 6.30pm at High Lodge, Darsham. The meeting would be to consider the way forward for the super district council, following the work of the Boundary Commission on its warding proposals and to appoint to the Shadow Authority. It was noted that High Lodge was the mid point between the two Councils and would be able to accommodate all 90 Councillors from both Councils.

Briefing by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England

Councillors were reminded that the briefing by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England would be taking place on Tuesday, 3 April 2018 at 2.15 pm in the Deben Conference Room at East Suffolk House, Melton. Senior representatives from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government would be briefing Members on the process and would answer any questions that may arise.

Affordable Homes Grant

The Leader of the Council was pleased to report that the Council had been successful in its application for HCA Shared Ownership Funding and had been awarded a grant of £1.22million, which would be used to provide 61 additional shared ownership properties in the District. The Council would be working with the E2 Consortium to fulfil this development, which would help the Council to achieve its Housing Strategy ambitions. It was noted that the Council would be submitting further bids in the future.

East Anglia One Windfarm

The Leader of the Council reported that the East Anglia One windfarm development had been confirmed, which would provide 300 full time, permanent jobs for the next 30 years, as well as providing a significant contribution to the local economy.

Lowestoft First Light Festival

Work was continuing on the Lowestoft Festival, which had the aim of attracting 20,000 people to the Town. The Council had met with representatives from partners and local businesses and additional funding had been secured for the development of the plans.

South Beach Vision

Work was also continuing with Wayne Hemingway, on the South Beach Vision, which was an exciting opportunity and would attract additional tourists to the area and would boost the local economy.

Big Lottery Funding

Over £380,000 of Big Lottery funding had been secured for a new project which would put residents at the heart of developing their communities in Lowestoft and the surrounding area. The funding would be used to help local residents identify challenges and solutions within their communities, in parts of Lowestoft and Kessingland.

Other Improvements

The Leader commented that it was a very exciting time for the District as there was significant external funding being invested in the area, which would have a long lasting legacy. These included the third crossing project, flood defense work and the arts and heritage work being undertaken as part of the Heritage Action Zone. It was hoped that further grants and external funding would be received in the future to undertake additional improvements for the residents of Waveney.

**6. NOTICE OF MOTION**

No Notices of Motion had been received.

**7. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS**

(a) Question from Councillor J Craig to the Cabinet Member for Operational Partnerships:

Can the Cabinet Member update the Council re the renewal of the WDC Green Bin subscription fee, as we are led to believe that the reminder post cards needed reprinting because the figure given was £42.00 rather than the correct figure of £43.00. What cost was incurred by WDC for the reprinting of the cards?

(Councillor Craig then produced an example of the reminder post card that her query was about.)

Response from Councillor M Bee

Councillor Bee advised that he had thought that the question referred to the Christmas bin hangers. Therefore the answer he had prepared was no longer suitable. A further answer would therefore be provided outside of the meeting.

Supplementary Question from Councillor J Craig

It would have been a nice gesture to keep the price at £42, rather than increasing it to £43 and can we be reassured that the pages containing the incorrect price were recycled properly?

Response from Councillor M Bee

The incorrect information was recycled properly, in accordance with the Council's procedures and processes. The post cards had been printed in November, before the Cabinet had made their decision regarding fees and charges. Reassurance was provided that lessons would be learned for the future.

(b) Question from Councillor S Barker to the Cabinet Member for Planning & Coastal Management:

How will the proposals launched by the government on the 5 March 2018 to: "rewrite the rules on Planning", to get developers and local authorities to build more properties, potentially affect the Planning Department at Waveney District Council?

Response from Councillor Ritchie

Many thanks for your question. What you are referring to is the current consultation on proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework. The consultation is in its early stages and we are collectively considering the proposed changes, and their potential implications for us, along with our neighbouring authorities, and we will respond to it in due course.

However, I can assure the Council that Waveney District Council has, and is, proactively addressing the issues about building more properties for our residents and stress that this is a wider issue than just affecting the Planning Department. The Planning Department produces the Local Plan, and determines planning applications, judged against the Local plan and other material considerations. Mentioning this, Council should be pleased to note tonight's Paper proposing to submit the Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate for Examination. This document proposes uplifting our housing requirements from 290 a year to 374 a year and identifying the sites to accommodate these homes. The sites identified are deliverable with willing landowners and promoters. This has been a collaborative

effort of Members of the Local Plan Working Group with our officers and should be rightfully commended for the positive steps it is taking to further improve the health and well being of our residents, visitors and businesses.

Members of Council will be aware that it is the Council's Business Plan that promotes our objectives of delivering growth, including delivering more housing, and especially affordable housing. Through the Cabinet Members, the Strategic Management Team seek to deliver the required outcomes of this positive agenda which Council has set. This is again a team effort with officers from across many Service Areas using the "blueprint" of the Local Plan to identify and deliver the positive outcomes in our communities. To help take forward many of these initiatives, which includes the Council purchasing land for house building, it needs a multi skilled team of officers with a wide range of skills to ensure an effective and efficient delivery programme, as well as building those partnerships with consultants, land owners and developers.

To ensure there are the right people delivering our objectives, the co-ordination of resourcing is key and I can ensure Council this is in hand to ensure we have the ability to deliver our objectives, especially now with the many positive economic opportunities coming forward such as the off shore wind investment in Lowestoft.

Supplementary Question from Councillor S Barker

The Government has introduced new planning rules which makes the whole system more streamlined and effective. Is this needed in Waveney?

Response from Councillor D Ritchie

The Government had introduced the new planning rules. However, if the Council chooses to approve the Draft Local Plan, which is on the agenda for later in the meeting, we will be ahead of the game.

(c) Question from Councillor L Gooch to the Cabinet Member for Resources:

The Waveney Labour Group have been informed that Waveney District Council does not offer any discount for Council Tax for care leavers. Please can this be confirmed and can we be provided with the numbers of vulnerable residents in Waveney affected by this decision?

Response from Councillor B Provan

The Council does not currently have a policy relating to care leavers, however, any individual case can be considered upon its merits by the Council under Section 13 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 (as amended).

Where any care leaver is on a low income, then they would receive Council Tax Support which can be up topped up to 100% of Council Tax where exceptional circumstances apply.

Based on information provided by Suffolk County Council, there are 13 care leavers within Waveney aged between 18 and 20 and a further 2 aged 21 to 25.

Supplementary Question from Councillor L Gooch

Can you provide the costings of the full exemption from Council Tax for all the care leavers in Waveney?

Response from Councillor B Provan

If all of the 15 care leavers were liable for Council Tax and lived in, for example, a Band B property, the annual cost would be in the region of £20,000.

(d) Question from Councillor J Murray to the Cabinet Member for Housing:

Can the Cabinet Member inform the Council of the number of homeless people given temporary accommodation in Waveney over the period 24.2.18 – 5.3.18 and how was the availability of temporary accommodation communicated to those in need and to WDC Councillors for their information?

Response from Councillor Punt

Thank you Councillor Murray for your question. I can confirm that eight different individuals were provided with Severe Weather accommodation on 25 separate occasions, in total, between February 24th and March 5th 2018.

The Severe Weather Emergency Protocol, which is funded by Waveney District Council, is a temporary response and stays in place until the weather improves in line with SWEP guidance.

As a Council, we are responsible for triggering the Protocol and agreed procedures are followed to ensure all relevant stakeholders are made aware.

As per this procedure, Waveney's Housing Needs Team initially liaised with Access Community Trust and the Lowestoft Interventions Group who provided a range of support organisations and agencies with the Council's 'Out Of Hours' contact details to ensure that interim or SWEP accommodation could be arranged promptly, for those in most need, in line with statutory guidance.

Agencies which were also made aware of the decision to trigger the Protocol - as part of the Lowestoft Rising Interventions Group – include the Police and PCSOs, Community Mental Health Teams, Turning Point - a charity which supports vulnerable people, plus Flagship and Genesis Housing Associations.

Information was also circulated via the local media and our own online channels including social media, which we would always encourage Members to follow for latest information and updates.

Waveney District Council remains concerned by the numbers of people sleeping rough in Lowestoft and Members will be aware that national and local leaders from across Great Britain, last year announced ambitions to eradicate street homelessness.

The UK and Scottish Governments have both formed short-term working groups made-up of figures from across the public sphere. These task forces are initially focusing on ending rough sleeping (the former by 2027 and the latter by 2022), with substantial revenue funding being made available to help realise their goals.

In November 2016 the Rough Sleeper Estimate identified a total number of 21 people sleeping rough in Lowestoft on a specified night in November 16. We are pleased that this figure was reduced to 6 on a similar specified night in November 17.

However, Waveney District Council welcomes and supports any initiatives and funding which seeks to further tackle homelessness and rough sleeping.

Supplementary Question from Councillor J Murray

There was a huge community effort in helping the homeless throughout the cold period. The latest Council's Homelessness Strategy was produced in 2013. Will there be the opportunity for the Council to lead a de-brief with stakeholders and volunteers on what worked well and what could be improved? This feedback could be used to update the Strategy and Action Plan.

Response from Councillor C Punt

Yes, this will be taking place after Easter. There will be a full review of what happened and what could be done to improve things, There would also be a refresh of the Housing and

Homelessness Strategy as a result and these will be brought to Cabinet for consideration in due course.

**8. PETITIONS**

No Petitions had been received.

**9. QUESTIONS FROM THE ELECTORATE**

No Questions from the Electorate had been received.

**10. CHANGE IN THE ORDER OF BUSINESS**

With the consent of the Council, the Chairman changed the order of business to enable the following items to be considered further up the Agenda:

- Appointment of a Proper Officer for Communicable Disease Control and Associated Matters

**11. APPOINTMENT OF A PROPER OFFICER FOR COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL AND ASSOCIATED MATTERS**

The Leader of the Council presented the report, which confirmed that the Council was required to appoint a Proper Officer for various functions concerning communicable disease control and associated matters, under the provisions of the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984. The report sought Council approval for the appointment of a Proper Officer for the purposes of those functions following the reorganisation within the Health Protection Teams at Public Health England.

Public Health England (PHE) had undergone a reorganisation and three former Health Protection Teams, in the South Midlands and Hertfordshire, Anglia and Essex, were combining to form the East of England Health Protection Team, based in Thetford and Harlow. It was therefore necessary to update the Council's formal appointment to this position, to ensure that it covered any person for the time being employed as a Consultant in Communicable Disease Control or Consultant in Health Protection, working for the East of England Health Protection Team as Proper Officer for the specific regulations, as outlined in the report and recommendations.

A Member commented on the recent suspected poisoning in Salisbury involving nerve agents and queried whether the Council would know who to contact, should anything similar happen in the District. The Leader of the Council reported that this had been raised at a recent PCC meeting, as the Police were often the first people on site, when such an incident occurred. Reassurance was provided that robust processes and systems were in place, should a similar incident occur, however it was noted that further guidance may be issued by the Government in due course about such matters. In response to the query, further clarification was provided regarding the type of circumstances that the Proper Officer authorisations applied. The Food and Safety Manager confirmed that the authorisations included types of infectious diseases and harmful contamination, such as radiological contaminants.

A Member sought reassurance about the level of cover that would be provided for the East of England, should an incident occur. It was confirmed that the East of England Health

Protection Team comprised of professionals who provided 24/7 cover for the area on a rota style basis. Members noted that records were kept as to which officers were providing the cover at all times, therefore the systems and procedures were detailed and fully accountable. Reassurance was provided that the district would be fully covered, should an incident occur in the future.

### RESOLVED

1. That the Council appoint any person employed for the time being as a Consultant in Communicable Disease Control or Consultant in Health Protection at the East of England Health Protection Team as Proper Officer for the Council for the purposes of:
  - (a) Regulations 2, 3 and 6 The Health Protection (Notification) Regulations 2010 and
  - (b) Section 48 Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 as amended.
2. That Delegated Authority be granted to the Head of Environmental Services & Port Health, in consultation with the Chairman of the Council and relevant Cabinet Member, to make any necessary changes to the appointment of the Proper Officer, should that be necessary in the future.

## 12. PRESENTATION ON LOWESTOFT RISING

The Head of Communities provided an update on the key areas of focus for Lowestoft Rising, which included:

- Mental Health and Well-Being
- Aspiration and Potential (Raising the Bar)
- Drug & Alcohol Services
- Integration and Collaboration
- Pride in Lowestoft – Building on what makes Lowestoft great!

It was noted that a wide variety of initiatives were underway in this respect. It was reported that Tod Sullivan had been appointed as the Mental Health Ambassador for Lowestoft and he was actively encouraging people to talk about their issues and how they were feeling, rather than bottling things up. Physical activity was also encouraged, in order to help people stay connected in their local area. A Sporting Memories project had also been launched at Lowestoft Library, which focussed upon the over 55 age group, and men in particular. Education was also being encouraged among young people, to raise their aspirations and to encourage them to undertake STEM subjects. 80 young people had visited to observe staff from Cefas recently and Lowestoft 6<sup>th</sup> Form had achieved top A level results in East Anglia last summer. Intergenerational work was also underway to help different age groups mix together, remove boundaries and to encourage older people to age well. A multi agency approach had been taken with regards to increasing pride in Lowestoft and funding secured for the Summer Festival, which would include a variety of activities such as Lowestoft's Got Talent.

The East Suffolk Communities Manager reported that significant work had been undertaken in respect of Social Prescribing, involving statutory and non-statutory partners providing support for people living with long term conditions. It was noted that 20-30% of patients present at GP appointments with non-clinical issues, causing substantial pressure for GP's and other clinicians. Taking a more person-centred approach would break this cycle, avoid duplication and enable people to be helped more efficiently, which would avoid cost. It was noted that the 7 GP surgeries in Lowestoft were now all involved in this project and it was hoped to expand the project into the rest of Waveney with funding from the Improved Better Care Fund. It was reported that providing specialist support for people with multi faceted issues was working well and had helped to reduce the number of GP and hospital appointments that they required, whilst helping to solve their ongoing



benefits, housing and debt problems was shown to improve their overall health and wellbeing.

Headteachers in Lowestoft had also requested mentoring for middle group students, to help them to raise their aspirations. The programme is working across 3 schools and 100 students had been supported to date with positive feedback received from the students, schools, parents and guardians. The East Coast and sixth form colleges were also joining the programme. It was important to show young people the opportunities available to them in a variety of areas including construction, engineering, social care and medicine. It was also hoped that mentoring would help to build young people's confidence, resilience and motivation and help to address other issues that they may be battling with such as anxiety.

Members noted that the Lowestoft Food Bank had been close to collapse in 2017 and an interim solution had been put into place, led by Access Communities Trust. The Food Bank was now being maintained in the long term. A number of churches, charities, volunteers and the Trussell Trust were working together to provide the service, which was much needed in the Town, particularly following the roll out of Universal Credit.

Members were pleased to note that the Council had been successful in its bid for Big Lottery funding of £380,000 to provide 3 Support Officers for 3 years to help the communities of Kirkley and Harbour Wards and Kessingland.

A Member queried whether it would be possible to send the recent presentation which was shown at the CAB to all Councillors, for information. It was confirmed that this would be done, after the meeting.

It was noted that the MYGO centre in town had helped many young people, however it was closing in December 2018 due to lack of funding and a new outreach based approach developed by the County Council. A Member asked whether the Council was able to provide any funding or assistance to keep the facility open. It was confirmed that a meeting would shortly take place with Access Community Trust about this matter and all options would be examined with partners to find a way forward.

A Member commented that the work being undertaken in Lowestoft was fantastic and they queried what was being done to support the rural areas in the District. It was reported that the Communities Team was split on a geographical basis and each part of the district was thoroughly supported by a Team Member. Many projects were already underway in areas such as Beccles, Halesworth and Southwold and further information could be provided on these outside of the meeting.

A Member congratulated the Communities Team for their successful bid for funding, however they noted that Lowestoft Town Council had not been made aware of the award and it would have been embarrassing if they had been asked for a press release or statement in this respect. It was reported that Community Action Suffolk, a partner in the bid, had advised that they had briefed Lowestoft Town Clerk about the successful bid.

A Member queried whether the University of East Anglia (UEA) was involved in outreach work in Lowestoft, as they would help to raise students aspirations and broaden their horizons. The Head of Communities reported that she would look into this and report back outside of the meeting.

The Leader of the Council thanked the Head of Communities and the East Suffolk Communities Manager for their interesting and informative presentation, which provided excellent examples of partnership working. He reported that Lowestoft Rising should be put forward for a national award, in order to showcase their ground breaking work. It was also noted that other partners were also doing excellent work, such as the Police and Crime Commissioner, who was working to improve the rehabilitation of offenders, to help break their cycle of crime and reoffending.

A Member requested that the Ward Councillors be informed when the new Support Officers for the Kirkley and Harbour Wards and Kessingland were appointed, so that they could be involved and assist as appropriate. It was confirmed that this would take place, in due course.

N.B. The Head of Communities and East Suffolk Communities Manager left the meeting at this point, at 7.35 pm.

### **13. TREASURY MANAGEMENT & INVESTMENT STRATEGY FOR 2018/19**

The Cabinet Member for Resources presented the report, which sought approval of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2018/19 and Prudential Indicators. It was noted that each year, every local authority must approve a policy strategy, which would govern its day to day treasury management objectives for that year. In this context, treasury management was the balance between maximising performance from investments, money market and capital market transactions whilst minimising the risk to the Council's cash flows and banking. The overriding principle was the security of the Council's money.

Members noted that the Treasury Management & Investment Strategy had been considered by both the Audit & Governance Committee and the Cabinet earlier in March 2018 and both had recommended the adoption of the strategy. It was reported that Arlingclose had provided a detailed presentation prior to the Audit & Governance Committee meeting, which had been very informative and all Councillors had been invited to attend the briefing.

A Member queried whether the Council was able to invest in local renewable energy projects. The Finance Manager and Deputy Section 151 Officer reported that the Council invested in banks and building societies which met the criteria outlined in the appendices to the report. The Council did have a property fund in which it invested, however this tended to cover offices, warehouses and retail units, rather than renewable energy projects, however this would be checked outside of the meeting.

A Member queried what would happen if there were another banking crisis in the future. It was reported that all individuals were covered for their investments up to £75,000 per bank, therefore if individuals had significant investments, they should be spread over a wide range of banking institutions. Should a bank find itself in financial trouble, the Government would instigate a 'bail in' system, whereby institutions with large deposits, such as Council's, would find some of their investment had been used to help support the bank in crisis. It was noted that banking institutions had recently been split into retail and investment arms, to help reduce the overall risk of another banking crisis.

#### **RESOLVED**

That the Treasury Management Statement for 2018/19 and the Prudential Indicators 2018/19 be approved.

### **14. FINAL DRAFT LOCAL PLAN – PUBLICATION AND SUBMISSION**

The Cabinet Member for Planning & Coastal Management presented the report, which sought approval of the Final Draft Local Plan for publication under Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012. Full Council were also requested to grant Delegated Authority to the Head of Planning & Coastal Management, in

consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning & Coastal Management, to submit the Local Plan for examination and to agree any minor modifications.

Members noted that the Local Plan set out the level of growth which needed to be planned in Waveney and identified where that growth should be located and how it should be delivered. The Plan also set out the planning policies which the Council would use to determine local planning applications in its area.

The Final Draft Local Plan identified a need for at least 8,223 new homes over the plan period 2014 – 2036, however in order to increase the number of affordable homes provided through the Local Plan, allocations for housing in the Final Draft Local Plan exceed the total level of housing needed by approximately 12%, which equated to 9,235 new homes in total. It was noted that an over-allocation provided some confidence that the overall objectively assessed need would be met, even if some allocated sites failed to come forward. In conjunction with the new homes, 43 hectares of new employment land had been identified, which would help to support the 5,000 new jobs which were planned to be created in Waveney over the plan period.

The Cabinet Member for Planning & Coastal Partnership took the opportunity to thank the Officers involved for all their hard work and professionalism in the development of the Final Draft Local Plan and the Members who had been involved, as part of the Local Plan Working Group.

A Member raised concerns that although there were a wide range of district-wide policies which would be used to determine planning applications for new developments, there was no mention of culture, which was an important element of regeneration. In particular, there was no mention of the Marina Theatre in Lowestoft, which could be used to help regenerate Lowestoft Town. The Members noted the New Anglia publication “Culture Drives Growth.” The Cabinet Member for Planning & Coastal Management reported that this plan was a blueprint for development, however other initiatives such as the South Beach development involving Wayne Hemingway would be looked at on an individual basis. It was well known that culture could drive growth and regeneration and it was important that all developments would fit in well with their location. The Principal Planner for Policy & Delivery advised that the importance of culture was emphasised throughout the plan and all developments should have the aim of enhancing the culture already in place and that the Council’s planning policies would help to achieve that.

A Member commented that 50% of housing growth for the district was in Lowestoft. They queried whether the new plan had taken into account the possible boundary changes involved with the creation of a new East Suffolk District Council. It was noted that work was still taking place in this respect and Members would be involved in the new electoral boundaries for the new Council. The areas which had been identified for development were the most appropriate places and would future proof the Council’s housing needs for the foreseeable future.

A Member queried the creation of 5,000 new jobs over the duration of the plan and stated that the district needed to retain the jobs it already had, as many redundancies were planned for some areas of the off shore industry. It was noted that the figure of 5,000 jobs was optimistic, however 2 independent companies had been used to create the jobs data and both had provided similar information. It was anticipated that there would be net growth in jobs in the coming years, due in part to the expansion of the off shore wind

sector. However it was noted that while some sectors would expand, others may contract, which was natural.

Members took the opportunity to thank the Members on the Local Plan Working Group, many of whom had been on the working group for many years, for their ongoing support and hard work. It was important for the Council to have a valid Local Plan, in order that the Council would have input and control over the future developments within the district. It was therefore

**RESOLVED**

1. That the publication of the Final Draft Local Plan under Regulation 19 of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) Regulations 2012 (as amended) be approved, to receive representations in relation to soundness.
2. That the Head of Planning and Coastal Management in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Planning and Coastal Management be granted Delegated Authority to make any typographical or presentational / format changes necessary linked to the publication.
3. That the Head of Planning and Coastal Management, in consultation with Cabinet Member for Planning and Coastal Management, be granted Delegated Authority following the 8 week period to receive representations relating to soundness, to agree any minor modifications suggested by representations and submit the Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate.
4. That the Head of Planning and Coastal Management in consultation with Cabinet Member for Planning and Coastal Management be granted Delegated Authority during the Examination into the Local Plan to address minor modifications that may arise as part of the Examination.

**15. UPDATE ON THE ARTEFACTS FROM THE TOWN HALL**

As reported earlier during 'Announcements from the Leader of the Council' this item had been deferred to allow for a written report to be presented to the next Full Council meeting on 18 April 2018.

The meeting concluded at 8.10 pm.

Chairman