BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY PANEL

Minutes from the Meeting of the Environment and Community Panel held on Tuesday, 25th February, 2025 at 4.30 pm in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ

PRESENT: S Collop (Chair)
Councillors P Bland, R Colwell, P Devulapalli, D Heneghan (Under Standing Order 34 on Zoom), A Kemp and P Kunes

Portfolio Holders
Councillor M de Whalley, Gayton and Grimston Ward

Officers:
Martin Chisholm – Assistant Director, Operations and Commercial
Anthony Drown- Electoral Services Officer
Andrew Barrett- Electoral Services Manager
Nicola Cooper- Investment Programmes Officer
Tim FitzHigham- Cultural Officer for the Guildhall and Creative Hub
Jemma Curtis- Regeneration Programmes Manager

External attendees:
Representatives from Art Reach

EC69: **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hodson, Bullen, Sandell and Ring.

EC70: **MINUTES**

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

EC71: **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

EC72: **URGENT BUSINESS**

There was none.

EC73: **MEMBERS PRESENT PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 34**

Councillor Heneghan was present under Standing Order 34 on Zoom.

EC74: **CHAIR'S CORRESPONDENCE**

There was none.

EC75: **COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW OVERVIEW**

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The Electoral Services Manager summarised the report.

The Chair thanked the Officer for the report and invited questions and comments from the Panel, a summary of which is set out below.

In response to a question from Councillor Kunes, the Electoral Services Manager confirmed a proposal had been received to dissolve Hilgay Parish Council and two separate Parish Council's established for Hilgay and Ten Mile Bank.

In response to Councillor Colwell's question, the Electoral Services Manager explained that two Community Governance Reviews (CGR's) had been submitted. He added one was from Hilgay, as previously mentioned and the other from Burnham Market to reduce the numbers from 11 to 8 Parish Councillors.

Councillor Colwell referred to enquires from residents of West Lynn and sought clarification if a Delegated Decision could be taken for West Lynn to create a Parish Council due to the Local Government Reform. He questioned what residents should do and say for a Parish Council to be created for West Lynn.

The Electoral Services Manager confirmed further detail would be needed and a further conversation with Councillor Colwell could be had at a later time. He added there were different reasons as to why a CGR was done.

Councillor Kemp referred to the comments made by Councillor Colwell and explained residents of West Lynn had the initiative to create a Parish Council to address issues they had concerns about. She questioned how a CGR would be funded to create a Parish Council.

The Electoral Services Manager confirmed the proportion of the funding would not be known and this information was not available at this time.

RESOLVED: The Panel noted the report.

EC76: **CABINET REPORT- WEST NORFOLK PROSPERITY FUNDING (UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND AND RURAL ENGLAND PROSPERITY FUND) 2025/26 PRIORITIES**

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The Investment Programmes Officer gave a presentation on the report.

The Chair thanked the Investment Programmes Officer and invited questions and comments from the Panel, a summary of which is set out below.

Councillor Kunes commented the Boost project was a success with 33 people going back into work.

Councillor Kemp commented the Boost project provided confidence building, improved mental health and overall was good for the Borough. She added she referred residents to the Boost project.

Councillor Colwell sought clarification on when it was expected to find out about the Rural Funding. He commented the light project programme had been well received, and the Borough was known for this project.

The Investment Programmes Officer confirmed it was unknown when a decision would be made.

The Vice- Chair, Councillor Devulapalli referred to the Rural England Prosperity Fund and active travel enhancements. She questioned if there were provisions for rural buses as these were needed and at earlier and later times.

The Regeneration Programmes Manager confirmed this would fall under the Norfolk County Council Bus Service Improvement Plan funding. She explained priorities and allocation of the funding was not yet decided. She explained a survey had been sent to all councillors for their input on the priorities on bus provisions.

The Vice- Chair, Councillor Devulapalli asked if the Panel would recommend further feedback on the survey for rural bus services to be improved.

Councillor Devulapalli was reminded she could attend the Transport Informal Working Group where the feedback from this survey would be presented. Councillor Devulapalli stressed the importance of a bus service from Marham to Downham Market and the boost in the economy.

The Regeneration Programmes Manager commented this was highlighted as an issue in the West Norfolk Economic Strategy

RESOLVED: The Environment and Community Panel supports the following recommendation to Cabinet:

1. Approve alignment of 2025/26 UKSPF investment with the West Norfolk Economic Strategy
2. Approve the £600,773 UKSPF investment programme for 2025/26 as set out in Table 2, Section 3 in line with the indicative budget allocations in Appendix 1 (EXEMPT).
3. Approve proposals in Section 4 for investment of REPF funding for 2025/26 should an additional allocation be awarded.
4. Delegate authority to the Assistant Director for Regeneration, Housing & Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Business to approve budget allocation variations (including removal of any ongoing funding for at risk projects) of UKSPF funding for 25/26 to ensure fulfilment of spend.

EC77: **CABINET REPORT- KING'S LYNN CULTURAL & HERITAGE STRATEGY**

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The Regeneration Programmes Officer introduced the report and invited the representative from Art Reach to present the report further.

The Chair thanked the Regeneration Programmes Officer and the representative from Art Reach and invited questions and comments from the Panel, a summary of which is set out below.

Councillor Kemp highlighted the definition of heritage included in the report and questioned why key assets such as Southgates and Redmount were not included in the strategy.

The Cultural Officer confirmed Southgates was included in the strategy on page 8. He explained the definition used was from the National Lottery fund.

Councillor Kunes referred to the report which included late night buses running from town for cultural and heritage events. He commented buses from the town used to run late.

The Vice-Chair, Councillor Devulapalli sought clarification if there was any focus on the Walks or the Riverfront.

The Cultural Officer explained the strategy was developed following consultation with residents.

Councillor Colwell referred to the Riverside as a historic asset and commented the scheme was previously not ambitious enough and the Riverfront area needed to be enhanced.

The representative from Art Reach confirmed the Riverfront was included in the strategy as an action as a priority four as outlined on page 12 of the Strategy.

Under Standing Order 34 on Zoom, Councillor Heneghan supported the strategy and put herself forward to be involved in strategic and task groups. She added she was keen for the Riverside to be developed.

The representative from Art Reach clarified there was a specific action on page 29 of the strategy to develop a Riverside programme.

In response to a question from the Vice Chair the representative from Art Reach confirmed consultation had been carried out with the College of West Anglia. She advised there was not a specific course offered relating to culture and heritage, however the consultation was carried out with students on creative courses.

The Cultural Officer added further creative courses included media, marketing and performance to inspire students about culture and heritage.

Councillor Bland referred to the exhibitions which were held in historic buildings and highlighted it was always the same local schools which attended as rural schools were unable to travel.

Councillor Colwell suggested the Community Grant Scheme could be used to fund travel expenses for rural schools to attend heritage and cultural events.

The Cultural Officer confirmed this could be investigated and considered. It was agreed that the Panel would be advised of a response.

Councillor Colwell questioned if King's Lynn Football Club had been considered in the strategy.

The Cultural Officer advised that while King's Lynn Football Club was a cultural asset, it was being considered within the remit of the leisure strategy.

RESOLVED: The Environment and Community Panel supports the following recommendation to Cabinet:

1. Endorse the King's Lynn Culture & Heritage Strategy as set out in appendix 1.
2. Establish the new governance structure and recruitment of steering group as set out in section 3.
3. Delegate authority to the Assistant Director for Housing, Regeneration & Place in consultation with the Deputy Leader & Portfolio Holder for Business to review existing Service Level

Agreements with cultural organisations to align their activities and outputs in line with the priorities identified in the Strategy.

4. Delegate authority to the Assistant Director for Housing, Regeneration and Place in consultation with the Portfolio holder of Business to agree resourcing requirements to support and implement the strategy, subject to appropriate organisational processes.

EC78: **WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD DECISION LIST**

Members of the Panel were reminded that an eform was available on the Intranet which could be completed and submitted if Members had items which they would like to be considered for addition to the Work Programme.

RESOLVED: The Panel's Work Programme and Forward Decision list was noted.

EC79: **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Environment and Community Panel would be held on **8th April 2025** in the **Council Chamber, Town Hall.**

The meeting closed at 5.59 pm