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**BRECKLAND COUNCIL**

**At a Meeting of the**

**CABINET**

**Held on Tuesday, 21 March 2017 at 9.30 am in  
Norfolk & Dereham Rooms, The Conference Suite, Elizabeth House, Dereham**

**PRESENT**

Mr J.W. Nunn (Chairman)	Mr J.P. Cowen
Mr S H Chapman-Allen (Vice-Chairman)	Mr P. M. M. Dimoglou
Mr S.G. Bambridge	Mrs A M Webb
Mr P.D. Claussen	

**Also Present**

Mr W.P. Borrett	Mrs S.M. Matthews
Mr D M Crawford	Mr J Newton
Mr P. R. W. Darby	Mr P S Wilkinson
Mrs J. Hollis	

**In Attendance**

Maxine O'Mahony	- Executive Director of Strategy & Governance
Anna Graves	- Chief Executive
Rob Walker	- Executive Director Place
Richard Boole	- Environmental Protection Manager (shared)
Susan Heinrich	- Neighbourhood Planning Coordinator
Stephen James	- Communities Manager
Tim Mills	- Executive Manager Growth
Teresa Smith	- Democratic Services Team Leader

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**30/17 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2017 were confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

**31/17 APOLOGIES**

An apology was received from Councillor Robinson.

**32/17 URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

**33/17 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

None.

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**34/17 NON-MEMBERS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE MEETING**

Councillors Borrett, Crawford, Darby, Hollis, Matthews, Newton, Wilkinson.

**35/17 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY)**

The Chairman requested to move Agenda item 12 to Item 7 due to the public in attendance.

**36/17 BRECKLAND COMMUNITY FUNDING APPLICATIONS (STANDING ITEM)**

None.

**37/17 UNSIGHTLY SITES REPORT**

The Executive Member for Place presented the report informing Members that they would be invited to bring forward specific sites for consideration. He explained that this had been discussed at Overview and Scrutiny, and an example of the type of site that would be considered was the garage site in Necton.

Councillor Dimoglou welcomed the report but expressed concern on the delivery of the project, and it should focus on a small number to enable successful delivery.

Councillor Cowen said it was an important initiative and it would also encourage land owners to do something under their own volition.

Councillor S Chapman-Allen asked if the Town and Parish Councils would be involved in this initiative. Councillor Claussen agreed that ward Members would be consulted and added that it would also enable the council to work across the portfolios.

The Chief Executive advised Members that the programme of work should remain tight to enable successful delivery. The Executive Director of Place would consider a programme that would be affordable for the Council.

The Executive Director Place added that there would be a number of powers that the council could use, and that sites would be prioritised with the portfolio holder to focus on the biggest impact.

**Options**

Do nothing – this option would result in no, or limited and uncoordinated, action being taken on unsightly and derelict sites and land, with these sites therefore remaining in a state that continues to significantly and adversely impact on the communities within which they are set. This option is not recommended.

Agree with the recommendation – This option would enable officers to focus their efforts in securing, through a variety of negotiated and punitive measures, significant improvements to sites that currently adversely affect the communities within which they are set.

**Reasons**

To promote a co-ordinated approach to positive intervention on those sites which have a major detrimental effect upon the character, appearance and

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well-being of the communities within which they are set.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cabinet agree to undertake a programme of work to address unsightly and derelict sites and land in the district.

**38/17 Q3 PERFORMANCE REPORT**

The Deputy Leader and Executive Member for Strategy, Governance and Transformation highlighted to Members that one indicator had been reported as red which related to the short term investment forecast. He added that following feedback from the Overview and Scrutiny Commission, the report format would be changed to make it easier to understand.

Councillor Dimoglou explained that the short term investment income forecast was shown as a variance which was within a target.

The content of the report was noted.

**39/17 SWAFFHAM AIR QUALITY REPORT**

The Executive Member People and Information presented the report informing Members that the Local Authority has a duty for local air management and to undertake annual air quality reviews.

Councillor Darby said he had received comments from residents and asked if London Street could be included in the assessment. The Environmental Protection Manager confirmed that a detailed assessment would take place, and it had extended to the roundabout at the bottom of London Street.

Councillor Matthews asked what could actually be done about the air pollution within the Town. The Environmental Protection Manager explained how the action plan would be produced and submitted to Defra, which would open conversations and formalise processes. It was hoped that the action plan could be developed within 12 months and the Overview and Scrutiny Commission would also be involved in developing the plan.

Councillor Cowen highlighted that air pollution was a national issue and the Council had been looking at issues for the last five years, however Swaffham had become a priority.

Councillor Borrett asked if the dualling of the A11 had altered the traffic flow in Swaffham. There had been no evidence of this.

Councillor Darby hoped that the action plan would consider the future development due to take place in the north east of the town.

The Chairman added that there needed to be a balance struck between the developing the town and managing the air quality.

**Options**

1. Declare an AQMA as recommended by Bureau Veritas in the most recent detailed assessment and subsequently develop and submit, in consultation, an air quality action plan for the AQMA area.
2. Do Nothing.

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**Reasons**

To meet the duty imposed on the Council by S.83 Environment Act to manage air quality objectives are met, through the declaration of an AQMA, development of an action plan and subsequent further assessment; and avoid possible action against the authority.

It was **RESOLVED** that option 1 be approved and that an Air Quality Management Area be declared for the geographical area described in detail in the draft order appended to the report.

**40/17 PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDERS**

The Executive Member for Place reported to Members that the Designate Public Protection Order (DPPO) would be ceasing, and would become a Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) with effect from October 2017. However, a consultation would allow for broader areas to be considered.

Councillor Crawford was pleased to see the report and that Thetford had been considered. He asked if Thetford Town Council would be included in the consultation. The Communities Manager confirmed that as well as using social media, hard copies, and the Thetford Contact Centre, the Town Council would also be included in the consultation.

Councillor Newton appreciated the item being brought to Cabinet and stated that a PSPO would give additional powers to the Police as there was only so much power they could use under the DPPO. He added that this had become a priority for the Safer Thetford Action Group over the last two years, and that PSPOs had been successful within South Holland area who had used warning letters which would help the Police.

Councillor Webb asked if the Neighbourhood watch communities would be involved in the consultation, and it was confirmed that the consultation would engage with as many people as possible. Officers would also set up meetings with the Town Council, and include the Chief Inspector to help inform the detail of the final report.

Councillor Newton said that he had provided 216 individually signed letters and asked that they were considered during the consultation phase.

Councillor S Chapman-Allen said he was pleased to see the Council were being the leading light with this project.

**Options**

1. Do nothing. This will mean that the existing DPPOs in the market towns will remain in place until 20<sup>th</sup> October 2017. At this point they will automatically transfer to a PSPO. This is not a recommended option as the council should demonstrate good practice and consider all available powers including its discretionary responsibility to respond to anti-social behaviour using the powers under the Act.
2. Carry out the consultation process as required by statute to enable the council to ascertain and understand the types of complaints and issues that are being experienced by residents and visitors to our market towns and to gather evidence to support any future implementation of PSPOs. Best practice from other areas that have implemented PSPOs suggests that the consultation period should last

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for four weeks and allow online and written submissions.

**Reasons**

1. The consultation exercise will assist the Council in considering:
  - a) If there are specific problems caused by particular ongoing activities, for example street drinking, urination and defecation in the street;
  - b) What action needs to be taken by agencies to address the problem.
2. As Thetford is the town with the highest incidence of anti-social behaviour it is recommended that this be the first area for consultation.

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- 1) That the Council proceed with the necessary consultation on the introduction of Public Space Protection Orders for the five market towns of Breckland;
- 2) That the first round of consultation be in respect of Thetford town centre.

**41/17 YAXHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The Executive Member Growth was pleased to bring the report to Members for information and congratulated the community in being the first to submit a Neighbourhood Plan.

The Chairman asked for it to be noted that due to the tight timescale he had signed the report off before the Cabinet meeting, hence it being for information only.

Maggie Oeschle, the Chairman of the Neighbourhood Plan Group spoke to members and said it was excellent news that there would be a Neighbourhood Plan referendum for Yaxham on the 4 May 2017, and thanked everyone that had been involved. She went on to say that it was a substantial task with major expense involved in preparing the neighbourhood plan and greatly appreciated the support of the Neighbourhood Planning Co-ordinator, Susan Heinrich. She said it was a landmark day and the Neighbourhood plan group were delighted and had learnt a lot including the sense of the community spirit.

Councillors Matthews and Webb congratulated the Neighbourhood Plan Group.

The contents of the report were noted.

**42/17 NEXT MEETING**

The arrangements for the next meeting held on 25 April 2017 in the Anglia Room, Elizabeth House, Dereham, were noted.

The meeting closed at 10.15 am

CHAIRMAN