

Economic Development Sub- Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held on 13th July at 10.00 am at County Hall.

Present:

Mrs C Walker (Chairman)

Mr R Bird
Mr J Childs
Mr S Clancy
Mr T Jermy

Mr B Spratt
Mr J Timewell
Mr A White
Mr M Wilby

Also Present:

1 Apologies and Substitutions

Apologies received from Mr I Mackie (substituted by Mr A White).

2 Minutes

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 20th May 2015 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 Declaration of Interest

- 3.1 No declarations were made.

4 Items of Urgent Business

- 4.1 The Chairman allowed Mr B Spratt to raise a matter regarding the disruption to email service for Members for the last 7 days and asked that a paper be provided to explain the reasons for this.
The Sub-Committee **Agreed** that ICT should report to all members the reasons for the disruption to the email service.
- 4.2 The Chair allowed Mr M Wilby to raise a query regarding the re-opening of Great Yarmouth Racecourse as any delay would cause disruption to local businesses. Mr J Childs informed the Sub-Committee that he had been made aware that the Racecourse should re-open on 30 August 2015.

5 Local Member Issues / Questions

5.1 No Local Member questions were received.

6. Update from Member Working Groups

6.1 The Sub-Committee received updates from the following member working groups and recent Member activities:-

- Mrs C Walker informed the Sub-Committee that the next meeting of the Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex and China Partnership was due to be held on the 18th August.
- Mrs C Walker also reported that she had been to a meeting at the House of Commons with Mr D Dukes, organised by EEEGr (East of England Energy Group) to raise the profile of the energy sector in our area with ministers and civil servants. The new decommissioning facility at Great Yarmouth, which the County Council had supported, was also announced.
- In response to a comment from Mr S Clancy about the need to lobby for the third river crossing in Great Yarmouth, she reported that the Chair of the LEP, Mark Pendlington, had offered to support the business case for the Crossing and would attend an all-party meeting with the minister responsible – to be requested.
- Mr Clancy proposed, seconded by Mrs C Walker that the Chair write to the LEP and to Brandon Lewis MP to show that the Norfolk County Council Economic Development Sub-Committee supported this important issue and to help gain support from the local MP. This was **Agreed** by the Committee.

7. Internal and External Appointments

7.1 The Committee received the report from the Head of Democratic Services which outlined the outside and internal appointments relevant to the Economic development Sub-Committee.

7. The Committee **RESOLVED** to appoint the Members as set out in **Appendix A**.

8. Scottow Enterprise Park Update

8.1 The Sub-Committee received the report from the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services which provided the Sub Committee with information regarding discussions that were taking place concerning the formation of a heritage trust at the former RAF Coltishall site..

8.2 The officer presented to the Sub-Committee the option to engage with a heritage trust for the Scottow Enterprise Park; this would be an independent trust that would lease heritage assets from Norfolk County Council to then run. The Sub-Committee **agreed** that the Scottow Working Group should nominate the representatives.

- 8.3 Mr J Timewell as Chairman of the Scottow Working Group raised a query about the detailed process for agreeing contracts and leases for the Scottow Enterprise Park. The Committee noted the current decision making processes, including the type of decisions that would be made by the Economic Development Sub Committee.
- 8.4 The Sub-Committee heard that all the significant assets at the Scottow Enterprise Park were being used. Three of the hangars were being used as storage and one was being used by a manufacturing company. The runway was being well used on a regular basis and that the Enterprise Park was in a good place financially.
- 8.5 The Sub-Committee noted the update and **Agreed** that:
- In the event a Charitable Heritage Trust is formed in relation to the former RAF Coltishall, the Sub-Committee would wish to nominate three representatives to act as Trustees and representatives of the Council. The Scottow Working Group should nominate these representatives.

9. Economic Opportunity in North West Norfolk

- 9.1 The Sub-Committee received the report from the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services which outlined the proposed approach for the new task and finish group.
- 9.2 The Sub-Committee were informed that officers for the working group still had to be agreed; an invitation to Mr M George from King's Lynn and West Norfolk had been made but the Borough Council was considering who to put forward to work with the group. Jose Socao and Michelle Burdett from North Norfolk Council had agreed to participate.
- 9.3 Mr S Clancy suggested that the Chairman of the working group could approach the LEP (Local Enterprise Partnership) to see if they would offer an appointee as this would be helpful.
- 9.4 Members discussed how this group was crucial for creating a framework that could be used in other areas of the county.
- 9.5 The Sub-Committee **Agreed**:
- That the proposed list of officers and Members to be involved in the new task and finish group would be e-mailed to the Sub-Committee Chair and that the Group starts with a review of the economic opportunity in an area of North West Norfolk, to be defined at the first meeting, reporting back to the Sub-Committee in due course.

10. East Anglia Rail Franchise

- 10.1 The Sub-Committee received the report from the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services which outlined the current position of the East Anglia Rail Franchise.
- 10.2 The Sub-Committee discussed that the report was very informative but that most of the initiatives would hinge on the performance of Network Rail. It was fundamental that there was an improvement of Network Rail to secure the best outcomes from the franchise.
- 10.3 The Sub-Committee were informed that the current franchisee worked in partnership with Network Rail to solve any issues, and we would expect the new franchise to do the same.
- 10.4 The Sub-Committee discussed the importance of improving the amenities at local stations, such as ticket offices, parking, disabled access and waiting rooms.

Mr S Clancy proposed, seconded by Mr J Timewell, that the Chairman write to central government to put further weight to the importance of an improvement in the performance of Network Rail.

This was **Agreed** by the Sub-Committee

- 10.5 The Sub-Committee Agreed to continue to work with government and the rail industry to secure the best outcomes for Norfolk.

11. Finance and Performance Monitoring report

- 11.1 The Sub-Committee received the report from the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services which provided the Sub-Committee with the financial position for the service to the end of June, including the planned use of reserves.
- 11.4 The Sub-Committee noted the report.

12. Forward Plan

- 12.1 The Sub-Committee received the report from the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services which set out the Forward Plan for the Economic Development Sub-Committee.
- 12.2 The Sub-Committee noted the report.

The meeting closed at 11:00am.

Chairman



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Appendix A

Economic Development Sub-Committee Outside Bodies

1. Agri-Tech (Eastern) Programme Board (1)

Beverley Spratt

This body makes decisions on the eastern Agri-Tech Growth Initiative Programme Board about which projects to fund from this specific Regional Growth Funded scheme.

2. BID (Norwich Business Improvement District) (1)

George Nobbs (Richard Bearman sub)

The Norwich BID is run for local businesses by local businesses. It aims to make a clear positive impact on the vitality of the City centre and the business within it.

3. Norwich Airport Consultative Committee (1)

Shelagh Gurney, Sub David Collis

These meetings are a DfT requirement to enable aerodrome operators and communities in the vicinity of the airport to discuss operational and business matters affecting their interests.

4. Norwich Airport Board (Non-Executive Director) (1)

George Nobbs (Sub Mike Sands).

5. Norfolk and Suffolk Energy Alliance (NSEA) (1)

Martin Wilby

A partnership of five local authorities, including NSEA, the two Chambers of Norfolk and Suffolk and the East of England Energy Group, which aims to promote the two counties for investment linked to the energy sector, with a primary focus on offshore renewables.

6. Norfolk Rail Group (4)

Membership to include the Chairman of Economic Development Committee Dev and 3 other members.

Chairman of Economic Development Committee
Andrew Boswell
Tim East

Michael Chenery

To consider strategic rail policy issues and respond to such issues as they arise, and lobby and pursue rail policy objectives on a continuing basis between Norfolk Rail Policy Group meetings.

7. Norfolk Chamber of Commerce and Industry (1)

John Timewell

Norfolk Chamber of Commerce is an independent, not-for-profit Company that aims to support its membership be more successful and to improve the Norfolk economy.

8. Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) (1)

George Nobbs

The LEP is the public/private economic development partnership for Norfolk and Suffolk.

9. Greater Thetford Development Board (1)

Denis Crawford

10. New Anglia Skills Board for Norfolk and Suffolk (1 plus 1 Substitute)

Bev Spratt

A sub group of the LEP Board which is tasked with steering the implementation of the Greater Norwich/ Greater Ipswich City Deals and the Strategic Economic Plan. Membership consists of representatives of the Further Education sector and training providers with employers. Both Norfolk and Suffolk County councils are represented and can nominate a substitute.

11. Great Yarmouth Town Centre Partnership Company (Gt. Yarmouth) Ltd (1)

Jonathan Childs

The Partnership meets and discusses all relevant issues concerning the Town Centre.

12. Hethel Innovation Ltd (2)

Bev Spratt
John Timewell

Runs Hethel Engineering Centre and provides innovation-led business support to businesses in Norfolk/East of England.

13. Great Yarmouth Port Authority (1)

Patrick Hacon (to May 2016)

The Great Yarmouth Port Authority is the parent body of the Outer Harbour. It is a Trust Port deriving its income from Pilotage Charges on commercial shipping entering the port.

14. Eastport – Community and Marine Liaison Committee (1)

Jonathan Childs

To exchange information, ideas and proposals for discussion between the constituent interest groups and the Port's CEO and Harbour Master, thus improving co-ordination and understanding between the different port users and interest groups within Great Yarmouth with relevance to the operations of the Port.

15. Great Yarmouth Development Company - Area Board (1)

Colleen Walker

The Norfolk Development Company was established to promote economic development on behalf of the local authorities of Norfolk, with an initial emphasis on physical regeneration and development. The company provides a structure for joint ventures which enables new projects to be agreed and implemented more quickly. Individual companies can be established – the first to do so was the Great Yarmouth Development Company, a 50-50 partnership between the County Council and Great Yarmouth Borough Council. The agreement states the representative should be the lead member for Economic Development

16. EU Projects

France (Channel) - England Cross Border Programme Monitoring Committee (PMC) (1)

Jonathan Childs (Bert Bremner Sub)

Two Seas Cross-Border Programme Monitoring Committee (1)

Jonathan Childs (Bert Bremner Sub)

The role of the committees is to set the policy framework and take strategic decisions in relation to these funding programmes. As we develop the next set of programmes (covering the period 2014 - 2020) the PMCs will be

consulted on the future programme priorities and structures and the County Council has an important role in shaping these.

17. Local Transport Body (LEP sub Group) (1)

Colleen Walker

18. Royal Norfolk Agricultural Association (1)

Ian Mackie

The objectives of the Association are to promote, through the Royal Norfolk Show and other events, the image, understanding and prosperity of agriculture and the countryside.

19. The Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex China Partnership (1)

George Nobbs

Colleen Walker (sub)

The Partnership consists of the three leaders of the authorities, who have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop the Partnership with Jiangsu Province. They meet quarterly to oversee the progress of the Partnership.

Member Champions

Apprenticeships – Colleen Walker

County Farms – Ian Mackie

Rail – Michael Chenery