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**COUNCIL MEETING**

**28 November 2007 – 7.00 pm**

**PRESENT:**

The Mayor, Councillor Garrod (in the Chair); Councillors Ames, Barker, Blyth, Burroughs, Castle, B Coleman, M Coleman, Collins, Cook, Cunniffe, Easter, Field, Hacon, Hodds, Holmes, Jeal, Linden, Peck, Plant, Reynolds, Shrimplin, Smith, Stone, Tate, B Taylor, M Taylor, D Thompson, M Thompson, Wainwright, B Walker, C Walker, Watts and Williamson.

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Jermany and Pettit.

Mr R Packham (Managing Director), Mrs J Ratcliffe (Executive Director – Customers and Resources), Mr C Skinner (Head of Central Services), Mr S Duncan (Head of Financial Services) and Mr R Hodds (Member Services Manager and Scrutiny Officer).

(Councillor Williamson declared a non-pecuniary interest in the following item).

**1. LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION**

Proposer: Councillor Coleman

Seconder: Councillor Wainwright

That paragraph 13.4 of Part 4 (Rules of Procedure) of the Constitution be waived in respect of the main speakers, both of the opening speeches and the summing up.

CARRIED

As agreed at the meeting on the 1 November 2007, Council was asked to review the options for submission to the Boundary Committee. Accordingly, Council considered the Managing Director's report which detailed the timetable, range of options and current activity on this issue; the notes of the meeting of the Local Government Reorganisation Working Group of the 7 November 2007; and the Leader's report which set out the ruling Group's comments and recommendations with regard to Local Government reorganisation in Norfolk.

The Leader confirmed that the terms of reference and guidance on this issue had still not yet been received from the Government. The Leader also reported on a letter from the Chairman of the Norfolk LGA which had been sent to the Minister which sought clarification on many issues with regard to this matter.

The Shadow Leader expressed his disappointment that the terms of reference had still not been received and also expressed his Group's concern that there had been no reference to the link with Waveney as a possible option. He referred to the Labour Group's submission which had been sent to the Government for one Council for Great Yarmouth and Waveney. He also believed that it was premature at this stage to rule out the "Yartoft" option. He asked

whether the ruling Group would support the "Yartoff" option if the Minister rules that this option should be looked at.

Councillor Reynolds commented that there was no appetite to change the current local government arrangements. He also referred to the issue of the "Norfolk" identity that needed to be retained. Councillor Castle commented that there are many strong links already with Waveney and he referred to the disadvantages of the option to create a Norfolk Coastal Authority. He commented that the "Yartoff" option would protect local industries, and that there were already many links with Lowestoft (ie James Paget Hospital). Councillor Williamson commented on the need for an evidence based model which is best for local people. He expressed his concern for the local businesses and the tourism industry in the event of the Norfolk Coastal option being pursued. He made the point that the Borough Council should wait until the terms of reference had been received before any decision was made on this issue.

The Deputy Leader commented that there were no valid reasons to pursue the "Yartoff" option and he commented that the criteria outlined by the Boundary Committee meant that the Norfolk Coastal option would be the logical solution. Councillor B Walker emphasised the need to agree an option which would be the best for Great Yarmouth.

Proposer: Councillor B Coleman

Seconder: Councillor Stone

(i) That if unitary Councils are to be imposed on Norfolk, at present Great Yarmouth Borough Council supports a three unitary model.

(ii) As there appears to be little public support for unitary authorities throughout Norfolk, Great Yarmouth Borough Council asks the Boundary Committee to consider a two tier solution for Norfolk, excluding a unitary Council for a Greater Norwich.

(iii) That in the light of the confusion referred to with the Boundary Committee, Council agrees to give the Leader power to act with submission of unitary options.

CARRIED

## 2. REPORTS TO COUNCIL FOR DECISION

### (a) Members' Allowances 2007/08

Council considered the Member Services Manager and Scrutiny Officer's report which set out the recommendations for Members' Allowances for the Municipal Year 2007/08, and would come into force on the 1 May 2007.

Proposer: Councillor Smith

Seconder: Councillor Coleman

That the following proposed scheme of Members' Allowances be approved with effect from the 1 May 2007:-

(i) To increase the basic allowance from £3,399 to £3,483.

(ii) SRAs as follows:-

		£
Leader	1	9,573
Cabinet Members	5	5,328
Shadow Cabinet Members	5	870
Cabinet Support Members	5	870
Shadow Leader	1	4,040
Mayor (Chairman of Council)	1	1,740
Deputy Mayor	1	698
<b>Scrutiny Committee</b>		
Chairman	1	3,483
Vice-Chairman	1	698
<b>Audit and Risk Committee</b>		
Chairman	1	3,483
Vice-Chairman	1	698
<b>Regulatory Committees</b>		
- Housing Appeals Chairman	1	870
- Licensing Chairman	1	1,826
- Appeals Chairman	1	264
<b>Development Control Committee</b>		
Chairman	1	3,483
Vice-Chairman	1	698
<b>BASIC ALLOWANCES</b>		
All Members	39	3,483
		CARRIED

(b) **Fees and Charges 2008/09 – Annual Environmental Health Licences**

Council considered the Environmental Health Manager's report which sought approval for the fees and charges to be applied to the annual Environmental Health licences for 2008/09.

Proposer: Councillor Shrimplin

Seconder: Councillor Coleman

That the fees and charges to be applied to the annual Health licences with effect from the 1 January 2008 be approved as follows:-

Item		2007/08	2008/09
Skin Piercing	(Registration)	£340 1 April	£354
Tattoo/Skin Piercing	(Conventions per Individual Or Event fee –whichever is the Greater)	£57 £340	£59 £354
Pet Shop	(Annual)	£88 1 Jan	£92
Riding Establishments (Vet charges are recoverable)	(Annual)	£160 1 Jan	£166
Dog Breeding	(Annual)	£88 1 Jan	£92
Dangerous Wild Animals	(Annual)	£88 1 Jan	£92
Animal Boarding	(Annual)	£88 1 Jan	£92
Zoo	a) Application	£176 1 Jan	£184
	b) Grant	£73 1 Jan	£76
	c) Renewal	£248 1 Jan	£258
(Vet charges are recoverable)			
Health Certificates	a) Authorisation	£ 9.00 1 April	£ 9.50
	b)Preparation/ Authentication	£16.50	£17.25
	c) Port Health	£ 2.50	£ 2.75
Food/Water Samples	(upon request)	Cost Recovery	Cost Recovery
Scheduled Processes		Statutory Fee	Statutory Fee
Ships Sanitation Certificate		Statutory Fee	Statutory Fee
Food Premises Register	a) Copy of Entry	£ 7.75	£8.00
	b) Copy of Register	£640	£665

### Commercial Pest Control Charges

From 1 April 2008

Normal Rate (per hour)    Out of Hours (per hour)

Rats/Mice

£54.00 + VAT

£81.00 + VAT

CARRIED

(c) **Local Collective Agreement for Implementation of Single Status**

Council considered the Service Manager (HR) report which detailed the “final version” of the Local Collective Agreement for implementation of Single Status for agreement, before referring the Agreement to Unison for approval.

Proposer: Councillor Smith

Seconder: Councillor B Coleman

That the Local Collective Agreement for Implementation of Single Status (as amended) be agreed and referred to Unison for approval.

CARRIED

(d) **Appointments to Outside Bodies 2007/08**

Proposer: Councillor B Coleman

Seconder: Councillor Stone

That Councillor M Coleman be appointed to serve on the Norfolk Records Committee.

CARRIED

3. **COUNCILLOR CUNNIFFE**

Council welcomed Councillor Cunniffe back to the Council Chamber following his recent illness.

4. **CLOSURE OF MEETING**

The meeting ended at 8.20 pm.