

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET 7 OCTOBER 2014 FROM THE MEETING OF THE RESOURCES AND PERFORMANCE PANEL HELD ON 30 SEPTEMBER 2014

RP62: EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED: That under Section 100(a)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

RP63: EXEMPT CABINET REPORT: MAJOR HOUSING SCHEME – RESULTS OF PROCUREMENT

In presenting the report, the Corporate Project Officer explained that the aim of the project was to achieve a significant delivery of housing over a 4-5 year period, accelerating house building in the local economy by bringing forward public land for development which would otherwise not be developed in the medium term. It would also provide a commercial return for the Council over the longer term and act as a stimulus to the economic activity in the local area including the creation of apprenticeships in West Norfolk.

The report updated Members on progress made with the project since the last report to Cabinet on the 30 July 2013.

The Panel was informed that as part of the process the Council received six bids from three bidders. Each bidder had to submit a compliant bid and was also able under the rules permitted to submit any variant that had been discussed with the Council as part of the dialogue stage.

The Corporate Project Officer advised that no contract would be signed until Members had been briefed on the final contents of the proposed agreements and the arrangements for managing and funding of 'Invest Co' had been agreed. At this point Cabinet and Council would be asked to give final approval for the whole scheme to go ahead. This should take place later in the financial year in either December 2014 or January 2015.

The Corporate Project Officer and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Industrial Assets responded to questions and comments from the Panel.

The Chairman, Councillor Beal thanked the Corporate Project Officer for presenting an excellent and informative report.

RESOLVED: That the Panel support the recommendations to Cabinet as set out in the report.

RETURNED TO OPEN SESSION

RP64: **CABINET REPORT: CORPORATE PEER CHALLENGE**

The Chief Executive presented the report and informed Members that earlier this year the Borough Council responded positively to an invitation from the Local Government Association (LGA) to have a Corporate Peer Challenge as part of their sector level improvement programme.

It was explained that the scope of the Peer Challenge was designed to incorporate both an external 'health check' of the organisation, including the core components examined by all Corporate Peer Challenges, together with an examination of how the Council could use King's Lynn's tourism, arts, culture and heritage more effectively to strengthen the local economy. The make-up of the Peer Challenge Team was designed to facilitate the two aspects of the challenge.

The review took place in early February and the final report was received towards the end of April 2014. The report summarised the findings of the team's work and outlined the steps currently underway to develop an action plan to address the challenge team's suggestions and ideas for consideration. The Chief Executive commented that it was encouraging to note the positive tone of the report and the fact that most of the issues raised were already being considered and addressed by managers and Cabinet.

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

- Summary of Feedback – Overall Observations and Messages.
- Response – Corporate Issues: Scrutiny, Communications of Strategic Goals, Improving Relationships with Norfolk County Council, Developing the Role of Extended Management Team, Improving the Learning from Project Delivery, Medium Term Financial Planning, Heritage Issues, Destination Management Organisation/Destination Marketing Plan, Activities and Events, Attractions, Way Finding and the Waterfront.
- Action and Implementation Plan.

Councillor Collop commented that he had taken part in the Peer Challenge exercise and added that he had raised the issue of the scrutiny role being improved and asked the Chief Executive if there was a plan in place to take this action forward. In response, the Chief Executive explained that scrutiny was the remit of Members and the intention was that Members would be involved. The Borough Council had looked at the scrutiny arrangements in other neighbouring authorities and concluded that there was more benefited to be gained by looking further afield to identify best practice. However, it was highlighted that it was proposed to engage the Centre for Public Scrutiny who would be invited to conduct a review of the Council's scrutiny process and present Members with some alternative models based on good practice elsewhere for consideration ahead of the May 2015 elections.

Councillor de Winton stated that he had read the report and commented on the increased demand that this place upon officers and Members.

Councillor Chenery referred to the West Norfolk Tourism Forum and commented that parts of West Norfolk were advertised under North Norfolk and asked why "West Norfolk" was not being publicised separately. In response, the Chairman, Councillor Beal explained that it appeared to be a brand and that Dersingham was advertised as being in North Norfolk.

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

Cabinet is recommended to note the final report of the LGA Peer Challenge Team and to endorse the actions of Management Team to respond to the report's conclusions.