

**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, 17th June, 2020 at 3.00 pm in the Remote Meeting on Zoom and available for the public to view on WestNorfolkBC on You Tube - Zoom and You Tube**

**PRESENT:** Councillors J Collingham (Chair), L Bambridge, F Bone, M de Whalley, B Jones, J Lowe, C Manning, C Morley, T Parish, S Patel, V Spikings and D Whitby.

**PORTFOLIO HOLDERS**

Councillor R Blunt – Portfolio Holder for Development  
Councillor P Gidney – Portfolio Holder for Project Delivery  
Councillor G Middleton – Portfolio Holder for Business Development  
Councillor E Nockolds – Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and Health

**MEMBERS PRESENT UNDER STANDING ORDER 34:** Councillors Bubb, Hudson, Moriarty and Ryves.

**OFFICERS:**

Amanda Driver – CIL Officer  
Mark Fuller – Principal Project Surveyor  
Alan Gomm – LDF Manager  
Ged Greaves, Senior Policy and Performance Officer  
Duncan Hall, Assistant Director

RD95: **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

The Chair informed the Panel that the meeting was being broadcast live on You Tube.

The recording of the meeting is available at WestNorfolkBC on You Tube.

The Democratic Services Officer conducted a roll call to confirm attendees.

RD96: **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There was none.

RD97: **MINUTES**

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

RD98: **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There was none.

RD99: **URGENT BUSINESS****Members thoughts and suggestions on Town Regeneration**

The Chair had asked Members of the Panel to give consideration to Town Regeneration prior to the meeting.

The Chair presented her thoughts on short, medium and long term issues. A copy of her presentation is attached.

Councillor Collingham then invited Members of the Panel to feedback their suggestions on Town Regeneration, focussing on the short term. Feedback from Members is attached.

**RESOLVED:** The comments and suggestions of Members would be considered in future proposals as relevant.

RD100: **MEMBERS PRESENT PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 34**

Councillor Bubb – RD106  
Councillor Hudson – RD99  
Councillor Moriarty – RD102  
Councillor Ryves – all items.

RD101: **CHAIR'S CORRESPONDENCE**

There was none.

RD102: **UPDATE FROM OFFICERS ON THE CURRENT SITUATION**

The Assistant Director provided an update on the work officers had been doing which would have an impact on the Panel's Work Programme and the overall work being undertaken by the Borough Council, which included:

- Towns Fund guidance which detailed what should be included in the investment plan, the strategic vision for the next five years and deadlines for the Towns Fund cohorts.
- Future High Streets final submission.
- Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan.

The Chair thanked the Assistant Director for his update and invited questions and comments from Members. A summary of questions and responses are set out below:

- The importance of linking walking and cycling and the possibility of park and ride. It was explained that one of the proposals within the King's Lynn Transport Study related to park and ride feasibility.
- Councillor Moriarty addressed the Panel under Standing Order 34. He asked for clarification on the timings of the feasibility study for parking and walking. The LDF Manager explained that Norfolk County Council officers were working on this feasibility study. Timescales were unknown at this stage, as funding had only just been agreed.
- Consideration to be given to cycles and scooters in pedestrian areas and safety considerations. It was explained that this would be considered in the feasibility study and issues arising from the King's Lynn Transport Study.
- Social distancing in the town centre and how barricading could be used. Councillor Middleton, Portfolio Holder for Business Development explained that this was a new way of arranging the town and the model would evolve. He welcomed any feedback from Members on issues they had with the layout of the town centre with regards to barricades and signage and suggestions for town centre.
- Comments were made that the Vancouver Quarter needed to give further consideration to more signage.
- Local Walking and Cycling infrastructure should be considered across the Borough, not just King's Lynn.

**RESOLVED:** The update was noted.

RD103: **QUARTER 3 PERFORMANCE MONITORING REPORT**

The Senior Policy and Performance Officer presented the report. He explained that there was no actions within the report as all indicators had met target for Quarter 3. He also explained that for Quarter 4 some of the indicators had not met target and this was mainly down to the impact of Covid-19. There were 6 indicators that did not meet target at the end of Quarter 4.

**RESOLVED:** The Panel reviewed the performance monitoring report.

RD104: **CORN EXCHANGE CINEMA UPDATE**

The Principal Project Surveyor provided an update on the Corn Exchange Cinema and highlighted the following:

- Phase 1 which was the initial works to refurbish the toilets and to separate the cinema area had been completed on time.
- Phase 2 of the project commenced in March, however progress on site had been hampered by lockdown.
- The original completion date was May 2020 for an opening in June 2020. This had now been delayed by three months and currently the works were scheduled for completion in August 2020 with opening in September 2020, subject to the lifting of government restrictions on the operation of Cinemas.
- It was thought that the cinema could be opened with social distancing measures in place.
- The Principal Project Surveyor outlined the risks going forward, which included the continuing impact of the lockdown restrictions.
- Financial arrangements with the contractor had been agreed.

The Chair referred to the Guildhall. It was noted that an update on the Guildhall would be presented to the next meeting of the Panel.

**RESOLVED:** The update was noted.

RD105: **FUTURE HOUSING PLANS**

The Assistant Director provided the Panel with an update on Future Housing Plans, which included:

- High Street Heritage Action Zone Programme.
- Residential conversions above shops.
- Chapel Street Car Park development.
- Housing for people who were rough sleeping or homeless.

A copy of the presentation is attached.

The Chair thanked the Assistant Director for his presentation and invited questions and comments from the Panel. A summary of questions and responses is set out below:

- Councillor Bambridge explained that she was a Member of the Heritage Action Zone Informal Working Group and felt that the design of Chapel Street was different to what had been discussed by the Group and that it should be more in keeping with the surrounding area. The Assistant Director agreed to look into this and update the Panel.
- The Assistant Director explained that the temporary accommodation housing provision responded to the general homelessness picture, which was more than just rough sleeping and could include families. He explained that options for those who were in temporary accommodation during the lockdown, needed to be looked at.

- The number of units for West Norfolk had not been allocated, and the Council would have to bid into a fund.
- The Assistant Director explained that town centre development would reflect the needs of the housing needs assessment. There would also be affordable housing opportunities and rented accommodation.
- An empty shop levy to discourage vacant units in the town centre.
- The Council was working to make properties available for shared accommodation which was a short to medium term plan.
- The Council was also working with Norfolk County Council to ensure that people who were rough sleeping were provided with the necessary support to ensure that they did not end up back on the streets.
- The Assistant Director explained that it was a huge challenge to ensure that people who were currently accommodated at the Travelodge to have somewhere to move to, once the contract with the Travelodge had ended, and options were being looked at.

**RESOLVED:** The update was noted.

RD106: **CIL GOVERNANCE TASK GROUP**

The LDF Manager presented the Panel with information on CIL Governance and Spending. A copy of the presentation is attached.

Councillor Parish, Chair of the CIL Governance Task Group, provided the Panel with information on what CIL was and outlined the work of the Task Group.

The CIL Officer provided the Panel with information on the online application process.

The Panel discussed the importance of ensuring that Parish Council's were aware of the opportunities available to them and it was explained that once the Governance Arrangements had been agreed by Cabinet, officers would at how opportunities could be promoted to parishes and unparished areas.

**RESOLVED:**

1. The Panel agreed the final version of the CIL Governance and Spending document from the Task Group.
2. The Panel recommends the adoption of the content/process to the Cabinet.

RD107: **WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD DECISION LIST**

The following items had been identified for consideration on the Work Programme:

- Parkway – Councillor Ryves.

**RESOLVED:** The Panel's Work Programme was noted.

RD108: **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Regeneration and Development Panel would be held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2020 at 3.00pm on Zoom and available to view on You Tube.

**The meeting closed at 5.01 pm**