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**BRECKLAND COUNCIL**

**At a Meeting of the**

**CABINET**

**Held on Tuesday, 4 May 2021 at 9.30 am**

**This meeting is in line with the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020.**

**PRESENT**

Cllr Sam Chapman-Allen (Chairman)	Cllr Mark Robinson
Cllr Paul Claussen (Vice- Chairman)	Cllr Ian Sherwood
Cllr Gordon Bambridge	Cllr Sarah Suggitt
Cllr Philip Cowen	Cllr Alison Webb
Cllr Paul Hewett	

**Also Present**

Cllr Timothy Birt	Cllr Helen Crane
Cllr Bill Borrett	Cllr Vera Dale
Cllr Marion Chapman-Allen	Cllr Philip Morton

**In Attendance**

Ralph Burton	- Assistant Director Property and Projects
Jason Cole	- Assistant Director Customer and Performance
Andrew D'Arcy	- Planning Policy Manager
Rachel Gibbs	- Planning Policy Officer
Maxine O'Mahony	- Executive Director of Strategy & Resources (Head of Paid Service)
Julia Perry	- Change Manager and Organisational Development Officer
Sarah Wolstenholme-Smy	- Legal Services Manager (Deputy Monitoring Officer)
Simon Wood	- Director of Planning & Building Control
Julie Britton	- Democratic Services Officer
Teresa Smith	- Democratic Services Team Leader

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**40/21 MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 March 2021 were confirmed as a correct record.

**41/21 APOLOGIES**

None.

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**42/21 URGENT BUSINESS**

None.

**43/21 DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**

Councillor Cowen declared an interest in Item 9 of the agenda and would move to the waiting room whilst the item was discussed.

**44/21 NON-MEMBERS WISHING TO ADDRESS THE MEETING**

The Chairman welcomed all non-members present to the meeting.

**45/21 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS (IF ANY)**

None.

**46/21 BRECKLAND COMMUNITY FUNDING APPLICATIONS (STANDING ITEM)**

The former Executive Member of the Leisure and Culture informed Members that three awards had been recently given as part of the Inspiring Communities Grant Funding. The awards had been provided to:

- Saham Toney Parish Council to replace doors and windows at the sports pavilion £4,300 (or 50% of the total project cost, whichever is the lower amount).
- Loch Neaton Recreation Ground £1,000 (or 49% of the total project cost, whichever is the lower amount) to replace the boardwalk and
- Great Hockham Parish Council (or 50% of the total project cost, whichever is the lower amount) to install dog proof fencing around the children's play area.

Councillor Crane was pleased to support the grant application for the Saham Toney Pavilion and felt that the grant would make a big difference.

Councillor Cowen was also grateful to the Council in providing the funding to Great Hockham Parish Council that would be of great benefit to the community.

**47/21 NORFOLK STRATEGIC PLANNING FRAMEWORK**

The former Executive Member for Planning, Councillor Paul Claussen presented the report that asked Members to endorse the draft Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework.

Councillor Hewett added that the document provided an update to the planning framework and made additions to areas such as the environment, and felt that the Cabinet and the Council, would work together with other Authorities to meet the strategic ambitions of the strategic planning framework. The data contained within the report was stark and growth was expected to grow immensely over the coming years. By 2036, 31% of the population would be over the age of 65 which posed specific challenges around transport, housing, housing need, environment and some of those challenges could be met with conflict. Whilst there was ambition within the

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framework to walk and cycle more, it may prove difficult to deliver with an aging population. In addition, the framework considered electric charging points, but the District was faced with capacity constraints on power generation. The Council would continue to work in partnership with Authorities to deliver the obligations within a tough environment.

Councillor Birt felt that the needs of Breckland could be unduly influenced by the needs of Greater Norwich and asked why the Council would not consider information from the west of the District. He went on to say that he was pleased to see that climate change had been included within the framework but felt it did not display the action the Council would take with regard to Climate Change. Councillor Birt also felt disappointed that there had not been any engagement with the University of East Anglia who had important data available regarding climate.

Councillor Claussen informed Members that the Strategic Framework provided an overarching framework to allow each Planning Authority to produce its own local plan in its own way, and that the issues raised by Councillor Birt would be addressed within the Local Plan.

The Director for Planning and Building Control added that climate change reflected government advice of what the planning authority could do through the planning process and that there was ongoing work at a national level that would consider how the building regulations would help to work towards carbon zero aim which would be reflected in planning policy going forward. He agreed to investigate engagement with the University of East Anglia.

Options

- 1) That Cabinet endorse the draft Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework v.3.
- 2) That Cabinet does not endorse the Strategy and risks losing influence during the next round of plan preparation and a failure under the duty to co-operate requirement.

Reasons for Recommendation

To ensure that Breckland continued to have a strong voice within Norfolk and to establish key areas of common ground on key areas relating to the local economy, housing, infrastructure, and environment and delivery matters in a cost-effective manner.

**RESOLVED** that the Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework and Statement of Common Ground (V3) 2021 and the Agreements contained therein be endorsed.

**48/21 BRECKLAND BRIDGE LTD BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE**

The former Executive Member for Contracts and Assets, Councillor Paul Hewett presented the report that asked Members to approve the Breckland Bridge Ltd Business Plan for 2021 to 2026.

Councillor Birt asked if the Breckland Bridge project had met or exceeded the Net Profit. The Assistant Director for Property and Projects confirmed that the latest scheme of 10 new homes developed in Attleborough had exceeded

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the anticipated values when the project was approved by shareholders.

Councillor Morton asked if the developments within the project incorporated climate change and sustainability. The Executive Member stated that it was the ambition of the Council to lead by example and that the project did incorporate sustainability. The Assistant Director for Property and Projects added that he would share the Sustainability appendix for the Business Plan.

Councillor Borrett added that it was an unusual but forward-thinking concept that had provided regeneration as well as an income stream that allowed the Council to continue to keep its Council Tax at a low level.

**Options**

- 1) Cabinet approves the updated Breckland Bridge Ltd Business Plan for 2021-2026.
- 2) Cabinet does not approve the updated Breckland Bridge Ltd initial Business Plan for 2021-2026.

**Reasons for Recommendation**

The main reasons for approving the Business Plan are as follows:

- Overall performance of the partnership is good with three successfully delivered projects.
- The next Business Plan is financially viable, based on the assumptions upon which it has been modelled and providing the risks are managed and the controls embedded within the legal documentation are adhered to.
- There are added benefits to being in the partnership and the Business Plan is delivery focused. This does not lose the flexibility of receiving services from the partnership as required and the ability to access additional property development expertise and skills efficiently.
- Subject to the risks identified which continue to be monitored the overall return to the Council is still positive in terms of regeneration and financial outturn.

**RESOLVED** that the updated Breckland Bridge Ltd Business Plan for 2021-2026 be approved.

**49/21 AGILE WORKING POLICY**

The former Executive Member for Governance, Councillor Suggitt, presented the report that sought approval for the new Agile Working Policy that would provide a framework for effective working practices based on the Worksmart vision "Enabling our people, in spaces and places, to connect and work smarter".

Councillor Hewett thanked the Team who had worked on the Policy that would allow the Council to be fit for purpose for now and the future. The framework allowed Officers to work anywhere and was based on output rather than input which was a critical framework to get correct. The Policy had regular input from the Union and the staff and would allow the Council to meet the needs of the residents.

Councillor Birt noted that the report had made reference to carbon footprint and asked how this would be measured. He felt that there could be an

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imbalance, particularly if people were working at home they had to heat their homes versus travelling into the building which was already there. Councillor Suggitt informed Members that she would ask the Sustainability Team to consider this, as the information would also link with other projects and reports.

Options

- 1) To approve the Agile Working Policy
- 2) To not approve the Agile Working Policy

Reasons for Recommendation

To mitigate risk as the Council moved into new ways of working and ensure appropriate policies were in place to deal with employee related issues in a fair and consistent manner.

**RESOLVED** that the Agile Working Policy be approved.

**50/21 ANGLIA REVENUES AND BENEFITS PARTNERSHIP**

The minutes of the Anglia Revenues and Benefits Partnership Joint Committee held on 9 March 2021 were noted.

**51/21 NEXT MEETING**

The arrangements for the next meeting on 14 June at 9.30am were noted although this would be confirmed.

*It should be noted that since the meeting, the arrangements for the next meeting has been re-scheduled from the 14 June to Monday 21 June at 9.30am and will be held in the Conference Centre at Elizabeth House, Dereham, COVID restrictions permitting.*

The meeting closed at 10.10 am

CHAIRMAN