

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

CABINET

Minutes from the Meeting of the Cabinet held on Monday, 26th October, 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: Councillor B Long (Chair)
Councillors R Blunt, S Dark, P Gidney, P Kunes, G Middleton and E Nockolds

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors A Lawrence

CAB174 URGENT BUSINESS

None

CAB175 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

CAB176 CHAIR'S CORRESPONDENCE

The Chair welcomed Councillor Stuart Dark back onto the Cabinet in his new position as Cabinet Member for Environmental Services and Public Protection.

CAB177 MEMBERS PRESENT UNDER STANDING ORDER 34

Councillors A Holmes, C Morley, A Ryves and M de Whalley attended under standing order 34.

CAB178 CALLED IN MATTERS

None

CAB179 MATTERS REFERRED TO CABINET FROM OTHER BODIES

The Regeneration and Development Panel had received a briefing on the items on the agenda.

CAB180 KING'S LYNN TOWN INVESTMENT PLAN

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Councillor Middleton introduced the Town Board and the work which it had undertaken to produce the King's Lynn Town Investment Plan. He explained that the document which had been put together by the Board which consisted of representatives from local businesses, COWA and the Hospital, would define the future of King's Lynn town centre.

The Assistant Director Regeneration, Housing and Place explained that the Town Board, which had carried out extensive engagement with businesses and community groups, was in the best position to secure Government Funding. The Plan set out opportunities for 5-10 years.

Under standing order 34 Councillor Ryves addressed the Cabinet commenting that he considered the Plan to be anodyne and officer led. He considered it could be more commercial and concentrate on the town's assets and links with other places.

Under standing order 34 Councillor Holmes asked if the equality impact assessment should read negatives or neutral for many of the groups shown. It was confirmed that these should be showing as neutral, not negative. Whilst confirming that he considered the proposed outcomes aspirational he also questioned if there was the capacity to deliver the schemes set out in the report and considered that the cases for affordability were weak.

Under standing order 34 Councillor Morley commented that he felt it was a pragmatic package of improvements for King's Lynn, he was pleased to see improvements for youth and retraining included but disappointed that the CITB would not be involved.

Under standing order 34 Councillor de Whalley expressed concern about the lack of consultation with West Winch and the Woottons parishes. He expressed concerns about the sustainability of the proposals.

Councillor Long responded to the points made explaining that the submission to Government had to be made in a specific way and would be returned if not. With regard to the affordability, he commented that if successful for any of the proposals finances would have to be made available. It was also confirmed that CITB was well outside of the area for the scheme and that the parishes would be involved as schemes moved forward.

Councillor Middleton in responding to comments reminded members that the Plan was not officer led but was put together and endorsed by the Town Board.

Councillor Dark drew attention to the ambition in the document and Councillor Nockolds commended the number of businesses who had been involved and the consultation carried out.

CAB181 **EXCLUSION OF THE 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 items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

CAB182 **KING'S LYNN TOWN INVESTMENT PLAN**

Councillor Middleton presented the exempt report. Patrick White from Metrodynamics gave an update on the work carried out to reach this stage and gave an overview of the schemes put forward which he felt were deeply ambitious and credible. It was confirmed that it was trying to create a good environment for young people's future.

The Assistant Director reminded members that the plans were embryonic at this stage, and the community had been involved at the start of the process.

Members were also reminded that the projects put forward all linked with other programmes.

Under standing order 34 Councillors Ryves addressed Cabinet and encouraged the redevelopment of key areas.

Under standing order 34 Councillor Morley made reference to a good pragmatic package which he felt some tweaks would be of benefit.

Under standing order 34 Councillor de Whalley raised some concerns about match funding, and a potential plan B if the Guildhall proposal was unsuccessful.

Councillor Middleton summed up and Councillor Blunt considered it was ambitious but achievable and deliverable.

The Leader made an amendment to recommendation 5 so that the delegation was to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio holder. This was agreed.

RESOLVED: 1) That the Town Investment Plan as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be endorsed.

2) That delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Business Development to agree the final submission of the Town Investment Plan by the deadline on 30 October 2020

3) That the short list of projects seeking Town Deal Funding support as detailed in section 3 of the report be endorsed.

4) That the prioritisation and funding arrangements for projects submitted under the Future High Streets Fund as part of the Town Investment Plan long list as detailed in section 4 & 9 of the report be agreed.

5) That delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Business Development and to agree the Heads of Terms with government and the Town Deal Board based on the priorities set out in the TIP.

6) That the continuation of the King's Lynn Town Deal Board as the public – private partnership to support delivery of the shared vision and objectives set out in the TIP be supported.

7) That the Council underwrites the match funding commitment required for St George's Guildhall restoration project in order to give it the best chance of meeting the FHSF gateway criteria for funding.

Reason for Decision

To allow the Council to secure grant funding stream to deliver the investment priorities in the Town Investment Plan for King's Lynn, contribute to the Recovery Plan in response to the Coronavirus pandemic and the long term economic prosperity of the town.

CAB183 HIGH STREET HAZ

The Assistant Director Regeneration Housing and Place presented the report which explained that the Borough Council had been offered the opportunity to become a High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) by Historic England. This followed a successful expression of interest submission made in 2019.

Using other direct investment and complementary funding, the HSHAZ programme had the opportunity to deliver £1.8m of investment to support repurposing of the town centre on the High Street and Norfolk Street. The HSHAZ programme also included up to £120k additional funding, accessible to develop a Cultural Programme within King's Lynn.

The report set out the programme for the HSHAZ and the commitment required from the council to enter the scheme with Historic England.

Under standing order 34 Councillor Ryves supported the project. Councillor Holmes made reference to being conscious of some elements of the town. Councillor Morley sought clarification on partner funding. Councillor de Whalley welcomed the proposed improvements which would show off the good architecture above the ground floor.

RESOLVED:1) That delegated authority be granted to the Assistant Director in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Project Delivery sign the partnership contract and any necessary legal documentation required for the High Street Heritage Action Zone programme.

2) That delegated authority be granted to the Assistant Director to recruit a 3.5 year fixed term HS HAZ Project Officer to manage delivery of the programme.

Reason for Decision

To allow the Council to access a major grant funding stream in line with the corporate strategy to support the vibrancy and viability of King's Lynn's town centre and contribute to the Recovery Plan in response to the Coronavirus pandemic.

The meeting closed at 4.20 pm