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**CABINET**

**24 September 2008 – 5.00 pm**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor B Coleman (in the Chair); Councillors Ames, Peck, Plant and Stone.

Councillors Castle and Walker attended by invitation.

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Shrimplin.

Mr R Packham (Managing Director), Mr C Skinner (Head of Central Services), Mr S Duncan (Head of Financial Services), Mr M Burns (Head of Community Services), Mr T Howard (Head of Regeneration and Environment), Mr D Frowde (Technical Director – Community Housing), Mr R Hodds (Member Services Manager and Scrutiny Officer), Mr S Mutten (Service Manager – Environment), Mrs J Beck (Service Manager – Support Services) and Mr G Holmes (Senior Architectural Technician).

**1. MINUTES**

The minutes of 23 July 2008 were confirmed.

**2. ISSUES ARISING FROM SCRUTINY, ADVISORY GROUPS AND REGULATORY COMMITTEES**

Cabinet were advised that there were no issues to consider.

**3. FORWARD PLAN – 1 SEPTEMBER TO 31 DECEMBER 2008**

Cabinet received the Forward Plan for the period 1 September to 31 December 2008.

**4. 2008/09 BUDGET MONITORING**

Cabinet received the Head of Financial Services' report which presented a general fund revenue budget performance review as at 31 August for the five months from 1 April to 31 August 2008.

**5. LGR**

Cabinet considered the Leader's report which included a briefing paper which had been issued to all members and a wide range of stakeholders within the Borough and across Norfolk and Waveney which set out the options identified by the Boundary Committee and the Borough Council's current stance, which is to urge Government to adopt the status quo. Members were advised that Officers were currently compiling information which will enable an assessment of whether or not the two unitary patterns identified by the Boundary Committee will meet the five criteria set out by Government in the guidance given to the Boundary Committee.

**RESOLVED:**

That Council be recommended to agree:

- (i) The Borough Council strongly opposes the need for the Boundary Committee review of Local Government structures in Norfolk. The existing two tier structure is perfectly adequate for meeting the needs of Norfolk residents. Retaining the status quo should have been included as an option.
- (ii) Any further efficiencies would be better achieved and local democracy and accountability better preserved by joint working between the existing authorities on the basis of the Norfolk Shared Services Model.
- (iii) Any final proposal which involves a change to the status quo should not be implemented without being put to a vote by the people of Norfolk.
- (iv) Of the three options put forward by the Boundary Committee, the Borough Council prefers the two unitary pattern A (Norwich, Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft and part of Broadland as one Council and the rest of Norfolk as another) with possible boundary extensions.
- (v) The Borough Council endorses the submission to the Boundary Committee of information in support of that option, provided that the collection and analysis of that information demonstrates that the option meets all of the five criteria identified by the Government.

**6. ISSUES DETERMINED BY THE CABINET UNDER THE TERMS OF THE CONSTITUTION**

- (a) **Proposed Regeneration Project for St George's Chapel and King Street – "SeaChange"**

(Councillor Plant declared a personal interest in the above item and took no part in the voting or discussion thereon.)

- (b) **Free Swimming Programme**

(c) **Exclusion of Public**

RESOLVED:

That under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the said Act.

(d) **Town Hall Re-roofing and Associated Works Project**

(e) **Market Place Screen**

7. **CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The meeting ended at 5.55 pm.