

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CABINET 5 DECEMBER 2023 FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY PANEL MEETING HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2023

EC58: CABINET REPORT – ASSETS OF COMMUNITY VALUE

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The Corporate Governance Manager presented the report which considered the approval of an amended policy and statutory process for Assets of Community Value and the Community Right to Bid. It was explained that the refresh was required following the transfer of Legal Services back in-house and it was hoped that the revised document was now more user friendly and less technical. The document had been completely rewritten, however the fundamentals had not changed.

The Corporate Governance Manager highlighted the amendments to the delegations to authorise Assets of Community and make non-material amendments to the policy, as set out in the recommendations.

The Chair thanked the Corporate Governance Manager for her report and invited questions and comments from the Panel, as summarised below.

Councillor Bhondi commented that this policy was a good tool to protect community assets and he had used it to protect an asset in his Ward. He encouraged Councillors to consider protecting assets of community value as required.

In response to a question from the Vice Chair, Councillor Devulapalli, the Corporate Governance Manager explained that religious use was not a criteria and the definitions were cultural, sporting and recreational uses that provided social value. The Corporate Governance Manager agreed to confirm if religious buildings fell into the definition of social value within the scheme.

Following the Meeting the Corporate Governance Manager confirmed that any land or building could potentially be listed as an Asset of Community Value and it is for the nominating group to make the case, provide the evidence and proof as to how the particular piece of land or building meets the criteria of the act.

Councillor Bubb asked if there were limitations on what could be included and it was confirmed that it had to be an asset that was in current use for the benefit of the community and needed to be protected for social wellbeing.

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

a) Cabinet is recommended to agree the Borough Council of King's Lynn and West Norfolk policy and statutory process for Assets of Community Value, as attached and recommend to Council for approval.

b) The material update to the policy is changing the delegation to authorise Assets of Community Value from council officer to Portfolio Holder in consultation with the Executive Director of Place and relevant ward members.

c) Cabinet is recommended to give delegated authority to the Monitoring Officer to make future non-material updates to the policy (non-material definition – amendments which will not significantly change the policy by will update in line with legislative changes or will achieve improvements to the process).

EC61: **EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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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 item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

EC62: **EXEMPT CABINET REPORT - FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR CARE AND REPAIR HANDYPERSON PREVENTION SERVICE**

Officers presented the report, as included in the Agenda which set out the Framework Agreement for the Care and Repair Handyman Prevention Service. It was explained that the tender process had been carried out and contractors would be appointed from January 2024.

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

The Portfolio Holder for People and Communities, Councillor Rust commented that this was an important service that the Council provided to help with independent living and enabling people to stay in their homes for longer.

RESOLVED: That the Environment and Community Panel supports the recommendations to Cabinet as set out in the report.