

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK
JOINT MEETING OF THE REGENERATION & DEVELOPMENT AND
ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY PANEL

Minutes from the Meeting of the Joint Meeting of the Regeneration & Development and Environment & Community Panel held on Wednesday, 24th June, 2015 at 6.00 pm in the Committee Suite, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn

PRESENT: Councillor L Bambridge (Chairman)
 Councillors R Blunt, A Bubb, Mrs S Collop, C Crofts, Mrs S Fraser, M Chenery of Horsbrugh, M Howland, P Kunes, Mrs K Mellish, J Moriarty, P Rochford, Mrs S Squire, A Tyler, Mrs E Watson, D Whitby and Mrs A Wright

Portfolio Holders

Councillor A Beales, Deputy Leader and Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Industrial Assets
 Councillor B Long, Portfolio Holder for Environment
 Councillor Mrs E Nockolds, Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and Health
 Councillor D Pope, Portfolio Holder for ICT, Leisure and Public Space

Officers:

Chris Bamfield, Executive Director Commercial Services
 Laura Hampshire, Regeneration Project Officer
 Ray Harding, Chief Executive
 Ostap Paparega, Regeneration and Economic Development Manager
 Dave Robson, Environmental Health Manager (Environment)

RD&EC15 **APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRMAN FOR THE MEETING**

RESOLVED: Councillor Mrs A Wright was appointed Vice Chairman for the Meeting.

RD&EC16 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs C Bower, G Hipperson, M Hopkins, C Sampson, T Smith, M Tilbury and Mrs J Westrop.

RD&EC17 **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: The minutes from the Joint Panel Meeting held on 3rd June 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

RD&EC18 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There was none.

RD&EC19 **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was none.

RD&EC20 **MEMBERS PRESENT PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 34**

Councillors R Blunt and T Bubb attended for item RD&EC25 – South Quay Area Delivery Plan.

RD&EC21 **CHAIRMAN'S CORRESPONDENCE**

There was none.

RD&EC22 **MATTERS REFERRED TO THE PANEL FROM OTHER COUNCIL BODIES AND RESPONSES MADE TO PREVIOUS PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS/REQUESTS**

The Panel noted the response made by Cabinet to the recommendations from the Joint Panel meeting on 3rd June 2015 on the following items:

- Fields in Trust.
- King's Lynn Surface Water and Highway Infrastructure improvements and Major Housing Development at Lynnsport and Marsh Lane – Compulsory Purchase Order.
- EXEMPT – Acquisition of Morston Assets Sites at the Nar Ouse Regeneration Area.

RD&EC23 **EMERGENCY PLANNING & FLOOD AND WATER MANAGEMENT UPDATE**

The Environmental Health Manager (Environment) presented the report which provided an update on Emergency Planning and Flood and Water Management. The report outlined the work on going in these areas.

(i) Emergency Planning

It was explained that the Council had a Corporate responsibility and a statutory duty to prepare and plan for civil emergencies. To assist with fulfilling this duty the Council participated in the Norfolk Resilience Forum. The Norfolk Resilience Forum was a multi-agency forum which

maintained emergency plans, provided training and promoted community resilience. The Forum had a dedicated website – www.norfolkprepared.gov.uk which held copies of emergency plans and a copy of the Community Risk Register.

The Norfolk Resilience Forum had prepared a Community Risk Register for Norfolk which examined local risks and prioritised them. Presently two local risks had been highlighted as high risk for the area – tidal flooding and pandemic flu.

The Borough Council had its own Emergency Plan which was reviewed on an annual basis and set out how rest centres could be used and the volunteers and officers who would be required to deal with an emergency.

The Environmental Health Manager provided details of issues that the Emergency Planning Department had dealt with over the past twelve months and included:

- 31 Environment Agency Flood Alerts/Warnings across the Borough
- 24 Met Office Weather Warnings
- 15 incidents/emerging issues – sometimes a response was required and sometimes Emergency Planning just kept a watching brief.
- Prepare and publish a Flood Warning leaflet in partnership with the Environment Agency.
- Attending training exercises.
- Participating in engagement events
- Administering the Borough Council's Emergency Warden's Group which was made up of volunteers who provided assistance with rest centres.
- Attendance at the Corporate Business Continuity Group to provide technical advice and training. Updates on Business Continuity were reported to the Audit and Risk Committee.
- Administering the West Norfolk Public Event Safety Advisory Group which provided assistance to event organisers for public events.

(ii) Flood and Water Management

The Environmental Health Manager explained that the recovery from the tidal surge last year had almost been completed and details of the work carried out was included in the report. A variety of grants had been made available for businesses and properties affected by floods to flood proof properties and install flood prevention measures.

The Environmental Health Manager explained that the Borough Council had adopted the Wash East Coast Management Strategy, which was now in the process of being adopted by the Environment Agency. The Strategy provided the framework to manage the coast in three areas: Hunstanton Cliffs, Hunstanton Promenade and the Area from Heacham to Wolferton Creek. A Funding Group and a Stakeholder Group would be established to oversee the

implementation of the strategy and a Community Interest Company had been set up to provide part of the funding requirements.

Other work carried out to deal with Flood and Water Management included the following:

- Dealing with flooding caused by heavy thunderstorms in August.
- Attending meetings of the Corporate Flood and Water Management Group.
- Responding to consultations from the Environment Agency and King's Lynn Internal Drainage Board expansion plan.

The Chairman thanked the Environmental Health Manager for his presentation and invited questions and comments from the Panel.

Councillor Mrs Watson referred to the Wash East Coast Management Strategy and the areas of the coast that it covered. She asked who was responsible for the rest of the coast and the Environmental Health Manager confirmed that it was the Environment Agency's responsibility and that repairs to the flood banks had been completed. The Environmental Health Manager explained that tactical flood plans and maps were available which set out who was responsible for each area.

In response to a question from the Vice Chairman, Councillor Mrs Wright, the Environmental Health Manager explained that the Community Interest Company which would be set up to take forward the Wash East Coast Management Strategy would be funded by voluntary contributions from businesses and individuals. He explained that most businesses had indicated that they would be willing to contribute and a Funding Group would be established to look at different mechanisms for funding.

The Vice Chairman, Councillor Mrs Wright requested that the relevant Ward Members be kept informed of progress with the Community Interest Company and progress towards the Wash East Coast Management Strategy.

The Portfolio Holder for Environment, Councillor Long explained that the current protection along the coast was of varying standard and it would cost a significant sum to bring all of the defences up to the same standard. The Community Interest Company would work to make improvements, but it was acknowledged that the priority would be to ensure that the coast was defended. Improvements to flood defences could be looked at in the future if there was the opportunity to raise larger funds in the future. The Portfolio Holder for Environment explained that the Environment Agency were looking at their costs for assessments and administrations and if costs could be reduced, although it would still be necessary to carry out Environmental Impact Assessments as the area was highly designated.

The Chief Executive commented that the Community Interest Company would seek contributions from individuals, but these would be voluntary, so the amount likely to be charged to Businesses would be calculated on the sum required. The Chief Executive acknowledged that there would be a stage in the future when significant repair work would be required and this would require significant investment.

RESOLVED: The update was noted.

RD&EC24 **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.

RD&EC25 **EXEMPT - SOUTH QUAY AREA DELIVERY PLAN**

The Regeneration and Economic Development Manager and the Regeneration Projects Officer provided those present with a summary of proposals to develop a Masterplan for the King's Lynn Riverfront Area.

The Regeneration and Economic Development Manager explained that the proposals had been presented to the Panels at an early stage in the process so that Members had an opportunity to comment and make suggestions throughout the process. Further reports and updates would be provided to Members as appropriate.

The Panel was informed that it was important to develop a clear and deliverable vision for the area and identify any opportunities, risks and constraints in the area. Funding opportunities would be investigated.

The Regeneration and Economic Development Manager provided those present with detail of the areas to be considered within the delivery plan and the context of the sites in relation to their proximity with other areas, links with the town centre and other initiatives ongoing in the town centre.

It was hoped that following the initial work a vision for the Riverfront would be created along with a design concept and delivery framework.

The Chairman thanked the Regeneration and Economic Development Manager and the Regeneration Project Officer for their presentation and invited questions and comments from the Panel.

The Regeneration and Economic Development Manager answered a number of questions related to the presentation and stated that future reports would be brought to the Panel.

RESOLVED: (i) The update was noted.
(ii) The Regeneration and Development Panel be kept updated on progress with the Delivery Plan.

RD&EC26 **RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

RD&EC27 **WORK PROGRAMME AND CABINET FORWARD DECISION LIST**

The Chairman invited Members of the Panel to contact her if they had any items which they would like to add to the work programme.

Councillor Moriarty referred to the recent announcement that the Borough Council had secured £270,000 from Central Government to roll out a two year project to improve recycling rates across the region and asked if an update could be provided to the Panel on what the project would involve.

The Executive Director would arrange for an update to be presented to a future meeting of the Panel.

Councillor Mrs Collop asked if the DVD was available for Members to view on the NEWS site. The Portfolio Holder for Environment agreed to see if it was now available for the Panel to view at a future meeting.

RESOLVED: (i) The work programme and forward decision list was noted.
(ii) That the above items be considered for inclusion on the Panel Work Programme.

RD&EC28 **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Regeneration & Development and Environment & Community Panel was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 22 July 2015 at 6.00pm in the Committee Suite, King's Court, Chapel Street, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE30 1EX.

The meeting closed at 7.35 pm