

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET 10 SEPTEMBER 2014 FROM THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE PANEL HELD ON 2 SEPTEMBER 2014

RP49: CABINET REPORT: COASTAL COMMUNITIES FUND STAGE 2 APPLICATION

This item was taken before RP46.

At the invitation of the Chairman, Councillor Beal, Mr Ford and Mr Rockcliffe remained in the meeting for this item.

The Regeneration Programmes Manager gave a PowerPoint presentation and explained that the Borough Council in partnership with Hunstanton Sailing Club and Watersports Centre (the Centre) submitted a Stage 1 application to the Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) in April 2014 for funding towards the 'Active Hunstanton' project. The report sought authorisation to proceed with the submission of a Stage 2 application to the CCF. If successful, the CCF would provide the capital funding required to construct the training and competition/event facilities at the Centre and revenue support to deliver a destination marketing campaign and training and events programme.

The Panel's attention as drawn to the following sections of the report:

- Background.
- Options Considered.
- 'Active Hunstanton' Project (Stage 1 Submission).
- Policy Implications.
- Financial Implications.
- Personnel Implications.
- Risk Management Implications.

The Regeneration Programmes Manager informed Members that expanding the water sports offer in Hunstanton was identified as a key element of the Council's vision for Hunstanton to regenerate the resort. The Hunstanton Sailing Club and Watersports Centre (the Centre) had set out plans to refurbish, extend and develop the water sports offer from the Centre. The Centre's plans would make a significant contribution to achieving the vision and deliver economic and social benefits to the town.

The Panel was reminded that a Stage 1 application to the CCF led by the Council in partnership with the Centre was submitted in April 2014. The Council received notification in July that the Stage 1 application was successful and had been invited to submit a Stage 2 application by 15 October 2014. Announcements of successful projects were expected in February 2015. If successful the CCF grant would have to be spent between April 2015 and 31 December 2016.

The options that were considered were outlined as detailed at Section 2 of the report.

In response to a question from Councillor Wareham on the provision of kitchen facilities, the Regeneration Programmes Manager explained that during Stage 1 temporary kitchen arrangements had been put in place, however, upon completion of Stage 2, the kitchen area would be moved upstairs in order to cater for events, wedding receptions, etc.

Following questions on future staffing arrangements, the Regeneration Programmes Manager explained that the posts would be permanent year round positions. Training sessions would be organised outside the summer season and the Training and Events Manager would be responsible for the promotion of the Sailing Club and also organising competitions and national events.

Councillor Gourlay asked how many instructors would be recruited and what levels of training would be available. In response, the Regeneration Programmes Manager advised that a Chief Instructor and Junior Instructor would be appointed and a variety of courses would be on offer including kite surfing, wind surfing, navigation and first aid.

Councillor Mrs Mellish stated that she would like to see the Sailing Club go forward with the provision that the facility be available on a daily basis for both visitors and the local community. Mr Ford explained that the Sailing Club would be available for daily visitors, etc and with the appointment of the new posts, the marketing of the Sailing Club would be greatly improved.

The Regeneration Programmes Manager informed the Panel that there was a potential link with the College of West Anglia to operate their Sports Development Programmes from the Hunstanton Sailing Club.

Councillor Collop referred to Recommendation 3 and the Memorandum of Understanding and asked if the issues raised in the discussion during this meeting would form part of the agreement. In response, the Regeneration Programmes Manager advised that the roles and responsibilities of each party which met the criteria of the CCF funding would be set out in order to deliver the project. The Borough Council would be the accountable body. The Regeneration Programmes Manager added that the monitoring would be undertaken as part of the CCF Funding in that the Hunstanton Sailing Club would be required to provide regular output reports to the Borough

Council. The Panel would receive six monthly progress reports as agreed under the previous Agenda item.

The Chief Executive advised that monitoring arrangements would be set out in the CCF Funding if the application was successful. The issues raised by the Panel including open membership, Borough Council's contribution etc would be set out in the grant conditions and would be discussed with the Chairman and Vice Chairman. Future progress reports to the Panel would include monitoring data.

Councillor Tilbury concurred with the comments made by Councillor Collop regarding monitoring arrangements and appropriate conditions being attached to the Council's grant.

The Deputy Chief Executive referred to the comments made by the Chief Executive and gave assurance to the Panel that the relevant conditions would be included within the grant agreement of £60,000 to the Sailing Club.

In response to questions from Councillor Gourlay regarding the funding period, the Regeneration Programmes Manager explained that beyond the two year funding period, the Sailing Club had a 5 year Business Plan in place to generate income and develop growth of the club in order for it to become sustainable in the long term.

RESOLVED: That the Panel support the recommendations to Cabinet as follows, subject to Recommendation 3 being amended as set out below:

- (1) Cabinet approves the submission of 'Active Hunstanton' Stage 2 application in partnership with Hunstanton Sailing Club and Watersports Centre.
- (2) The Cabinet allocated £60,000 from the Hunstanton Regeneration capital programme for 2015/16 as match funding towards the project.
- (3) The Council enters into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the centre to set out each parties' roles and responsibilities to develop the stage 2 application and deliver the project if CCF funding is secured. Relevant conditions (relating to open membership, monitoring arrangements, progress reports, etc) be attached to the grant contribution from the Borough Council)
- (4) If successful, Cabinet accept the CCF grant for the 'Active Hunstanton' project if awarded by the Big Lottery Fund and for the Council to act as the accountable body.

RP50 **CABINET REPORT: 2015/2016 COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT SCHEME (CTS) FOR CONSULTATION**

In presenting the report, the Deputy Chief Executive explained that the Council must review and agree its Council Tax Support (CTS) Scheme each financial year. The process included consulting with major preceptors, publishing a draft Council Tax Support Scheme and then consulting with interested parties before the final Council Tax Support Scheme was approved. The recommended draft Council Tax Support Scheme would go out to public consultation. It was noted that the results of the consultation and the proposed CTS scheme for 2015/2016 would be brought back to Members later in the year.

Members' attention was drawn to the following sections of the report:

- Background.
- Review of 2014/2015 CTS Scheme.
- Council Tax Support Scheme for 2015/2016.
- Other Options Considered.
- Requirement to Consult.
- Next Steps.
- Policy Implications.
- Financial Implications.
- Personnel Implications.
- Statutory Considerations.
- Equality Impact Assessment.
- Risk Management Implications.

Councillor Tilbury referred to section 2.5 and asked if there were comparable figures available from other District Councils similar to the Borough Council. In response, the Deputy Chief Executive advised that at present there were no comparable figures available, but undertook to obtain the required information and email it direct to the Panel.

Councillor Gourlay commented that he was aware 97 applications had been received for Discretionary Hardship Relief and that not all applications had been successful. He asked what the reasons were for refusing the Hardship Relief. In response, the Deputy Chief Executive advised that it could be assumed the applications had not met the necessary criteria, but undertook to obtain the information and forward it to the Panel.

Councillor Collop stated that other Councils seemed to operate different schemes than the Borough Council. The Deputy Chief Executive explained that other authorities operated Banded Schemes and the reasons for operating a different scheme could be financial.

Councillor Collop asked at what stage the Borough Council would know the level of arrears. In response, the Deputy Chief Executive explained that the Council would have an idea of the cost at year end.

Councillor Humphrey referred to section 2.8 and the reduction in Government grant. In response, the Deputy Chief Executive explained that the Government grant was now rolled into one package and that the Council tax element was no longer separate.

Following further comments from Councillor Humphrey regarding the responses from Norfolk County Council and the Police, the Chief Executive advised that the responses would be reported at the Cabinet meeting on the 10 September 2014.

RESOLVED: That the Panel support the recommendations to Cabinet as follows:

Members:

- 1 Note the consultation responses from Norfolk County Council and Norfolk's Police and Crime Commissioner.
- 2 Agree the Council Tax Support Scheme for 2014/2015 as the draft Council Tax Support Scheme for 2015/2016 to go to public consultation.
- 3 Agree a consultation period running online over a six week period from 19 September 2014 to 31 October 2014.

RP51: **CABINET REPORT: BROADBAND PROVISION IN WEST NORFOLK**

The Chief Executive presented a report which sought agreement to earmark funds of up to £500,000 towards the Norfolk County Council-led Better Broadband for Norfolk initiative (BBfN). Members were informed that this would be matched by Government funding through the Better Broadband for Norfolk (BBfN) programme. The commitment to spend would not be confirmed until the BBfN programme had let the next contract, towards the end of the financial year, which would provide an opportunity to assess detailed information about the programme's roll-out and the impact for West Norfolk.

The Panel's attention was drawn to the following sections of the report:

- Background.
- Options Considered.
- Policy Implications.
- Financial Implications.
- Personnel Implications.

In response to questions from Councillor Collop on other corporate projects being deferred to accommodate the Broadband Provision project, the Chief Executive confirmed that the Capital Programme had been agreed and that the Broadband Project was separate to the Capital Programme and that other corporate projects would not be rescheduled.

Councillor Gourlay stated that some new estates were being developed without the provision of Superfast Broadband. The Chief Executive explained that King's Lynn, Downham Market and Hunstanton should all be rolled out on a commercial basis, but had not yet been completed.

The Panel was informed that Norfolk's Better Broadband for Norfolk (BBfN) Programme was on schedule to implement the improved broadband infrastructure across Norfolk, so that 83% of properties would have access to Superfast Broadband by the end of 2015. It was highlighted that the investment would be on a Norfolk wide basis to achieve as much Superfast coverage as possible for the available investment. The target for Norfolk was 90% but in West Norfolk it may be less.

The Chief Executive explained that funding from the Local Enterprise Partnerships would be available to help "fill the gaps" and provide improved broadband provision to rural areas.

RESOLVED: That the Panel support the recommendations to Cabinet as follows:

That:

- (1) Cabinet earmark £500k from the corporate project budget towards this programme.
- (2) The Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, makes the final commitment to spend, based on an assessment of the detailed information from BBfN.
- (3) That prior to finalising the detail of the roll out of the service, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration be consulted.