
The Norfolk County Council (Norwich Northern Distributor Road (A1067 to A47(T))) Order

Norfolk County Council Committee Minutes - Wensum Valley Link

Planning Act 2008

Infrastructure Planning

The Infrastructure Planning (Applications: Prescribed Forms and Procedure) Regulations 2009

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1. Introduction

Norfolk County Council has previously submitted to the Examining Authority the Committee Report in relation to the Wensum Valley Link (Document Ref NCC/EX/65) which went to committee on 18th September 2014.

This document contains the minutes of this meeting. You will find the Wensum Valley Link in section 11 of the report below.

Environment, Development and Transport Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday 18 September 2014 at 10.00 am at County Hall.

Present:

Mr R Coke (Chair)

Mr R Bearman
Mr R Bird
Mr B Borrett
Mr B Bremner
Mr T Jermy
Mr T East
Mr S Hebborn
Mr B Iles

Mr I Mackie
Mr J Mooney
Mr W Richmond
Mr M Sands
Mr B Spratt
Mr J Timewell (Vice Chair)
Mr A White
Mr M Wilby

1 Apologies

Apologies were received from Dr A Boswell (Mr R Bearman substituted), Mr S Clancy (Mr B Borrett substituted) and Mrs C Walker (Mr M Sands substituted).

2 To Agree the Minutes of the Meeting Held on 8 July 2014.

2.1 The minutes were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

3 Declarations of Interest

None declared.

4 Urgent Business—Hazardous Waste Amnesties at Recycling Centres

4.1 The Chair agreed that the Committee should consider as urgent business the hazardous waste amnesties for Caister and King's Lynn main recycling centres that took place on the weekend of 6-7 September 2014.

4.2 It was pointed out that these amnesties had provided the public with a chance to dispose of a wide range of toxic household chemicals that could be found around the house and garden, including paint, thinners, varnishes and special cleaning products.

4.3 Members considered the hazardous waste amnesties to be a great success and expressed the view that wider publicity should be given to how residents could find out about amnesty events and also about how they could save money by working

out in advance how much they actually needed to buy for a specific job and sharing any left over product with their neighbours and friends.

5 Local Member Issues / Member Questions

- 5.1** The Chairman agreed to exercise his discretion and allow the Committee to consider, without due notice, and at the request of Mr Bird, an issue about the possible introduction of a new clearway at Bawsey in the Kings Lynn and West Norfolk area. The local Borough Councillor for Bawsey had asked Mr Bird to mention to the Committee that the Bawsey Parish Council should be consulted on the matter before any final decision was reached. The Committee agreed that the matter should be taken up by officers outside of the meeting and reported back to the Committee only if a suitable agreement could not be reached with all the interested parties.
- 5.2** The Chairman reminded Members of the procedure for raising local member issues in advance of the pending procedural review in November 2014 and said that he would be prepared to use his discretion and to allow late local Member questions where he considered this to be appropriate.
- 5.3** The Chairman then agreed to exercise his discretion and allow Mr Spratt to bring to the Committee's attention the importance of the pilot gritting schemes with two parish councils and how pleased he was that this was happening.
- 5.4** Mr Borrett moved, duly seconded by Mr Mooney, "that the Committee allow public questions to be raised at its future meetings."
- 5.5** In response the Chairman ruled that he would not allow the motion to be put to the vote on the grounds that this was not an item for today's meeting but was an issue for the Council's procedural review that would take place in November 2014.

6 Budget Discussion Arising from Policy and Resources Committee on 5 September 2014

- 6.1** The Committee was invited to consider and comment upon proposals contained in a report that was presented to the Policy and Resources Committee on 5 September 2014 that set out the context of the forecast funding shortfall of £17.5m for the County Council overall.
- 6.2** The Committee noted that no decision had been taken by the Policy and Resources Committee as to the amount that the Committee would have to find by way of budget savings, but there is a provisional target for each of the larger service departments (including ETD) to deliver additional savings of £3-4m in 2015/16.
- 6.3** In order to inform the budget debate at their next meeting, Members asked officers to prepare a brief summary of ETD services, budgets, spend to date and information on statutory and non-statutory functions. Members felt this information would be

useful to help identify where possible further efficiencies or income generation might be possible.

6.4 RESOLVED:

To seek from officers the information that Members had requested during the consideration of this item to support the Committee's forthcoming budget debate.

7 Update from the Previous Economic Development Sub Committee

7.1 The Committee received the report by the Interim Director of Environment, Development and Transport (item 7) which provided the first of what will now be regular updates from the Economic Development Sub-Committee.

7.2 The Committee **RESOLVED** to note the update and actions from the July 2014 meeting of the Sub-Committee.

8 Waste Advisory Group (WAG) and Contract Extension Update

8.1 The Committee received the report by the Interim Director of Environment, Transport and Development (item 8) which explained how the County Council could continue to fulfil part of its statutory function as a Waste Disposal Authority in dealing with household and commercial waste collected by Norfolk authorities left over after initiatives to reduce waste and increase recycling.

8.2 The Chairman agreed to take up an invitation from Mr Mooney to visit the waste recycling centre at Wymondham with the Interim Director.

8.3 The Committee broadly supported the policies that the Waste Advisory Group was seeking to develop for consideration by the Authority (that were set out in paragraph 1.2 of the report). In particular Members said that they wanted a focus on waste reduction and reuse as well as recycling and showed support for the aim of working closely with the District Councils to develop a policy for bringing the collection and disposal of waste together under one Waste Authority for Norfolk. The Chairman said that this matter would be discussed in greater detail at the next meeting of the Waste Advisory Group.

8.4 The Committee **RESOLVED:-**

That the Waste Advisory Group should be requested to provide an update report, future programme and policy recommendations to Committee on 18 November and Full Council on 15 December 2014.

To acknowledge that existing waste contract arrangements which could end in March 2015 should be allowed to extend to March 2016 as required facilitating the development and implementation of any procurement strategy approved by Full Council based on recommendations from this Committee.

8.5 Costessey Materials Recycling Facility Update

The Committee received a presentation by Dave Newell, Operations Director of NEWS, that updated Members on the new household recycling collection arrangements for Norfolk residents. These have been made possible through a joint procurement by all the authorities in Norfolk as a result of investment in the recycling facility at Costessey which was run by NEWS. (The presentation that was given to the Committee can be found on the Committee pages website).

- 8.6** Members spoke in support of the new arrangements which represented a major investment in the production of “marketable” quality recyclables that were good value for money and of benefit to all Norfolk residents.

9 Appointments to Norfolk Parking Partnership Joint Committee and Parking and Traffic Regulation Outside London Joint Committee for 2014/15

- 9.1** The Committee received the report (item 9) by the Head of Democratic Services which sought appointments to the Norfolk Parking Partnership Joint Committee and the Parking and Traffic Regulation Outside London Joint Committee, bodies that contributed to the Council’s strategic objectives.

- 9.2** The Committee **RESOLVED:-**

- 9.3**
1. To appoint Mr Castle (and Mr White as a named substitute) to serve on the Norfolk Parking Partnership Joint Committee.
 - 2 To appoint Mr Castle (and Mr White as a named substitute) to serve on the Planning and Traffic Regulation Outside London Joint Committee.
 - 3 To ask that the Member(s) appointed to the above mentioned Committees keep the Committee informed about any financial implications relating to parking issues by way of regular additions to the budget monitoring report.

10 Annual Local Levy Setting for the Regional Flood and Coastal Committees

- 10.1** The Committee received the report (item 10) by the Interim Director of Environment, Transport and Development which asked Members to decide on NCC’s preferred position on the annual Local Levy setting to support member appointees in their levy setting vote at the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee meetings in October 2014.

- 10.2** The Committee **RESOLVED:-**

That at the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee meetings in October 2014, the Members appointed by the Council should be allowed to exercise their discretion on an increase of up to a maximum 4.5% in the Local Levy (based on the approximate cost of works % increase).

11 Wensum Valley Link

- 11.1** The Committee received the report (item 11) by the Interim Director of Environment, Transport and Development which explained how the Wensum Valley Link could provide improved highway infrastructure in response to local concerns about existing traffic impacts on communities, and could provide the potential to improve linkages

between housing and employment areas, enhancing job opportunities.

- 11.2** The Committee discussed in some detail the options for the road scheme.
- 11.3** Mrs Dewsbury, present as a local member, expressed her concern about the existing situation and her support for the ultimate delivery of a new scheme.
- 11.4** Mr East expressed his concern about existing situation. He stated that he would be willing to support 4 of the 13 proposed routes, the Red, Blue 2, Orange 2 and Orange 4 routes.
- 11.5** Mr Borrett said that the options appraisal should include an evaluation of an improved junction linking in with the B1067.
- 11.6** The Committee **RESOLVED**:
- 1) To note the outcome of the initial scoping report (set out in Appendix 1 to the covering report) which had considered 13 options for road schemes as well as a public transport alternative.
 - 2) To note the timeliness of feasibility work, which was impacted on by the timing of government decisions in relation to potential investment improvements to the A47 and the delivery of the NDR.
 - 3) To agree that the project brief for the next phase of feasibility work included consideration of wider Public Transport and Non-Motorised User benefits (as part of NATS), and that in-combination complementary measures to reduce traffic on the existing routes.
 - 4) That Committee agrees the timing of a further report in 2015 that provides an update in relation to the A47 and the Government's Autumn Statement announcement.

12 Performance of Highway Drainage

- 12.1** The Committee received the report (item 12) by the Interim Director of Environment, Transport and Development which was in response to a request from Members for a report about highway drainage in Norfolk and the current position.
- 12.2** The Committee discussed how flooding caused by the flash floods was down to a combination of factors including capacity of systems, severity of rainfall and in some cases lack of maintenance. It was pointed out that the gullies needed to be cleared regularly and that the cost to do this would be less than the cost of carrying out any emergency clearance.
- 12.3** The Committee noted that the flooding issue was being addressed and that it was necessary to be more proactive than reactive with this issue.
- 12.4** The Committee **RESOLVED** to note the report.

13 Strategic Transport Update

- 13.1** The Committee received the report (item 13) by the Interim Director of Environment,

Transport and Development which explained the strategic road and rail issues of interest to the County Council and set out how the Council was speaking up for Norfolk to secure infrastructure needed for economic prosperity.

13.2 The Committee RESOLVED:

1. To note the report
2. To appoint Mr White as a member for the East West Rail Central Section Board.

14 Finance Monitoring Report

14.1 The Committee received the report (item 14) by the Interim Director of Environment, Transport and Development which provided the Committee with information on the forecast outturn for the service for 2014-15. It provided information on variances from the original budget, emerging issues and the position on the expected use of reserves for Environment, Transport and Development.

14.2 The Committee RESOLVED:

To note the forecast position out-turn position for Environment Transport and Development.

15 Performance monitoring report

15.1 The Committee received the report (item 15) by the Interim Director of Environment, Transport and Development which reviewed quarter one (April to June 2014) performance results for service areas that were covered by the EDT Committee. It was noted that overall performance was good, when judged against the indicators that made up the performance dashboard.

15.2 Members drew attention to the rising figures for those killed and seriously injured on Norfolk's roads that was being addressed by the Norfolk Road Safety Partnership, and noted that the Committee will consider the Partnership's annual report at the January 2015 Committee meeting.

15.3 The Committee asked for performance monitoring reports to include more detail on the key risks faced by the Department.

15.4 The Committee RESOLVED:

- 1.To note the report.
- 2.To receive in the next performance report a more in-depth analysis of the two "red rated" corporate risks faced by the Department.

16 Proposed Amendments to Internal Procedures for responding to:- Consultations on Nationally Strategic Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs)

16.1 The Committee received the report (item 16) by the Interim Director of Environment, Transport and Development which set out proposed amendments to the internal

procedures for responding to consultations on Nationally Strategic Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs).

16.2 The Committee **RESOLVED** that:

The attached Internal Procedures for dealing with consultations on NSIPs be agreed.

17 Carbon and Energy Reduction Programme Report

17.1 The Committee received the report (item 17) by the Interim Director of Environment, Transport and Development which provided a progress update on the Council's Carbon and Energy Reduction Programme (CERP).

17.2 The Committee was of the opinion that more detailed reports on this important topic should be brought to future meetings.

17.3 The Committee **RESOLVED**:

1. To note the achievements to date within the existing programme.
2. To support the continued delivery of the Carbon and Energy Reduction Programme going forward to 2020 with the expectation of meeting a 50% reduction in its energy and carbon footprint while continuing to meet its statutory obligations.

18 Environment, Transport and Development Enforcement Policy

18.1 The Committee received the report (item 18) by the Interim Director of Environment, Transport and Development which included specific protocols in relation to Planning and Flood and water Management enforcement as part of the Department's Enforcement Policy. The substantive policy had been approved by the Communities Committee on 17 September 2014

18.2 The Committee **RESOLVED**:

To agree the specific protocols in relation to Planning and Flood and water Management enforcement as part of the Department's Enforcement Policy.

18.3 The Committee also **RESOLVED** to note that the Enforcement Policy covered service activities that reported to both the Communities and EDT Committees. However, as most of the enforcement functions carried out related to Trading Standards activities, the Communities Committee had taken the lead in the review of the substantive Policy.

19 Forward Plan

19.1 The Committee received the report (item 19) by the Interim Director of Environment, Transport and Development, which set out the items and decisions programmed to be brought to the Committee in relation to environment, transport and development issues in Norfolk.

19.2 The Committee **RESOLVED** to add to the forward plan that at the March 2015 meeting Members would like to receive a report on an ETD Strategic Review.

The meeting closed at 3.40 pm

Chairman



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