

REPORT TO CABINET

Open/Exempt		Would any decisions proposed :			
Any especially affected Wards	Mandatory/	Be entirely within Cabinet's powers to decide		YES/NO	
	Discretionary/	Need to be recommendations to Council		YES/ NO	
	Operational	Is it a Key Decision		YES/NO	
Lead Member: Cllr Brian Long E-mail: cllr.Brian.Long@West-Norfolk.gov.uk			Other Cabinet Members consulted:		
			Other Members consulted: Cllr J Collop Cllr J Moriarty		
Lead Officer: Lorraine Gore E-mail: Lorraine.Gore@West-Norfolk.gov.uk Direct Dial: 01553 616245			Other Officers consulted:		
Financial Implications YES/NO	Policy/ Personnel Implications YES/NO	Statutory Implications YES/NO	Equal Impact Assessment YES/NO If YES: Pre-screening/ Full Assessment	Risk Management Implications YES/NO	Environmental Considerations YES/NO

Date of meeting: 30 June 2020

KLIC – INDEPENDENT INQUIRY

Summary

This report sets out the findings of the KLIC Independent Inquiry, conducted by Alison Lowton.

Recommendation

Cabinet to recommend to Council the findings of the KLIC Independent Inquiry as set out in the attached report.

Reason for Decision

In accordance with Council minute C:86 to present the outcome of the KLIC Independent Inquiry.

1 Background

1.1 On 26 March 2019 Council resolved (minute C:86) that this Council establish an independent inquiry into the partnership with Norfolk and Waveney Enterprise Services (NWES) and its subsidiaries and associated companies and those with common shareholders or directors, regarding the award of and administration of the KLIC project and all aspects of its (their) financial relationship with the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk.

To ensure the impartiality and independence of the Inquiry, the Chair and personnel of such an Inquiry to be chosen by an outside body, such as the Local Government Association (LGA) and consideration be given to requesting further assistance from such an outside body if required.

2. The Process

- 2.1 The East of England Local Government Association (EELGA) presented four CVs of potential candidates and these were discussed and short-listed by the group leaders of the borough council with the chief executive. From this meeting Alison Lowton, a legally qualified experienced investigator for public sector organisations, was shortlisted and attended an interview with the group leaders and the chief executive on 8 October 2019 and was appointed to undertake the inquiry.
- 2.2 The terms of reference for the KLIC independent inquiry are attached at appendix A.
- 2.3 It was agreed that the independent inquiry would need full access to all documents and reports of the internal Cross-Party Working Group (CPWG) and the inquiry and report would not be completed until after the CPWG had concluded and reported any findings. The CPWG report was presented to a Special Audit Committee meeting on 10 February 2020 and to Cabinet on 17 March 2020.
- 2.4 Group leaders considered the draft report from Alison Lowton on 25 March 2020. The report is now presented to Cabinet, this has unfortunately been delayed due to the suspension of Cabinet meetings during the response to the Covid19 crisis.

3. KLIC Independent Report

- 3.1 The report is attached at Appendix B. Alison Lowton will present her report to Cabinet.

4. Background Papers

- Minutes of Council Meeting of 26 March 2019
- Report to Special Audit Committee: Report of the Cross-Party Working Group to review the King's Lynn Innovation Centre (KLIC) project on 10 February 2020 and Cabinet on 17 March 2020.