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BRECKLAND COUNCIL

At a Meeting of the

CABINET

Held on Tuesday, 5 September 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 M. S. Robinson
Mr S.G. Bambridge	Mr A.C. Stasiak
Mr P.D. Claussen	Mrs A. M. Webb

Also Present

Mr W.P. Borrett	Councillor M. Chapman-Allen
Mr K. Martin	Mr H. E. J. Clarke
Mrs S.M. Matthews	Mr M. J. Nairn
Mr J. Newton	Mr P. S. Wilkinson

In Attendance

Anna Graves	- Chief Executive
Christine Marshall	- Executive Director Commercialisation (S151 Officer)
Rob Walker	- Executive Director Place
Mark Stinson	- Executive Manager Governance (Deputy Monitoring Officer)
Julie Britton	- Democratic Services Officer
Cassie Ruffell	- Business Growth Officer

Action By

83/17 MINUTES (AGENDA ITEM 1)

The minutes of the meeting held on 10 July 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman. .

84/17 APOLOGIES (AGENDA ITEM 2)

None.

85/17 URGENT BUSINESS (AGENDA ITEM 3)

None.

86/17 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS (AGENDA ITEM 4)

None.

Action By

87/17 NON-MEMBERS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE MEETING (AGENDA ITEM 5)

The Chairman welcomed back Councillor Chapman-Allen. Members applauded Marion's return.

Councillors Marion Chapman-Allen, Shirley Matthews, Bill Borrett, Harry Clarke, Keith Martin, Mike Nairn, John Newton and Peter Wilkinson.

88/17 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY) (AGENDA ITEM 6)

None.

89/17 BRECKLAND COMMUNITY FUNDING APPLICATIONS (STANDING ITEM) (AGENDA ITEM 7)

The Executive Member for Place (Health Lead) presented two match funding application reports, the first for Carbrooke Village Hall and the second for the Wayland Partnership Development Trust; both of which were being recommended for approval.

(a) Carbrooke Village Hall

The report concerned a large match funding application for renovations to the kitchens and toilets in Carbrooke Village Hall.

Although in support of the application, the Executive Member for Place (Health Lead) felt that additional leverage could be applied to access other funding streams to assist with the growth in the village.

The Executive Member for Finance mentioned a recent development in Wretham which had benefited from S106 monies for the refurbishment of the village hall and felt that this form of funding should be encouraged.

Councillor Theresa Hewett, one of the Ward Members for Carbrooke, had also supported the application.

Reasons

The grant application met the criteria of the scheme.

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

RESOLVED that the Match Funding grant of £14,400 (or 30% of the project costs, whichever is the lower amount) to Carbrooke Village Hall to carry out renovations to the kitchen and toilets be approved.

(b) Wayland Partnership Development Trust

The report concerned an application from the Wayland Partnership Development Trust for £19,972.60 for a new project called Wayland

Action By

Community of Culture. The Executive Member for Place (Health Lead) supported the application as he was impressed with how the town of Watton was developing.

The Executive Member for Governance was also in full support and hoped that Thetford would benefit too with something similar.

Reasons

The grant application meets the criteria of the scheme.

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

RESOLVED that the Match Funding grant of £19,972.60 (or 20.8% of the project costs, whichever is the lower amount) to The Wayland Partnership Development Trust towards a new project called Wayland Community of Culture be approved.

90/17 BUSINESS RATES FOR THE DEREHAM PILOT SCHEME (AGENDA ITEM 8)

The Executive Member for Place (Health Lead) presented the report which concerned the introduction of a discretionary retail rate relief scheme for the five market towns in Breckland.

The Executive Member for Place (Health Lead) was in full support of this scheme as it would allow small independent retail businesses a little relief. He felt that the process should be kept as simple as possible to allow for a better take up. He further felt that this scheme should form part of the Market Town Initiative 'umbrella'.

Councillor Clarke echoed the above comments. He had been disappointed with the lack of support from businesses in Dereham and drew Members' attention to paragraph 1.4 of the report where it stated that some businesses had not been aware of the scheme. He therefore felt that it should to be reinforced and promoted accordingly.

The Executive Member for People and Information thought that the scheme was an excellent initiative as market towns, in this day and age, needed to be supported to encourage more businesses into the town centres.

The Executive Member for Growth echoed the aforementioned comments but pointed out that it was a very simple process - you either qualified or not. Referring to Watton, in relation to the Wayland Partnership, mentioned in the previous Minute, he felt that the reinstatement of the Dereham Business Forum was very important as it would ease the interaction between the Council and businesses.

The Executive Member for Growth and Commercialisation was pleased that all Members were in favour of the scheme as any help to businesses would be welcomed.

Action By

The Leader had listened to the comments made about Dereham and asked how Officers were proposing to inform businesses of eligibility. The Business Growth Officer advised that there were many ways that businesses could be notified but a full marketing campaign would be required.

The Executive Director of Place explained that he and the Communications Manager were already working on a Communications Strategy to promote the scheme.

The Executive Member for Finance asked if retail premises in rural areas would qualify. In response, Members were informed that it would depend on the location and where the boundaries were defined.

Reasons

Breckland Council had a clear corporate commitment to helping its market towns to thrive in order that they in turn provide the required support to surrounding villages and hinterlands. It was recognised that Breckland's market towns need to be vibrant and busy, offering an interesting and enjoyable experience to visitors. Out of town and online shopping have drawn many people away from town centres; thus, businesses found it hard to sustain a presence on the High Street. High rents, competition and business rates added to the problem of void premises, a preponderance of charity shops in some town centres and low quality retail offers in others. Breckland Council had an important role in facilitating the renaissance of its town centres.

Options

1. Members consider the introduction of a discretionary business rate relief scheme for new retail businesses filling empty properties within the five market towns of Breckland. The scheme would commence in early 2018 with applications accepted over a 12 month period. The scheme would offer up to 80% business rate relief for a 12 month period and would be targeted at businesses that met all eligible criteria. The scheme as a whole would be reviewed annually. Financial details of the scheme had been attached to the report.
2. Do nothing – continue to offer the current scheme of small business relief and the Government Empty Premises relief.

RECOMMEND to Council that the discretionary retail rate relief scheme within the five market towns of Breckland, as detailed in the report, be adopted.

91/17 QUARTER 1 FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2017-18 (AGENDA ITEM 9)

The Executive Member for Finance presented the report which provided information on the forecast full year financial position of the Council as at 30 June 2017 and progress to date on the Moving Forward Transformation Programme. He commended the report and drew attention to the under-spend highlighted at paragraph 1.2.

Action By

Reasons

To provide timely information to Members of the overall financial position of the Council, enabling resource re-allocation to priorities where necessary.

Options

That the report and appendix be noted.

RESOLVED that the report and appendix be noted.

92/17 NEXT MEETING (AGENDA ITEM 10)

The arrangements for the next meeting on Tuesday, 17 October 2017 at 9.30am in the Norfolk Room were noted.

93/17 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC (AGENDA ITEM 11)

RESOLVED that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and the 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 paragraphs 3 and 4 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

94/17 PROCUREMENT OF WASTE AND RELATED SERVICES CONTRACT (AGENDA ITEM 12)

Members were provided with a detailed overview of the report.

The Deputy Leader suggested that the delegated authority, referred to in recommendation 1, refer instead to the Director of Strategy & Governance and the Deputy Leader and the same individuals be appointed to the Board referred to in recommendation 4.

Reasons

As set out in the report.

Options

As set out in the report.

RESOLVED that the recommendations, as amended, be approved.

The meeting closed at 10.25 am

CHAIRMAN