

CABINET

Minutes of a meeting of an Extraordinary Cabinet Meeting held at Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich, on Thursday 12 May 2022 at 5.00pm.

Cabinet Members Present:	Councillors: S Vincent (Chairman), T Mancini-Boyle (Vice-Chairman), J Copplestone, J Emsell, J Leggett and F Whymark.
Apologies	Councillor: S Lawn
Other Members in Attendance:	Councillor: S Catchpole, K Leggett and M Murrell.
Officers in Attendance:	The Managing Director, Director of Resources, Director for People and Communities, Director of Place, Chief of Staff (Monitoring Officer), Assistant Director of Finance, Assistant Director for Individuals and Families, Assistant Director for Economic Growth, Assistant Director – Regulatory, the PR Manager and the Democratic Services Officer (JK).

281 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

The Vice-Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee confirmed he would advise members as appropriate on the views expressed by the Committee as each item was considered.

282 SERVICE IMPROVEMENT AND EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Cabinet received the minutes of the meeting of the meeting held on 27 April 2022.

283 FUTURE OFFICE ACCOMMODATION PROJECT – APPRAISAL AND BUSINESS CASE

The Portfolio Holder for Transformation and Organisational Development outlined the business case to members concerning the proposed new office building. For some ten years, members had been considering moving to a new building and now was the right time with the Horizon Centre which would further the financial savings made by the collaboration, by saving significant sums on the running costs of the current two sites. In addition, the building was projected to reduce our carbon footprint by 84% with possible additional future improvements.

He went on to say that the staff were the biggest asset the Council had, and the aim was that by the move to a new modern building, the new building would be an enjoyable and exciting place to work and would give the Council improved employment opportunities.

Two short videos were then played to members which set the scene and showed the staff's feelings concerning the possible move.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance was pleased to note there would be substantial savings on both the capital and revenue budgets and hoped this would have a beneficial effect on council tax.

It was pointed out to members that with the huge recent increase in energy costs, this move would save significantly on those costs, and the Council could even sell back excessive electricity to the grid and so with the projected 84% reduction in carbon footprint, this move should be welcomed.

Another member advised that he felt moving from two locations to one would really benefit the One Team approach and in response to a query, the Portfolio Holder for Transformation and Organisational Development advised that approx 80% of the staff were in favour of the move, and they had been fully consulted, with staff tours and access to an online video of the building.

Another member also supported the proposed move and highlighted the significant benefits of a One Team culture, the fact there was plenty of car parking, ample space in the building and also electric car charging points.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance asked exactly how much the Council would save and the Chairman advised that if the specifics of the savings were to be discussed, the meeting would need to go into closed session and exclude the press and the public.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED

That the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the remaining items of business because otherwise, information which is exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by The Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, would be disclosed to them.

The Director of Resources advised the meeting that the revenue savings of a move to the Horizon building would be around £680,000 pa, i.e. approx £340,000 for Broadland Council, plus around £700,000 capital savings for the two councils.

The recommendations were duly proposed and seconded and following a show of hands it was unanimously:

RECOMMENDED THAT COUNCIL AGREES TO:

1. To purchase the Horizon Centre either individually or jointly with South Norfolk Council.
2. To share any future capital costs on an equal basis between both Broadland Council and South Norfolk Council if jointly owned.
3. To share the revenue expenditure related to the Horizon Centre in accordance with the agreed apportionment model in place for that financial year.
4. To share any net income from third party occupancy or rental of the Horizon Building on an equal basis between both Broadland Council and South Norfolk Council if jointly owned.

RESOLVED

That subject to Council approval of the above recommendations, to agree to

5. Establish a Facilities Management Agreement between the two Councils that incorporates the governance arrangements and income in relation to the Horizon Centre; this is to be delegated to the Leader in consultation with the Director of Resources.
6. Request officers to bring forward to the Cabinet meeting in August 2022, a feasibility study for the future options relating to the Council's current main office, Thorpe Lodge.

Reason for Decision

To progress the movement to the Horizon building, to reduce costs, improve the carbon footprint and move to a One Team culture.

284 ACCOMMODATION REVIEW FINANCE

The Assistant Director for Finance introduced the report which recommended a number of changes to the Earmarked Reserves position, as part of the Accommodation Review.

Following a show of hands it was unanimously:

RESOLVED

To approve the recommendations contained in the exempt report.

Reason for Decision

To progress the movement to the Horizon building, to reduce costs, improve the carbon footprint and move to a One Team culture.

285 EXEMPT MINUTES IMPROVEMENT AND EFFICIENCY COMMITTEE

Cabinet duly noted the minutes of the meeting held on 26 April 2022.

(The meeting concluded at 5.30pm)