

BOROUGH COUNCIL OF KING'S LYNN & WEST NORFOLK

REGENERATION AND DEVELOPMENT PANEL

Minutes from the Meeting of the Regeneration and Development Panel held on Thursday, 22nd June, 2023 at 4.30 pm in the Town Hall, Saturday Market Place, King's Lynn

PRESENT: Councillors S Bearshaw (Chair), P Beal, R Blunt, F Bone, J Collingham, R Colwell, C J Crofts, A Dickinson, D Heneghan and J Rust.

OBSERVING: Councillor S Everett

PORTFOLIO HOLDERS:

Councillor M de Whalley – Portfolio Holder for Climate Change and Biodiversity
Councillor A Kemp – Portfolio Holder for People and Communities
Councillor J Moriarty – Portfolio Holder for Development and Regeneration
Councillor C Morley – Portfolio Holder for Finance

OFFICERS:

Alexa Baker – Monitoring Officer
Jemma Curtis – Regeneration Programmes Manager
Duncan Hall – Assistant Director
Lorraine Gore – Chief Executive

RD1: APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIR FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR

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RESOLVED: That Councillor Bone be appointed Vice Chair of the Panel for the municipal year 2023/2024.

RD2: APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Bubb.

RD3: MINUTES

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

RD4: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There was none.

RD5: URGENT BUSINESS

There was none.

RD6: **MEMBERS PRESENT PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER 34**

There was none.

RD7: **CHAIR'S CORRESPONDENCE**

There was none.

RD8: **APPOINTMENTS TO TASK GROUPS AND INFORMAL WORKING GROUPS**

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The Panel considered the appointment of Members to serve on the Informal Working Groups and Task groups, which had previously been established by the Panel, for the municipal year 2023/24.

The Assistant Director provided the Panel with an update of the work of the Custom and Self Build Task Group which had been formed in 2016 and the Guildhall and Creative Hub Task Group.

The Panel agreed that the Terms of Reference for the Task Groups and Informal Working Groups should be reviewed and these would be presented to a future meeting of the Panel for consideration.

RESOLVED:

1. That the Custom and Self Build Policy Development Task Group continues to operate as a 5 Member Task Group and the Democratic Services Officer be instructed to seek Membership of the Task Group from Group Leaders for the 2023/2024 municipal year.

1. That the Guildhall and Creative Hub Task Group continues to operate as a 5 Member Task Group and the Democratic Services Officer be instructed to seek Membership of the Task Group from Group Leaders for the 2023/2024 municipal year.

3. That the Tourism Informal Working Group remain established and the Chair liaise with the Chair of the Environment and Community Panel to finalise Membership. The following Members from the Panel were interested in sitting on the group:

- Councillor Bone
- Councillor Bearshaw
- Councillor Heneghan
- Councillor Collingham
- Councillor Dickinson
- Councillor Rust
- Councillor Beal

4. That the Terms of Reference for the above Task Groups and Informal Working Group be brought to a future meeting of the Regeneration and Development Panel for review.

RD9: **TOWN INVESTMENT PLAN AND TOWN DEAL BOARD PROJECTS UPDATE**

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

Officers provided the Panel with an update on the Town Investment Plan and Town Deal Board Projects. A copy of their presentation is attached.

The Panel were also reminded that a Town Deal Board briefing session for all Councillors had been scheduled for 27th September.

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

Councillor Heneghan asked if any elements of the project could still be amended and officers explained that the detail of the projects and options could be, but they needed to meet the outcomes and outputs that had been agreed with Government. It was explained that there was still detailed design and phasing work to be carried out and all funds had to be spent by the deadline of March 2026 as per Government requirements.

In response to questions from Councillor Colwell, it was explained that further reprioritisation could take place if necessary. Design costs, in conjunction with phasing would also have to be agreed and a report would be brought to Cabinet early 2024.

In response to a further question from Councillor Colwell, the Regeneration Programmes Manager explained that in terms of the performance review process carried out by Government, this involved completion of a spreadsheet, which had just been submitted for the October to March period. The 2022/23 performance review had passed and the 2023/24 tranche of payments would be released.

Councillor Heneghan referred to Programme Management Costs and it was clarified that these included Legal and Communications support and key staff costs, such as a Project Accountant.

In response to a question from the Chair, it was confirmed that the Metro Dynamics Economic Data was still relevant, but could be reviewed and further work to put together a wider Economic Growth Strategy could be carried out if required.

The Cabinet Member for Development and Regeneration thanked officers for the presentation which he felt benefitted new and existing Councillors as a refresh. He referred to the successful School of Nursing and suggested that a tour of the facility could be arranged for new Councillors.

Councillor Collingham referred to the Town Investment Plan and the figures contained within it. Officers explained that the Town investment Plan had been prepared in 2021 and was correct at that point in time, but following the reprioritisation exercise costs had been amended. Up to date financial information was available within the Business Case which was available to view at [kings lynn guildhall and creative hub 240622 \(visionkingslynn.co.uk\)](https://www.visionkingslynn.co.uk/240622)

Information was provided on the cost of the Guildhall and Creative Hub Project, the unsuccessful Heritage Lottery Fund Bid, and the previous agreement of Council to underwrite the shortfall. Officers explained that alternative sources of funding were being explored and an options paper would be presented to Council in early 2024.

In response to a question from Councillor Rust, it was confirmed that the Council's budget did include the underwriting provision for this project within the Capital Programme.

RESOLVED: The update was noted.

RD10: **PORTFOLIO HOLDER QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

No questions had been submitted in advance of the meeting.

RD11: **WORK PROGRAMME AND FORWARD DECISION LIST**

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Members of the Panel put forward the below items for addition to the Work Programme:

- Southgates Masterplan Development Plan.
- Local Plan

RESOLVED: The Panel's Work Programme was noted.

RD12: **DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Regeneration and Development Panel would be held on 25th July 2023, time to be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 6.20 pm