

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL

Minutes from the Meeting of the Regeneration and Development Panel held on Wednesday, 22nd January, 2025 at 6.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ

PRESENT: Councillors Bearshaw (Chair), Beal, Blunt, Bubb, Colwell, Everett, Hodson and Osborne.

Portfolio Holders:

Councillor de Whalley – Portfolio Holder for Biodiversity and Climate Change

Councillor Moriarty – Portfolio Holder for Planning and Licensing

Councillor Ring – Portfolio Holder for Business and Culture

Officers:

Lynette Fawkes – Conservation Officer

Stuart Ashworth – Assistant Director

Duncan Hall – Assistant Director

Jemma Curtis – Regeneration Programmes Manager

Tim Fitzhigham – Cultural Officer

RD65: **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Collingham, Lintern and Ratcliffe.

RD66: **MINUTES**

RESOLVED: The minutes from the previous meeting were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

RD67: **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There was none.

RD68: **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was none.

RD69: **MEMBERS PRESENT PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 34**

There was none.

RD70: **CHAIR'S CORRESPONDENCE**

There was none.

RD71: **CABINET REPORT - CONSERVATION AREAS ADVISORY PANEL**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube.](#)

The Conservation Officer presented the report which presented a proposal to disband the Conservation Areas Advisory Panel, set up by Cabinet in 1994, highlighting that it was no longer a requirement to have a Panel, the changes in rules and legislation and the requirements set out in the National Planning Policy Framework.

The Chair thanked the Officer for the report and invited questions and comments from the Panel, as summarised below.

The Chair and the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Licensing thanked the Members of the Conservation Areas Advisory Panel for their work over the years.

RESOLVED: That the Regeneration and Development Panel support the recommendations to Cabinet, as set out below.

Cabinet is recommended to accept officer recommendation and disband the Conservation Areas Advisory Panel.

RD72: **UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE TRANSPORT INFORMAL WORKING GROUP**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube.](#)

The Chair provided an update on the Work of the Transport Informal Working Group. The Group had held meetings on the following topics to date, with further meetings scheduled prior to the Group formulating their recommendations back to the Panel. The Chair provided a summary of items discussed at each meeting:

- Scene setting and setting the Group's Work Programme.
- Overview of the Local Plan.
- King's Lynn Area Transport Strategy
- Rail Prospectus
- The Ferry
- Sustainability of Bus Services
- Bus Service Improvement Plan Funding
- Walking and Cycling.

The Portfolio Holder for Biodiversity and Climate Change provided an update on the Ferry and explained that officers from the Borough and County Council were working together to determine the work required and timescales.

Councillor Beal asked the Group to consider extending bus services late into the evening in Hunstanton.

In response to a question from Councillor Hodson it was confirmed that repair works to the Ferry would be carried out during the closure to minimise impact.

Councillor Hodson suggested that the Group investigate moving King's Lynn Railway Station to a vacant piece of land behind King's Lynn Academy.

Councillor Hodson suggested that the Group investigate increasing the car parking provision at Downham Market Railway Station and suggested a piece of land that could be used. Councillor Crofts commented that there was an empty green area next to the Charity Shop that could be considered.

In response to a question regarding funding the Ferry repairs it was explained that the remaining funding from the feasibility study was being utilised and discussions were ongoing between the Borough and County on funds required for any additional works required.

Councillor Blunt, who was a Member of the Transport Informal Working Group commented that the Group still had work to do and needed to see the Car Parking Strategy and discuss how all elements could be integrated.

In response to a question from Councillor Colwell, the Regeneration Programmes Manager explained that work in West Norfolk had taken place during the first round of the Bus Service Improvement Plan including increasing services in some urban areas, and support was required from operators to make these services sustainable beyond the initial funding period. It was noted that there was a further round of Bus Service Improvement Plan funding and a survey had recently been sent to Borough Councillors, so that priority areas could be identified and fed back to Norfolk County Council.

The Chair explained that the Informal Working Group had more meetings scheduled and would then look to formulate their recommendations back to the Panel. The Panel were advised that the Agendas and Minutes from the Group were available on the Mod Gov Intranet system for Councillors to view.

RESOLVED: The Panel noted the update and the ongoing work of the Informal Working Group.

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube.](#)

The Portfolio Holder for Business and Culture addressed the Panel explaining the purpose of the Strategy, its importance and that it had been part funded by the Arts Council.

The Regeneration Programmes Manager presented the update to the Panel. A copy of the presentation is attached.

The Chair thanked officers for the presentation and invited questions and comments from the Panel, as summarised below.

Councillor Colwell commented that the Strategy was important to help with funding opportunities and he asked about the Norfolk Way Art Trail at the Boal Quay. The Regeneration Programmes Manager explained that this had been put forward, but unfortunately permits required and timescales meant that it had not been progressed.

Councillor Bubb asked how the Cultural offer would be taken to rural areas and the Cultural Officer explained that this Strategy focussed on King's Lynn, with a Borough wide Strategy to follow in the future. He explained that work was carried out in the Community and provided an example of an event at Leziate, with more events to be planned in the future.

The Chair highlighted the engagement work which had been carried out to produce the Strategy and thanked all those involved for bringing the Strategy forward.

The Portfolio Holder for Business and Culture summarised the importance of the Strategy as a mechanism to lever in funding, the benefits to cultural organisations and commercial and volunteering opportunities and thanked all those involved in bringing the Strategy forward.

The Panel were informed that the Strategy would be presented to the Environment and Community Panel at a future meeting, prior to being submitted to Cabinet.

RESOLVED: The update was noted.

RD74: **WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD DECISION LIST**

[Click here to view the recording of this item on You Tube.](#)

Officers provided an update on potential items to be added to the Work Programme as follows:

- Car Parking Strategy – March 2025
- Guildhall – June/July 2025
- King's Lynn Town Masterplan

- Housing Delivery Strategy
- King's Lynn Transport Strategy
- Long Term Plan for Towns

The Panel were informed that once the Local Plan had been received from the Inspectors it would be brought to the Panel for consideration prior to being considered by Cabinet and Council. Dependent on when the plan was received an additional meeting may have to be arranged.

Councillor Bubb asked if the Panel could conduct a review Section 106 agreements to ensure that they were fit for purpose. The Chair explained that he would discuss this with officers.

RESOLVED: The Panel's Work Programme and Cabinet Forward Decisions List was noted.

RD75: **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Regeneration and Development Panel would be held on 18th February 2025 at 6.00pm in the Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn.

The meeting closed at 7.13 pm

King's Lynn: Culture & Heritage Strategy

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22 January 2025

Jemma Curtis , Regeneration Programmes Manager

Tim Fitzhigham, Cultural Officer

Background

- King's Lynn Cultural Prospectus – [adopted 2018](#)
- Change in national political and funding landscape since this time
- King's Lynn recognised as a place which has not benefitted significantly from Arts Council England (ACE) investment in the past.
- King's Lynn identified as a '**Levelling Up for Culture Place**' by ACE
- Feedback from the St George's Guildhall & Creative Hub funding application to National Lottery Heritage Fund identified the need for a Culture & Heritage Strategy to secure further NLHF investment.
- Project Proposal submitted to ACE to secure 50% match funding to commission new strategy (approved December 2023)
- Commission procurement Jan-March 2024, **Arts Reach** appointed April 2024.

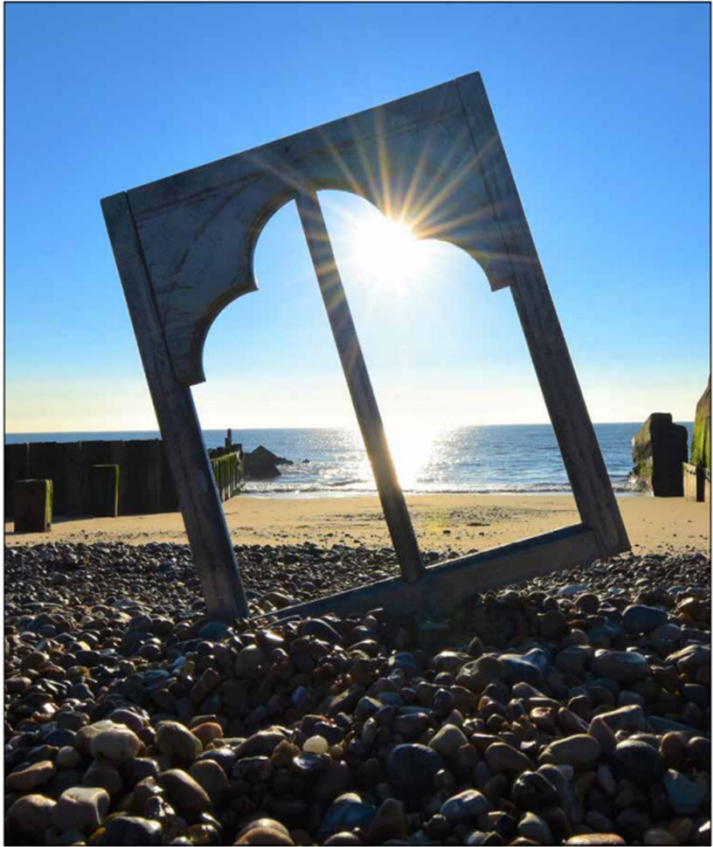
How can a Culture & Heritage Strategy help King's Lynn?



Strategy Brief and Objectives

1. Build on and reflect the extensive consultation and engagement undertaken since 2018;
2. Show how the Borough's aspirations connects to the wider regional strategies.
3. Identify key cultural investments and initiatives already underway setting out how they interrelate, and this would be part of the Culture & Heritage Strategy proposed.
4. Identify the cultural objectives for the Borough and set out the next steps required to develop this into a delivery plan
5. Show clearly that we recognise the value of arts and culture to quality of life and appeal to younger people. For example: *Culture Drives Growth: The East's Cultural Strategy, and Norfolk and Suffolk Cultural Board Culture Drive Impact*

What does a good strategy look like?



CELEBRATING CULTURE ON THE EDGE! **A NEW DAWN**

LOWESTOFT'S CULTURAL STRATEGY 2020 - 2025



Strategy Development

(1) **CREATE:** Engagement with Cultural stakeholders, partners and residents which will include the major cultural stakeholders in King's Lynn

(2) **RESEARCH:** detailed assessment of current cultural infrastructure across **King's Lynn** including a mapping of cross sector cultural providers and supporters such as those working in education and health, and an assessment of provision and audience engagement.

(3) **CONSULT:** detailed engagement with users and non-users of the existing cultural offers to build consensus around shared goals.

(4) **PLAN:** development of the Cultural Strategy, an Action and Implementation Plan, launch, and roll out. The plan will be endorsed across the stakeholders represented in the Cultural Forum, created at stage 1.

Scope of Strategy

- Current context
- Strategic Context – alignment with local, regional and national policies
- 589 • SWOT and PESTLE analysis
- Creative engagement and consultation results
- Vision & Strategy
- Priority themes
- Action Plan
- Ways of Working
- Fundraising Strategy

Public consultation and engagement (May – Nov 2024)

Consultation undertaken between May and November 2024 to develop this Strategy included:

- 15 telephone interviews with key stakeholders across the culture and heritage sectors
- Participation in a workshop with community representatives as part of the West Norfolk Economic Strategy development
- Joint facilitation of a workshop for the King's Lynn Long Term Plan for Towns
- 4 focus group workshops with the cultural sector, engaging approx 50 people
- Creative engagement activity in Lynn Museum, engaging 54 people
- Creative engagement activity in the High Street, engaging 32 people
- A public online survey, with 517 respondents
- A follow up survey targeted at the cultural sector, with 72 responses
- A Business Breakfast with 6 people from local creative industries
- Focus group with over 50 young people and tutors at College of West Anglia
- Focus group with 6 health partners

Supported by wider consultation conducted by other organisations across King's Lynn involved with the West Norfolk economic strategy, Town Deal, the [long term plan for towns](#) and organisations who work with children and young people.

Webpage updated regularly at key stages of strategy development www.west-norfolk.gov.uk/culture



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Timescales & Next Steps

January 2025 – Internal review of draft strategy

February 2025: Engagement with ACE and consultees on draft strategy

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25 February 2025 – Environment & Community Panel Cabinet report and draft strategy

4 March 2025 – Cabinet Report seeking strategy endorsement

Any Questions?

Overarching West Norfolk Economic strategic priorities

In 2045 King's Lynn and West Norfolk is a model for sustainable, active and inclusive rural communities, where the benefits of economic growth are shared widely, and natural and cultural heritage is preserved, enhanced and celebrated for future generations.

King's Lynn and West Norfolk will be a vibrant economy, characterised by:

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Thriving, connected towns that are destinations for both residents and tourists



Access to education and good work, at all phases of life



Specialised agri-food, engineering, waste & water and visitor economy sectors, with productive jobs and businesses that are a reason to stay in the area, re-locate to it and invest in it



Proactive, efficient and sustainable management of our natural resources



Happy, healthy people living in inclusive, connected communities with access to housing, health services, social and leisure facilities

In 2045 our towns will be lively and attractive during both the day and night, offering a strong entertainment and dining scene. More people will live in our towns and will choose to spend more of their leisure time and money within the area. We will attract more tourists who will explore our beautiful coastal *and* countryside areas, rich cultural heritage, and vibrant town centres, supporting a year-round borough-wide visitor economy.

In 2045 our increased housing supply in towns is enabling residents to locate and stay in the area, where they have access to comprehensive health and wellbeing facilities. Isolation in rural areas has improved through improved digital and transport connectivity, ensuring that all residents can participate fully in economic and community life. Residents lead active lives, with access to recreational and leisure facilities, promoting a healthier lifestyle for all.