



**Cabinet**  
**Monday, 15th January, 2024 at 6.00 pm**  
**in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Saturday Market  
Place, King's Lynn PE30 5DQ**

**Reports marked to follow on the Agenda and/or Supplementary  
Documents**

1. **MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET FROM OTHER BODIES** (Pages 2 - 6)
  - Recommendations from the Environment and Community Panel
  - Recommendations from the Regeneration and Development Panel

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**RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET 15 JANUARY 2024 FROM THE REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL MEETING HELD ON 10 JANUARY 2024**

**RD72: LOCAL PLAN GYPSY AND TRAVELLER POTENTIAL SITES CONSULTATION DOCUMENT**

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

The Assistant Director and Senior Planning Officer presented the report which sought authority to proceed with a consultation on potential sites. The consultation would run for 6 weeks, and would help to inform a final proposed Gypsy, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople Policy, which would be submitted to Cabinet for approval in April 2024 and submitted for formal examination likely in July 2024.

Councillor Moriarty, in his capacity as Chair of the Local Plan Task Group informed the Panel that the Task Group had considered this report and would be submitting an additional recommendation to Cabinet that the Panel may wish to consider. The additional recommendation was:

*“Delegated authority be granted to the Portfolio Holder, Development and Regeneration to ensure new sites which come forward from the consultation exercise be communicated in a timely manner to Borough Councillors and where possible Parish Councils.”*

The Panel received a presentation, a copy of which is attached.

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

In response to a question from Councillor Crofts, it was explained that six sites had come forward following the call for sites. Additionally three Borough Council and one Norfolk County Council site had also been brought forward for consideration. It was confirmed that the Saddlebow and Blunts Drove sites were operated as public sites for Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation. The Saddlebow site was owned by Norfolk County Council and Blunts Drove was owned by Hastoe Housing Association. In relation to the Saddlebow site, it was explained that this site was currently at capacity and there was a waiting list for pitches. There was no scope to extend the site due to land ownership constraints.

In response to a further question from Councillor Crofts regarding the overwhelming of sites and joint working with neighbouring Local Authorities, it was explained that the Council was required to meet their own accommodation needs for Gypsies, Traveller and Travelling Showpeople, but had met with Officers from Fenland District Council to look at joint working opportunities. It was also explained that the consultation would provide the opportunity for comments to be received by stakeholders such as Fenland District Council.

The Chair agreed that it was important to look at working with neighbouring Local Authorities where possible.

Councillor Beal asked for a provision to be put in place for short term and temporary sites and made reference to issues in Hunstanton.

Councillor Bone called a point of order relating to the language used by Councillor Beal.

The Assistant Director commented that temporary stopping points and transit sites had been looked at through the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessment and there was no

need, at this time, to provide such a site. However it would continue to be monitored through the Local Plan process.

In response to a question from the Chair, it was confirmed that the consultation covered more pitches than was required. This had been undertaken to explore all options and build in flexibility for when final decisions on any preferred sites were made over the coming months.

Councillor Bone commented that there was only one site identified for the north of the Borough and the Senior Planning Officer confirmed that the list of potential sites reflected where the current and future accommodation need was coming from.

The Chair asked if another site needed to be identified near to Hunstanton to address the issues raised by Councillor Beal and the Assistant Director explained that this was not necessary as in reality the sites were unlikely to be occupied. The Assistant Director informed Members that a list of FAQ's would be included in the consultation document.

Councillor Blunt explained that one of his Parishes, who would like to respond to the consultation, would not be meeting during the consultation period and asked if there was scope to extend the consultation period if required. The Assistant Director explained that individual requests for an extension of time to respond to the consultation would need to be made to the Council, who would consider them along with the Local Planning Inspectorate. It was acknowledged that the Parish Council in question were important with regard to a consultation response and officers and the Chair of the Local Plan Task Group would work with them if required to ensure their response was included.

Councillor Moriarty, as Chair of the Local Plan Task Group, commented that he had received lots of correspondence on this matter and public interest and wanted to assure the public that their responses to the consultation would be considered.

The Chair referred the Panel to the additional recommendation which the Local Plan Task Group would be submitting to Cabinet and this was discussed by the Panel. The Panel agreed to the additional recommendation being submitted via this Panel also.

**RESOLVED:** That the Regeneration and Development Panel support the recommendations to Cabinet as set out below, with the addition of recommendation three in bold below.

1. Cabinet endorses the draft Gypsy, Travellers and Travelling Showpeople Potential Sites and Policy document, the Gypsy and Traveller Site Assessment Document, the associated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and the Sustainability Appraisal, for consultation, for a period of 6 weeks from 26<sup>th</sup> January until 8th March 2024.
2. That delegated authority be granted to the Portfolio Holder for Development and Regeneration, and the Assistant Director – Environment & Planning, to include minor amendments as required to the consultation document prior to consultation starting at the end of January.
3. **Delegated authority be granted to the Portfolio Holder, Development and Regeneration to ensure new sites which come forward from the consultation exercise be communicated in a timely manner to Borough Councillors and where possible Parish Councils.**

**RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET 15 JANUARY 2024 FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY PANEL MEETING HELD ON 3 JANUARY 2024**

**EC68: WEST NORFOLK INVESTMENT PLAN (UK SHARED PROSPERITY FUND) AND RURAL ENGLAND PROSPERITY FUNDING UPDATE AND 2024/2025 PRIORITIES**

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

The Regeneration Programmes Manager and Place Based Investment Officer presented the report which set out the proposed spending priorities for UKSPF in 2024/25 to facilitate both continued programme delivery and the introduction of new projects.

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

Councillor Morley suggested the Panel may wish to consider the potential for moving some of the New Anglia Growth Hub project money to community based projects. The Panel was supportive of this approach and it was suggested the figure of 10% be put forward for consideration.

Clarification was sought on the progress of the West Norfolk Cycling Scheme, to which it was clarified that the delegated decision had been taken a month prior as advertised.

Councillor Devulapalli welcomed the access to E29 the Go Green (businesses) scheme. She also urged consideration to be given to the provision of cycle parking in the borough to which it was confirmed that E7 was looking at cycle storage grants, where an expression of interest had been sent to parishes to ascertain the level and type of demand for cycle storage required in rural areas.

Councillor Ryves sought clarification as to whether the rural business grants were still open for applications to which it was confirmed they were. He asked that a sheet be produced with the individual funds available, their target audiences and the deadlines.

Councillor Kemp asked about non parished areas access to the funds to which it was suggested that the rural community grant be the first port of call but that members could access the “magic map” under the rural fund which showed areas able to access the fund.

Councillor Devulapalli asked if any of the grants could be used to improve bus services in the borough. It was explained that the projects supported by the funding needed to be sustainable, and with only 1 year of funding left it would not offer long term solutions. However attention was drawn to the County Council’s Bus Service Improvement Programme which was a £50m capital and Revenue fund to improve the frequency of buses in the rural areas.

Councillor Kunes sought clarification on the footpath being constructed from the roundabout to the Crematorium in King’s Lynn, to which it was confirmed there had been a number of incidents along that stretch of road, so would provide a safe connection.

**RESOLVED:** That the Environment and Community Panel supports the recommendations to Cabinet, as set out below with the addition as set out in bold:

**Cabinet be invited to consider the transfer of 10% of the funding from the New Anglia Growth Hub to community based projects.**

Cabinet is recommended to:

1. Approve the projects for allocation of UKSPF funding of £1,062,709 for 2024/25 against the agreed interventions contained in the West Norfolk Investment Plan (WNIP) as set out in section 3 and 4.
2. Approve the REPF funding of £225,000 for Active Travel projects in 2024/25 as set out in Table 6.
3. Delegate authority to the Assistant Director for Regeneration, Housing & Place in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Business to approve in year budget reallocations of UKSPF funding for 24/25 to ensure fulfilment of spend (Section 7).

**EC71: DESIGNATION OF A VILLAGE GREEN – SOUTH LYNN**

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

Officers presented the report which brought forward a proposal for designation of a Village Green on the land to the west of Hardings Way, South Lynn. The report also detailed proposals for the establishment of a community orchard which would form part of the Village Green and Beuys's project on land to the north of the proposed village Green.

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

Councillor Kunes sought confirmation on the reference to the ineligibility of part of the area to be registered. It was explained that part of the area still featured within the Local Plan during the life of the existing Plan and therefore could not be registered as a village green.

Under standing order 34 Councillor Kemp welcomed the proposal and asked why the section of land had not been taken out of the Local Plan. The explanation was given as above.

Councillor Squire commented that it was important to buy trees and hedgerows for the wood from a bio secure stock.

**RESOLVED:** That the Environment and Community Panel support the recommendations to Cabinet, as set out below.

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Agrees to proceed with the Community Orchard at Wisbech Road/Harding's Way as detailed in the report.
2. Agrees to enter into a form of agreement with the Harding's Pits Association which continues the current operational arrangements for the Harding's Pits Door Step Green. Authority to be delegated to the Assistant Director Property & Projects in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Property and Corporate Services to agree appropriate terms and length of agreement.
3. Supports the proposed Beuys's Acorns Project, potentially as part of the proposal for the Harding's Pits Door Step Green, with this area being extended to accommodate the Beuys's Project.

Cabinet recommend to Council:

4. To resolve that the land identified in the attached plan (the red shaded area to the west of Hardings Way) be designated as a Village Green.