
BRECKLAND COUNCIL

At a Meeting of the

CABINET

**Held on Tuesday, 5 January 2016 at 9.30 am in
Anglia Room, The Conference Suite, Elizabeth House, Dereham**

PRESENT

Mr M. A. Wassell (Chairman)	Mr P M M Dimoglou
Mr C G Carter	Mrs E. M. Jolly
Mr T R Carter	Mr P S Wilkinson

Also Present

Mr S.G. Bambridge	Mrs S.M. Matthews
Mr W.P. Borrett	Mr J Newton
Mrs J Hollis	

In Attendance

Anna Graves	- Chief Executive
Julie Kennealy	- Executive Director (Commercialisation)(S151 Officer)
Karen O'Kane	- Norfolk County Council
Maxine O'Mahony	- Executive Director of Strategy & Governance
Rob Walker	- Executive Director Place
Helen McAleer	- Senior Democratic Services Officer

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1/16 MINUTES (AGENDA ITEM 1)

Councillor Dimoglou requested an amendment to the final bullet point on page 4 to correct the number of households and for clarification. The point should read:

- *There are currently approximately 3,000 households across the Breckland District on the waiting list, with approximately 550 households in the priority bands of Gold and Silver (being those in most need of re-housing). Approximately 2400 of those households have expressed a wish to reside in Narborough and surrounding areas.*

Subject to those amendments the Minutes of the meeting held on 1 December 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

2/16 APOLOGIES (AGENDA ITEM 2)

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Turner.

3/16 URGENT BUSINESS (AGENDA ITEM 3)

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None.

4/16 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (AGENDA ITEM 4)

No declarations were made.

5/16 NON-MEMBERS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE MEETING (AGENDA ITEM 5)

Councillors Bambridge, Borrett, Hollis, Matthews, Newton and Sharpe were in attendance.

6/16 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (AGENDA ITEM 6)

None.

7/16 BRECKLAND COMMUNITY FUNDING APPLICATIONS (AGENDA ITEM 7)

The Executive Member for Place advised Members that there was a special grant being offered to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday. The grant scheme was linked to the Clean for the Queen campaign and amongst other qualifying criteria, grant applicants had to hold a 'clean-up' event as well as the Birthday celebration event. The deadline for applications was 1 February 2016 and full details were on the Council's website.

8/16 BROADBAND (AGENDA ITEM 8)

The Chairman presented the report which sought the release of the £950,000 previously approved in principle, to increase Broadband coverage in the District to 94%. He noted that some areas would still not be covered and the Council would rely on the expertise of BT to model viable areas to provide maximum value for money. He asked Ms O'Kane to explain about locally funded schemes, grants and the Universal Service Commitment.

Ms O'Kane advised that European rules applied to locally funded schemes and the correct procurement procedures would have to be adhered to if other sources were used. Although some grants were available it was not possible to mix private money with public money.

The Universal Service Commitment had two parts. A Satellite Voucher Scheme would provide a basic 2MB per second but was only intended for users that would not be covered by the current programme. The Government had also committed to providing 10MB per second to everyone by the end of 2020. That would be provided by BT Open Reach and was likely to entail the use of 4G mobile technology.

The Executive Member for Finance asked for more detailed maps for Members.

Ms O'Kane confirmed that bigger maps could be provided but they were only modelled down to postcode level and did not include details of individual property speeds. The map just provided an interpretation. After the scheme was implemented detail could be provided to property level. Members could visit the website <http://www.betterbroadbandnorfolk.co.uk/> and use the Post Code checker which would give information on whether an area was/would

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be covered and <https://www.btwholesale.com/includes/adsl/adsl.htm> to find out the speed once a cabinet had been fibre enabled.

More information would be on the website once the number of Councils that were participating was confirmed. That information would be known by the end of February. Breckland was the first Council to be making the decision.

The Chief Executive asked what would happen if other Councils decided not to contribute and it was confirmed that the 'clawback' money would be redistributed between those that did participate. There was also an underspend from the first tranche of the programme which would be added to the pot.

It was confirmed that the Council's money would only be spent in the District.

The Executive Member for Governance asked about Beachamwell and Shingham. They were willing to pay into a local scheme or carry out a self-dig and he wanted assurance that they would be covered in the next phase.

Ms O'Kane explained that there were many such examples in the County where one part of a community was covered and a smaller satellite hamlet was not. The best way to provide value for money was to use the BT model to ensure maximum coverage for the money available. Otherwise Members would have to make the difficult decision of which communities to include and which to leave out.

Councillor Borrett supported the proposal which was exactly what residents wanted and would draw in a huge amount of grant money.

The Chairman concluded by saying that in future the Council should work to ensure that developments took Broadband into consideration as it was as important as other utilities.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Members will recall agreeing to a contribution of £950,000 to further extend broadband coverage within the district, which was subject to being satisfied that value for money was achieved. Appendix A has been provided by the BBfN officer who will be attending the Cabinet meeting to answer any questions.

Every county's first contract included dedicated funding for a 'Phase 9' to meet the Government's commitment to offer at least a Basic Broadband speed of 2Mbps for every property.

The Government's Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) team has been developing a single national Satellite Voucher Scheme which will be available in mid-December. The scheme will:

- Run for two years from December 2015 to December 2017
- Be available for premises that have access to speeds of less than 2Mbps, and where a fibre solution is not yet confirmed following survey

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- The scheme will be accessible via the Better Broadband for Norfolk website. Eligible applicants will be issued with a subsidy code that can be used with a number of approved satellite providers

This is not intended as a substitute for Superfast Broadband, it is for those people who do not even have access to a Basic broadband speed. If a Superfast solution becomes possible it will be implemented

OPTIONS

Option 1 - Release the funding for the BBfN, Super-fast extension programme to enable delivery, which will contribute to 6% uplift in coverage in Breckland, taking Breckland to 94%. This is detailed in the table within Appendix A.

Option 2 - Do Nothing – Do not agree to release the funding then Breckland would remain at 88% coverage and would not benefit from the 6% uplift.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) the £950,000 for the Better Broadband for Norfolk Programme (Super-Fast Extension Programme) that was agreed in principle at Council on 17 July 2014 be released. This funding will enable delivery of the programme and achieve 95% broadband coverage in Norfolk County; and
- 2) the concept of participating in the Satellite Voucher Scheme be agreed.

9/16 ALLOCATION OF RESIDUAL GROWTH POINT FUNDING (AGENDA ITEM 9)

The Executive Member for Income & Prosperity explained that the money had originally been allocated by the council for spending through the Moving Thetford Forward initiative which had now finished. The Greater Thetford Development Partnership which was making great progress in planning for future growth in Thetford supported the proposal. She then invited the Executive Director Commercialisation to give further details.

The Executive Director Commercialisation noted that the money was allocated to the council from growth point funding and there were no restrictions on how it could be spent. The Council was keen to make big projects happen and the Thetford Enterprise Park (TEP) had to be a partnership project. The intention was to seek support and a collaborative approach from NCC and the New Anglia LEP to join the project which would provide 'blended finance' for the scheme.

The Chief Executive informed Members that she was currently the interim Chairman of the Greater Thetford Development Partnership Board. They had been consulted on the proposals and whilst they were supportive they had raised concerns about the outstanding projects left over from the Moving Thetford Forward programme.

The Executive Director Place advised that those projects had not been forgotten. S106 funding was being sought to provide for the Play Areas. The Council was working with the trustees of Charles Burrell Museum on their business plan and would support them in making funding applications and NCC and the Town Council were in discussions about the Cosy Carpets site.

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Other legacy projects would be supported in other ways.

Councillor Borrett said that the Council had a good record in Thetford and had spent millions to develop and improve its prosperity. Other schemes would benefit from this huge project. The site was too big for the Council to develop alone and if it could lever in other money it would provide an opportunity to develop something that would be of benefit to the whole community. With the dualling of the A11 the site was in the right place. It was a good project and he heartily endorsed it.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Investment in the TEP provides the opportunity for a greater number of jobs to the area. Participating in a multi-agency solution where a number of stakeholders collaborate, each contributing a proportion of the overall investment requirements secures the greatest opportunity to maximise inward investment, benefiting the town and surrounding villages.

The benefits arising as a result of option1 are measurably greater in terms of job numbers than option 2 and option 2 may be deliverable via other funding sources which are being actively pursued.

Option 3 will not deliver the Councils growth ambitions as set out in the corporate plan.

OPTIONS

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| Option 1 | To allocate any residual growth point funding to the TEP |
| Option 2 | To allocate the funding to the projects submitted but not approved to the MTF board. |
| Option 3 | Do Nothing |

RESOLVED that:

- 1) £489,882 residual Growth Point Funding is allocated to contribute to the delivery of the Thetford Enterprise Park (TEP);
- 2) any unspent project allocations under the now dissolved Moving Thetford Forward Programme (MTF) returned to the Council in the future are allocated to contribute to the delivery of the Thetford Enterprise Park;
- 3) the sums above together with the recently secured Norfolk Business Rates Pool Grant of £450,000 will be utilised as part of a multi-agency package blending financial contributions from a number of inter-agency sources to facilitate the infrastructure investment required to deliver the Enterprise Park; and
- 4) the Executive Director of Commercialisation is requested to represent the Council and in discussions to secure the required multi-agency agreement for successful delivery of the TEP and report back to Cabinet the outcome.

10/16 EARLY INTERVENTION HUB (AGENDA ITEM 10)

The Executive Member for Place invited the Executive Director Place to

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present the report.

The Executive Director Place informed Members that conversations had been held with NCC and partner agencies about the creation of an early intervention hub to prevent problems from escalating and to improve outcomes.

The co-location of staff from NCC, the Police, Housing Associations and the Council would enable joint consideration of cases and then services would be co-designed to make them more accessible.

The hub would be based at Breckland House, Thetford and there were already a number of other organisations there including the ARP and Citizens Advice Bureau.

The proposal would not require an increase in establishment or budget but would mean a change in the way that the Council worked especially the Housing and Communities teams.

The recommendations included the requirement for a performance framework which would be key in providing an indication of how to measure and quantify the success of the hub.

The Executive Member for Finance said it was another excellent report but he had a slight concern about the financial arrangements and encouraged the team to ensure that contracts were tight and included a review mechanism to allow for rent increases in the future.

It was confirmed that contracts would have reviews but it was the intention to seek the recovery of costs on a proportional basis and not to charge rent.

Councillor Hollis fully supported the proposal and said it was a brilliant idea to bring everything together in one place.

The Executive Member for Income & Prosperity agreed completely. She thought it would be difficult to measure the performance and was glad that some benchmarking information was available.

The Executive Member for Governance asked about funding provided by NCC for the Youth Advisory Board which was to stop in September. He wondered if there would be any funding available from the hub. He was advised that there would not but that NCC would be providing a significant contribution in terms of officer time and resources.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

Many of the benefits have been described above. An early intervention approach will ensure a better quality of service for children, young people and families in Breckland. Early intervention will prevent problems developing around, for example: school attendance and attainment, crime and ASB, health and mental health, finance and debt.

This approach will shift spending, action and support for children, young people and families from *Late* to *Early* intervention, from being reactive to giving everyone the best possible start in life (proactive).

Action By

OPTIONS

To endorse and support the transformational work on early intervention that is being developed by this Council in partnership with Norfolk County Council *to enable stronger, more independent communities*;

and

To support the development of a Help Hub at Breckland House, Thetford;

and

To require that a Performance Framework is developed to quantify the benefits realised through early intervention in Breckland.

or

To do nothing or any other action Cabinet determines appropriate.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) the transformational work on early intervention that is being developed by this Council in partnership with Norfolk County Council *to enable stronger, more independent communities* be endorsed and supported;
- 2) the development of a Help Hub at Breckland House, Thetford be supported; and
- 3) that a Performance Framework is required to be developed to quantify the benefits realised through early intervention in Breckland.

11/16 REFERENCE FROM THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION (AGENDA ITEM 11)

None.

12/16 MEMBER DEVELOPMENT PANEL (AGENDA ITEM 12)

The Minutes of the Member Development Panel meeting held on 26 November 2015 were noted.

13/16 NEXT MEETING (AGENDA ITEM 13)

The Chairman reminded Members about the two Local Plan briefings which would take place at 10.00am and 6.00pm on Thursday 7 January. He encouraged everyone to attend as the Local Plan documents would go out to consultation next week.

The arrangements for the next meeting on 9 February 2016 at 09.30 in the Anglia Room, Conference Suite, Elizabeth House, Dereham, were noted.

The meeting closed at 10.15 am

CHAIRMAN