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BRECKLAND COUNCIL

At a Meeting of the

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Held on Wednesday, 21 July 2010 at 10.00 am in
Norfolk Room, The Conference Suite, Elizabeth House, Dereham

PRESENT

Mr R.W. Duffield (Chairman)	Mr I. Sherwood
Mr G.P. Balaam	Mrs L.S. Turner
Mrs J. Ball	Mr D.R. Williams JP
Mrs S.M. Matthews	Mr S. J. F. Rogers
Mrs K. Millbank	

In Attendance

Lindy Warmer	- Senior Economic Development Officer
Diana Dring	- Committee Officer

Action By

24/09 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2010 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

25/09 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Mr P Duigan and Cllr M Chapman-Allen.

26/09 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

None.

27/09 URGENT BUSINESS

None.

28/09 LOCAL JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE: 1 JUNE 2010

The Minutes of the Local Joint Consultative Committee meeting of 1 June 2010 were adopted and the recommendation to take into account the issue of how Social Media policy would fit in with ICT policy was noted.

29/09 LOCAL JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE: 8 JULY 2010

The unconfirmed Minutes of the Local Joint Consultative Committee of 8 July 2010 were adopted. The Chairman commented on the difficulty the Committee had had with the meeting room arrangements.

Action By

30/09 MOVING THETFORD FORWARD DELIVERY TEAM STRUCTURE

The Senior Economic Development Officer presented the report for approval for recruitment of a part-time Technical Administrative Officer on a fixed term basis to work with the Growth programme Manager for 3 days per week to facilitate the successful delivery of Thetford Growth Point.

**Lindy
Warmer**

The post had been approved by Council in February 2008 and had been transferred to Planning Directorate and subsequently lost when CAPITA went forward. As a consequence Thetford Growth Point had been using an agency to provide the administrative support which was costing more. A dedicated person was needed for a fixed term of 18 months, for which funding was already in the budget.

A Member queried the statement in section 4.2.1 of the report that 'there is now a considerable risk in being able to support core team salaries far beyond March 2011' and suggested that the post could be filled by sharing with existing staff as the post may only be required for 6 months, in which case there could be financial implications for terminating the contract early.

The Senior Economic Development Officer confirmed the Thetford Growth Point project was not sustainable without the future funding but this was being investigated. She reassured Members that there would be no redundancy implications if the post was terminated at 6 months. Unused funding for the administrative post had been identified so no extra cost was involved.

A further query was raised regarding why 'there had been poor response from public and private sector MTF Partners in providing additional revenue or human resources,' (S 4.2.1) of the report and expressed concern about extending the project team with a poor result. Another Member said that the 'poor response' was an area that needed to be drilled down by the service manager and urged Members to look at the request to replace, not extend, the Technical Administrative Officer, at a cheaper cost using funding that would be lost otherwise.

Other Members expressed concern about the progress of Moving Thetford Forward and the future funding and sustainability of these programmes. It was suggested that there may be an existing member of staff who would like to extend their hours and take on the administrative role on a short term basis. The Senior Economic Development officer said she would be happy to advertise the post internally initially.

The Chairman commented that the comment made in the report at 4.2.1 should be re-examined by the manager of the Thetford Growth Point. It felt it was important that someone experienced person be taken on as Technical Administrative Officer post so that they could be effective straight away.

Resolved to approve the appointment of an Officer as recommended in the report but with the recommendation that the post is advertised internally prior to external advertising.

Action By

31/09 NEXT MEETING

Members noted the next meeting on 29 September 2010 at 10am in the Norfolk Room.

The meeting closed at 10.40 am

CHAIRMAN