

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET 31 OCTOBER 2023 FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY PANEL MEETING HELD ON 3 OCTOBER 2023

EC44: CABINET REPORT – CARE LEAVERS COVENANT

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The Assistant Director presented the report which set out proposals for the commitment to sign the care leaver's covenant. She explained that Norfolk County Council was the primary support network, but each district also had an important role to play to support care leavers.

If the covenant was signed then a local offer of support would be developed. It was noted that there were already some schemes in place to offer support and signing up to the covenant would bring these all together for a joined up approach.

The Chair thanked the Assistant Director for her report and invited questions and comments, as summarised below.

Councillor Kemp indicated she was in favour of this national initiative and asked how care leavers were identified. The Assistant Director explained that work was carried out with Norfolk County Council Corporate Parenting Team for links and contacts to ensure that support was available for them.

Councillor Kemp referred to the Boost Project and asked if this offered training opportunities for care leavers. The Assistant Director confirmed that it did and additional opportunities would also be looked at, for example Mentoring programmes.

The Portfolio Holder for People and Communities, Councillor Rust commented that the Council was committed to providing the best offer for care leavers and hoped that signing up to the covenant would increase opportunities and aspirations.

The Vice Chair, Councillor Devulapalli, referred to the report and commented that it did not include any financial implications. The Assistant Director explained that signing up to the covenant did not have any financial implications, however any additional projects or offers would come back for a separate decision if required.

In response to a further question from the Vice Chair, the Assistant Director explained that links and information to access housing was provided and the provision of information could be looked at again as part of the local offer that would be put together.

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

That the Council commits to taking action to meet the requirements of the Care Leavers Covenant.

EC45: CABINET REPORT – UKSPF 24/25 – CONTINUATION AND EXPANSION OF BOOST PROJECT AND WEST NORFOLK TRAINING GRANTS

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The Executive Director presented the report which set out detail of the projects to be delivered in 2024/25 under the investment priorities local Businesses and People and Skills to ensure smooth transition and continuation of existing projects which currently only had funding approved until March 2024.

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

Councillor Kemp commended this project which was part of the Town Deal. The Executive Director referred Councillor Kemp to the report which provided statistics on how many individuals had benefitted from the project so far. The Portfolio Holder for People and Communities, Councillor Rust informed the Panel that originally as the project had been part of the Town Deal it was focussed on King's Lynn, however extension of the project utilising the UKSPF funding meant that it could be expanded across the Borough and work could be carried out with partner organisations as appropriate including the CITB and Swan Youth Project.

The Vice Chair, Councillor Devulapalli referred to the previous report considered by the Panel relating to the care leavers covenant and made a plea that they would be included in opportunities.

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

1. Endorse the continuation and expansion of the BOOST project for young people across West Norfolk as per section 6, table 2, option 2.
2. Approve the allocation of UKSPF 'People and Skills' funding for the Boost project for 2024/25 as set out in section 7, table 3 of the report.
3. Endorse the continuation and expansion of the West Norfolk Training Grant into 2024/25 as per section 13, table 6, option 3.
4. Approve the allocation of the UKSPF funding for the West Norfolk Training Grant project for 2024/25 as set out in section 12, table 5.
5. Approve the delegated authority to the Assistant Director for Regeneration, Housing and Place in consultation with the Leader and Portfolio Holder for Business to agree delivery arrangements and any changes to ensure the efficient delivery of the Boost and West Norfolk Training Grant projects for 2024/25
6. Officers to provide an annual report on the progress and performance of the projects to the Corporate Performance Panel.

EC49: - EXEMPT CABINET REPORT – MART AGREEMENT

The Assistant Director presented the Cabinet report and responded to questions from the Panel as summarised below.

Councillor Kunes asked if, in the future, it could be built into the contract the need to reduce carbon emissions and the Assistant Director explained that the Mart operators were aware of efficiencies and moving towards this as they replaced systems.

The Panel discussed safety issues and suggested ways that the commercial operator could ensure its own future viability by trialling different ways of operating to increase participation, especially during the current economic climate.

The Portfolio Holder for Tourism, Events and Marketing, Councillor Ring, addressed the Panel and commented that he supported the proposals as set out in the report to ensure the Mart continued to operate safely and hoped that the operator would consider initiatives to ensure that it remained viable.

The Assistant Director confirmed that he had a good working relationship with the operator and would pass the Panels comments on to them, noting that the Panel wanted to see the Mart continue to be successful and viable.

RESOLVED: The Environment and Community Panel supported the recommendations to Cabinet, as set out in the report.