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BRECKLAND COUNCIL

At a Meeting of the

CABINET

Held on Tuesday, 14 July 2015 at 9.30 am in
Norfolk Room, The Conference Suite, Elizabeth House, Dereham

PRESENT

Mr M. A. Wassell (Chairman)	Mrs E. M. Jolly
Mrs L.S. Turner (Vice-Chairman)	Mrs K. Pettitt
Mr C G Carter	Mr I. Sherwood
Mr T R Carter	

Also Present

Mr W.P. Borrett	Mr T. J. Jermy
Mr J.P. Cowen	Mrs S.M. Matthews
Mr D M Crawford	Mr J Newton
Mrs J Hollis	

In Attendance

Julie Kennealy	- Executive Director (Commercialisation)(S151 Officer)
Anna Graves	- Chief Executive
Riana Rudland	- Breckland Place Manager
Rob Walker	- Executive Director Place
Rory Ringer	- Democratic Services Team Leader
Julie Britton	- Senior Democratic Services Officer
Beth Roberts	- Pride Officer
Mr Robert King	- Chairman of Croxton Parish Council

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61/15 MINUTES (AGENDA ITEM 1)

The Minutes of the meeting held on 9 June 2015 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

62/15 APOLOGIES (AGENDA ITEM 2)

None.

63/15 URGENT BUSINESS (AGENDA ITEM 3)

None.

64/15 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (AGENDA ITEM 4)

None.

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65/15 NON-MEMBERS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE MEETING (AGENDA ITEM 5)

Councillors J Hollis, S Matthews, B Borrett, P Cowen, D Crawford, T Jermy and J Newton.

66/15 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (AGENDA ITEM 6)

None.

67/15 BRECKLAND COMMUNITY FUNDING APPLICATIONS (STANDING ITEM) (AGENDA ITEM 7)

The Executive Member for Place presented the two grant application reports, the first for the Swaffham ESCAPE project and the second for the Dereham Wellspring Family Centre; both of which were being recommended for approval.

The Executive Member for Income & Prosperity thought it was wonderful to see these types of applications coming forward as the people behind them were totally committed.

The Chairman agreed and reminded Members that this was what these Match-Funding grants were all about, supporting community projects.

(a) Swaffham ESCAPE Project

The application from Family Action, Swaffham ESCAPE project, if approved, would support individuals of all ages with mental health issues in their transition to a more independent life and participation within the local community.

The Executive Member for People & Information explained the great work that Swaffham Escape did for the community. He felt that it was a very well-run project and had an excellent team behind it and was keen to see this project supported.

Options

1. Fully fund the application as set out in the report.
2. Part fund the application as set out in the report.
3. Do nothing.

Reasons

The Grant Panel had assessed this application for a large Match-Funding grant and the majority supported this funding request with an overall average score of 18 which was the minimum required score.

RESOLVED that the Revenue Match-Funding application of £6,458.13 towards the cost of providing training sessions for Family Action: Swaffham ESCAPE Community Allotment Project be approved; subject to:

1. confirmation that all funding sources are in place;
2. a maximum of £6,458.13 or 20.86% of the total project costs,

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- whichever is the lowest from the Revenue Match-Funding Reserve;
and
3. any other conditions arising from Member comments on Sharepoint.

(b) Dereham Wellspring Family Centre Extension

Dereham Wellspring family Centre was a group of churches involved in many activities. It was always very well attended and was supported by many organisations.

Options

1. Fully fund the application as set out in the report.
2. Part fund the application as set out in the report
3. Do nothing.

Reasons

The Grant Panel had assessed this application for a Match-Funding grant and the majority supported this funding request with an overall average score of 20.25 which was above the minimum required

RESOLVED that the Capital Match-Funding application of £20,000 towards Dereham Wellspring Family Centre for their building extension and improvements be approved; subject to:

1. confirmation that all other funding sources were in place;
2. a maximum sum of £20,000 from the Capital Match-Funding Reserve or 27.9% of the cost of the project whichever is the lowest;
and
3. any other conditions arising from Member comment on Sharepoint.

68/15 SUPPORTING SUCCESSFUL GROWTH IN THETFORD AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES (AGENDA ITEM 8)

Thetford had been given Growth Point status in 2006 and received notification of the award of Growth Point Funding in 2007. The informal partnership of the Moving Thetford Forward local delivery vehicle was accordingly set up under a Memorandum of Understanding in 2008. The aim of this delivery vehicle was to develop a programme of works and attract match funding to enhance the value of the programme. As at 31/5/2015, £1.3m of match funding had been brought to the programme and the total value of projects (capital and revenue) was £8.5m.

Prior to the presentation of the report, the Chairman advised that there was a requirement to nominate an Executive Member to the Greater Thetford Development Partnership (GTDP) under recommendation No.1 and it was proposed and seconded that Ellen Jolly, the Executive Member for Income & Prosperity be appointed.

The Executive Member for Income & Prosperity said that the main purpose of the paper was for Members to acknowledge the contribution that the Moving Thetford Forward Board had provided over the years.

Attention was drawn to the financial aspects in the report.

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The Executive Director of Commercialisation & S151 Officer reported that agreement had already been reached to fund an independent chairman for the GTDP, the cost of which would be relatively small (circa £3k per annum). She explained that the public sector was often complex and the scale of growth that was planned for the Greater Thetford area was such, it was extremely important for a number of different parties to be involved such as Norfolk County Council, Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and land owners alongside Breckland Council. Moving Thetford Forward had been established in a very different environment and although it had made a significant contribution, this was altogether a very different set-up for Members to consider. The bids that had been through the Moving Thetford Forward Board would still be funded and the GTDP would be consulted as to alternative funding options the partnership may wish to support.

The Executive Member for Income & Prosperity referred to the subject title and pointed out that most of the development would take place in Croxton, Brettenham & Kilverstone and both parishes had been extremely supportive of this partnership approach.

The Overview & Scrutiny Commission Chairman whole heartedly supported this partnership approach but he felt that the Council should be thinking outside the box. Someone had to lead this and we, as a Council, needed to drive this forward. Members needed the vision, understanding was also key as to how this whole 'place base' approach would transpire - this was Breckland's opportunity to make its mark in Norfolk.

Councillor Jermy knew that growth would continue whether people liked it or not and agreed that discussions should continue as this could not be moved forward in isolation and he welcomed the aforementioned nomination. Referring to the report where the successes made by MTF were mentioned he was well aware that two were missing. He also mentioned the lack of community engagement by the MTF which he felt had been due to lack of representation on the Board. Less than 1% of MTF funding had been put towards regeneration and he hoped that with the new framework this would be addressed.

The Chairman agreed with this statement and he was confident that the funding streams would allow for regeneration.

Referring to Growth Point status, the Chief Executive advised that the Greater Norwich Development Partnership had moved very quickly in relation to regeneration and there was no reason why the GTDP could not do the same. She welcomed all the comments that had been made.

The Chairman agreed as this was a great opportunity for all to work together and put the politics to one side.

Mr King, the Chairman of Croxton Parish Council who was also representing Mr Poulter the Chairman of Brettenham & Kilverstone Parish Council was in attendance and mentioned the GTDPs decision making powers. He also mentioned the doubts that he had in relation to the development being planned and how this would be brought into the partnership.

The Executive Director for Commercialisation & S151 officer advised that no

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one organisation could manage such a range of different initiatives.

The Chief Executive stated that the days of having a single programme manager had gone and bidding with strong governance arrangements and partnerships were more than likely to be successful.

The Overview & Scrutiny Commission Chairman reminded Members that Breckland Council would, as the local planning authority, remain the decision maker and would be there to help guide everything through and help to influence planning decisions; the public would have influence through the GTDP. It was imperative that Members took this all very seriously as Thetford was a very important part of the Breckland District.

Councillor Borrett supported the creation of the GTDP and was pleased to hear that Cllr Jermy was in support too; however, he could not find any mention of how the performance of the GTDP Board was going to be monitored and he asked if there would be an annual report. Scrutiny was suggested but the Executive Director of Commercialisation & S151 Officer advised that the Board's performance needed to be reported to more than just Breckland Council. The measure of affective growth incorporated such matters as how many jobs had been created, retail space, number of houses and school places etc. A decision from a future Cabinet would be required as to how this collective basket of measures should be reported for the whole of the District. The Chief Executive felt that this should be one of the first matters on the GTDP Board's agenda and considered at the partnership's inception. The Executive Member for Income & Prosperity agreed; it was the responsibility of the partnership to determine its own requirements and aspirations and she assured Members that when fully established performance reporting would be one of the first tasks on the agenda. Councillor Borrett hoped that Breckland's representative would push for measureable outcomes.

Julie
Kennealy

Councillor Crawford, the Opposition Leader gave his own support to the establishment of the GTDP and asked that this be moved forward as soon as possible.

Councillor Jermy felt that decision making powers needed further clarity and he asked if the outstanding MTF bids would come back to Breckland for a decision. Members were informed that they would, Breckland Council was responsible for the residual monies in the Growth Point funding pot; however, the GTDP would be consulted on the proposals.

OPTIONS

Option 1 (recommended).

That the Cabinet supports the establishment of the Greater Thetford Development Partnership (GTDP) as a formally recognised outside body contributing to successful planned growth in and around Thetford and nominates its representative.

Then to formally dissolve the Moving Thetford Forward Board and recognise that MTF's role in attracting inward investment for economic development be an integral element of the new GTDP Board's remit. Consult the new GTDP Board on investment proposals for any residual growth point funding not yet

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allocated by MTF.

This would provide a platform for a move to a contemporary model of place based governance that had proved successful in other areas, for example Norwich. The establishment of the sub groups would ensure strong community representation at Board level.

By consulting with the new GTDP about spending proposals for any residual funding the Council would ensure compliance with the decision making processes required of it as an accountable body for growth point funding and its own internal financial regulations.

There was a risk that some bids have been submitted to MTF for consideration and are awaiting the outcome of any request for funding. This risk could be mitigated by ensuring the new GTDP was consulted on any such outstanding proposals and considers the extent to which any such funding requests might be supported by the partnership through a wider range of funding opportunities open to it than had been available to MTF.

Option 2

Continue with the existing Moving Thetford Forward arrangements in addition to the new GTDP arrangements. The current arrangements were out of scale with the remaining programme and the remit of the Moving Thetford Forward Board did not encompass the wider infrastructure and growth. The MTF funding arrangement was always time limited and the formal agreement was now out of time.

The wider growth agenda critical to the sustainable future of the town and surrounding villages were outside the existing Moving Thetford Forward programme.

Option 3

Do Nothing. This would not overcome the current difficulties associated with multi-agency engagement in the wider growth agenda for the town.

REASONS

The funding landscape had changed and without a collaborative multi agency approach, Breckland Council might not secure the inward investment required to deliver the infrastructure pre-requisite to sustainable economic growth.

RESOLVED that:

1. The establishment of the Greater Thetford Development Partnership (GTD) be approved as a formally recognised outside body contributing to successful planned growth in and around Thetford;
2. Ellen Jolly, Executive Member for Income & Prosperity be formally nominated as the Breckland representative to the GTDP (to be ratified at the next Full Council meeting);
3. Any residual funding from the Moving Thetford Forward Programme (MTF) be earmarked directly towards significant projects that increase

economic activity and opportunity in the GTDP area; and

4. The MTF Board be dissolved and its role in attracting inward investment for economic development be an integral element of the new GTDP's Board remit. The GTDP to be consulted by Breckland Council as the accountable body on proposals relating to allocation of any residual Growth Point funds.

69/15 ANGLIA REVENUES AND BENEFITS PARTNERSHIP (ARP) (AGENDA ITEM 9)

a) ARP Trading Company Restructure (Minute No. 26/15)

The Executive Member for Income & Prosperity explained the background to the Trading Company which had been set up by the two founding partners, Breckland and Forest Heath District Councils who were also the only current shareholders. It had been proposed that the ARP Trading Company should be owned by the six partner Councils with the exception of East Cambridgeshire DC who had not had time to make the decision to join but would hopefully very soon. The Executive Member urged the Cabinet to support the recommendations as she would like Breckland to be in a position to trade with other Councils in future.

The Executive Director of Commercialisation & S151 Officer endorsed the above comments. This was ultimately about being business ready and about getting the partnership to a steady place particularly as the funding streams for benefits were going to be reduced due to the introduction of universal credit.

The Chairman advised that a decision had been made not to admit any further partners to the current partnership but only through the ARPT.

RESOLVED that:

1. Amendments be made to the Company Constitution and Shareholder Agreement to allow the expansion of the ARP Trading Company Ltd to include all full partner councils of the ARP Joint Committee with the exception of East Cambridgeshire.
2. East Cambridgeshire be admitted as a partner of the Company under the same conditions as the six Councils if a request to do so is received before the next Joint Committee.
3. The investment in the ARP Trading Company Ltd in accordance with paragraph 1.5 of the report be approved.
4. Loans of £10,000 each to the Trading Company to cover initial working capital requirements be approved and the Councils Treasury Management policies be amended accordingly; and
5. A person or persons be nominated to represent the authority's interests at Shareholder meetings.

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b) Minutes

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the ARP Joint Committee meeting held on 10 June 2015 be noted.

70/15 NEXT MEETING (AGENDA ITEM 10)

The arrangements for the next Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, 22 September 2015 at 9.30am in the Anglia Room were noted.

The meeting closed at 10.15 am

CHAIRMAN