

From: Eastaugh, Sandra
Sent: 08 November 2010 15:07
To: 'Louise t John Howe'
Cc: Baxter, Amy
Subject: NDR - Key clarification today
Importance: High

Louise

Could you please draw the Inspectors attention to the responses below, these responses were made in Norfolk County Council Cabinet this morning to two questions received by the Cabinet from Roy Church..

These responses provide an important clarification of the comments picked up by the EDP on 30 October and document reference EIP104

The Communications Officer at the County has passed the responses to the EDP.

5.8 Two questions from Roy Church

Q 1 - "Given that (a) the consultation document underlying "Norfolk's Big Conversation" was undoubtedly intended to be comprehensive and (b) the possibility of central government part funding the Northern Distributor Road ("NDR") always remained, why did that document make no mention of the NDR whatsoever in the context of the proposals by Norfolk County Council to save £155m over the next three years largely at the expense of cutting frontline services?"

Reply by the Cabinet Member for Travel and Transport

The NDR is part of the NATS Implementation Plan which, following an extensive consultation completed in November 2009, received strong support from residents and the business community. NATS is made up of a range of bus, walking and cycling proposals and the NDR, which together create a 20 year plan to deliver improvements for transport in and around Norwich and support the economy of Norfolk. We are in very challenging financial times, however we must also continue to consider the longer term aspirations to develop a vibrant and successful Norfolk.

Q 2 - "In the event the NDR is constructed from Postwick to the A1067 as Norfolk County Council has always planned, how will the funding shortfall borrowing - last estimated to be £39.7m - be serviced by the Council, let alone ever repaid, against the background of the urgent need to make this saving of £155m and how can such borrowing be viewed as consistent with that need?"

Reply by the Cabinet Member for Travel and Transport

The funding of the NDR forms part of a longer term plan for which there are a number of potential funding sources. The larger proportion of the costs of the NDR, in particular the underwritten amount of £39.7m, do fall beyond the current budget planning period of the next 3 years and this is why it has not been specifically mentioned as part of the Big Conversation. The County Council, together with its GNDP partners, will be working hard to explore all possible avenues to pay for the NDR as part of the scheme development process. The County Council's commitment in principle to underwrite the shortfall in funding remains, but decisions on timing and funding will be part of the County Council's overall long term budget strategy.

Regards

Sandra

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