

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS FROM 1 AUGUST 2017 TO COUNCIL
ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2017

CAB36: PLANNING CODE OF CONDUCT

Councillor Blunt presented the report which recommended further amendments to the Members Code of Good Practice for Planning to reflect current and best practice. It was pointed out that the Code was there to protect Members of the Planning Committee if they adhered to it.

Under Standing Order 34, Councillor Pope expressed the view that the element of not engaging in social media during the Planning Meeting should be extended to all Council meetings.

It was noted that the Council did need to move with the modern world, and some did consider tweeting from a meeting as unprofessional and off putting for other members. It was considered that to ensure Members could pay attention to the meeting the time to tweet would be after a meeting not during it.

RECOMMENDED: That the revised Code of Practice be adopted.

Reason for Decision

To ensure the best practice in the planning process.

CAB42: RIVERFRONT REGENERATION

The Regeneration, Heritage and Economic Development Manager presented a report proposing the endorsement of the Riverfront Delivery Plan which had been prepared following extensive site analysis and public consultation, for the historic King's Lynn riverfront area. The masterplan set out the vision and design principles for the development of this strategic regeneration area. The Delivery Plan was accompanied by an exempt detailed financial viability and delivery options report (exempt – appendix 3) which suggested there was sufficient evidence of viability at this stage to pursue the project. The report recommended an allocation of up to £350,000 (of which £100,000 was externally funded from the Heritage Action Zone for a feasibility study and potentially £125,000 from the Norfolk Business Rates Pool) to progress the next stage of work in order to develop and test the scheme further.

Cabinet acknowledged that the long term ambition was to improve the Riverfront as the Tuesday and Saturday Market Places had already been and to encourage people to come to the town taking in the Riverfront and the Nar Loop area. The proposals would also improve the air pollution situation for the whole of the town when there were few opportunities to alleviate some of the areas with Air Quality problems. It was also acknowledged that as a major scheme, a number of issues would have to be looked at in detail before final decisions were taken.

Under Standing Order 34 Councillor C Crofts commented on his vision for the encouragement of coach excursions to the town to encourage tourists to visit by providing user friendly drop off sites for coaches with some facilities. He had carried out research and very few coach companies came to the town for the day, when they

did do to other towns with far less to offer. He therefore felt that this should be incorporated into the plan.

Under Standing Order 34 Councillor C Joyce commented that he could not see anything on the impact the development of the Riverfront would have on the rest of the town, or that concerns of local groups were being taken into account. He referred to an earlier planning permission on NORA and a traffic cap on the area. He also had concern about the number of properties being built in King's Lynn, and considered that if the Riverfront was being developed for housing the residents would need a doctors surgery which he thought could sit in Boal Quay.

The Regeneration Programmes Manager explained that the traffic cap referred to was lifted in 2012 following highway works to the area. A transport assessment would be carried out as part of the work which would feed into any planning application.

It was also confirmed that the demand and location of the proposed doctors surgery was at the request of the NHS, not the Borough Council.

RECOMMENDED: 1) That the final King's Lynn Riverfront Delivery Plan be endorsed.
2) That the next steps be approved to progress and test the scheme further as set out in section 4 of the report

3) Approve allocation of up to £250,000 to the 2017/18 capital programme to support next phase of work to develop and test the scheme further as detailed in section 4 of the report.

4) That the potential delivery options outlined in section 8 of the report be noted and officers endorsed to progress investigation and testing of these options in order to ascertain developer interest in the scheme.

5) That officers be authorised to progress discussions and applications to external partners and funding agencies to enable delivery of the scheme.

Reason for Decision

To enable a transformational riverfront scheme for King's Lynn to be developed and tested further in line with the vision and principles set out in the masterplan in line with the corporate priority to drive local economic and housing growth.

CAB43 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.

CAB44: EXEMPT - RIVERFRONT REPORT

Cabinet considered the exempt elements of the Riverfront report which included the financial implications and risk.

Discussion was held on what work would need to be carried out regardless of the proposals, and what funding was likely to be received.

Under Standing Order 34 Councillor Pope commented on those works which needed to be carried out, asked about the land holdings and values and stated that before

making a final decision on the 10 year project careful consideration should be given. The Property Services Manager updated Members on the land position and it was confirmed that the overall development would be carried out in stages.