

## **BRECKLAND COUNCIL**

### **Report of the Director (Organisation Development) to the CABINET – 12 December 2009**

#### **REFERENCE FROM OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION**

##### **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 Cabinet is asked to consider the following reference from the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission held on 26 November 2009 following the call-in for scrutiny of the delegated decision regarding the appointment of a specialist consultant to assist with the delivery of Phase 4 of the Snetterton Utilities Project.

##### **2. Recommendations**

- It is recommended that the Cabinet notes that:
- 2.1 the Commission supports the delegated decision regarding the appointment of a specialist consultant to assist with the delivery of Phase 4 of the Snetterton Utilities Project; and
  - 2.2 bearing in mind the benefit that a successful outcome of the project would bring to them, the Commission would encourage that further endeavours are made to secure additional contributions towards the project from local landowners.

**Note:** In preparing this report, due regard has been had to equality of opportunity, human rights, prevention of crime and disorder, environmental and risk management considerations as appropriate. Relevant officers have been consulted in relation to any legal, financial or human resources implications and comments received are reflected in the report.

##### **3. Contract for Delivery of Snetterton Utilities Phase 4 – Limited Exception**

- 3.1 By delegated decision dated 27 October 2009, approval was given to make an exception under Section 2(a) of Contract Standing Orders to permit the appointment of Inventa Partners as a specialist consultant to assist in the delivery of Phase 4 of the Snetterton Utilities Project, to bring more energy suppliers to the table and enhance the Council's negotiating position.
- 3.2 The decision was called-in within the 5-day scrutiny period by Mr. R.G. Kybird and the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission on the grounds of "insufficient financial data and concern that only one consultancy can provide the identified advice" and was subsequently considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission at its meeting on 26 November 2009.
- 3.3 The Commission has considered the relevant exempt report in the matter and has received further background information on the various stages in the development of this project which is aimed at finding a solution to the critical energy supply requirements to support future development in the Snetterton area.
- 3.4 Members of the Commission are satisfied that the appointment of Inventa Partners followed a comprehensive selection process and that the company does offer a brokering expertise that the Council does not have. On that basis, the Commission has confirmed its support for the decision.
- 3.5 During discussion of the matter, members of the Commission had regard to the considerable benefits that a solution to the energy supply issue in this area would bring to local landlords and were of the view that further endeavours should be made to secure additional contributions towards the project from local landowners.