

Economic Development Sub- Committee

**Minutes of the Meeting held on 12 May 2016 at
10.00 am at County Hall.**

Present:

Mr S Clancy (Chairman)	
Ms C Bowes	Mr J Timewell
Mr J Childs	Mrs C Walker
Mr C Foulger	Mr A White
Mr B Iles	

Also Present:

Mr B Spratt
Mr D Ramsbotham

1A Apologies and Substitutions

Mr B Bremner for Mr T Jermy.

1B Chairman's comments: Mrs Colleen Walker, the previous Chair of the Sub-Committee.

The Chairman placed on record the Sub-Committee's thanks to Mrs Colleen Walker, the previous Chair of the Sub-Committee, for all her hard work during her period in the chair. He said that he would continue with the approach that had been taken by Mrs Walker and look to have the Sub-Committee reach decisions about economic development issues on the merits of each issue, rather than on purely political considerations.

2 Minutes

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on the 24 March 2016 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

3 Declaration of Interest

- 3.1 There were no declarations of interest.

4A Items of Urgent Business

There were no items of urgent business.

4B The withdrawal of the report on County Farms— Item 9 on the Agenda.

- 4B.1** The Chairman said that he intended to withdraw the item on County Farms from the agenda because he wanted the key issues that needed to be addressed as part of the county farms review to be considered at a meeting of the County Farms Advisory Board before a detailed report was presented to this Sub-Committee at its next meeting on 14 July 2016, as recommended by Audit Committee.
- 4B.2** Mr B Bremner, Mr Childs, Mr J Timewell and Mrs Walker said that they were of the opinion that the county farms report should be considered at this meeting and asked for this to be recorded in the minutes. They said that the Sub-Committee had helped instigate* the review of county farms and it was important for this matter to be discussed in the public domain at this time because they had serious misgivings about how the review was being carried out.
- 4B.3** Having heard the views of Members of the Sub-Committee, the Chairman said that he remained of the view that the report should be withdrawn. With no objection to the withdrawal of the report from the report author, and the Chairman being advised by Democratic Services that it was for the Chairman to rule on this, the Chairman withdrew the report.
- 4B.4** The Sub-Committee considered it important for the Advisory Board meeting to be formally minuted. The Chairman said that he would formally request this.
- 4B.5** It was confirmed that any Members of the County Council were free to attend the next meeting of the Advisory Board which was scheduled for 27 May 2016.

**Note: After the meeting it was confirmed by the Chief Internal Auditor that the Audit Committee (for the Governance Audit) and the Executive Director of Finance (for the Lines of Enquiry) had originated the review. The Sub Committee would be asked by Audit Committee to receive the Audit Reports and the CFAB report.*

5 Local Member Issues / Questions

- 5.1 There were no local member issues/questions.

6 Public Question Time

- 6.1 There were no public questions.

7. Member Working Group Update

- 7.1 The Sub-Committee received verbal updates from members for the following outside bodies:-

7.2 **Norfolk, Suffolk, Essex China Partnership**

- There had not been a meeting of the Partnership since the Sub-Committee had last met.

7.3 **Scottow Enterprise Park Working Group**

- The project was going well and Mr S Coward's input was proving to be invaluable.
- Two large companies would be moving to the Scottow Enterprise Park in the near future.
- The buildings around the site had been brought up to a higher standard.
- Existing bases at the site were being relent.

7.4 **Norfolk Rail Group**

- There were no new issues to report at this meeting. Mr Tim East had been nominated as Chairman of the Group.

7.2 **North West Norfolk Economic Development Working Group**

- It was noted that this Working Group had come to an end.

8. **Norwich Aviation Academy**

8.1 The Sub - Committee received a presentation from David Dukes, Economic Development Manager, about the International Aviation Academy - Norwich.

8.2 The following points were raised during the presentation and in the ensuing discussion:-

- This project would be the first of its kind in the UK, and possibly the world.
- The Academy building was designed to enable a core pipeline of entrants into the aviation world to be trained from age 16 onwards.
- Starting with engineering, the Academy would provide access for courses across a total of six areas of aviation.
- The BSc (Hons) Professional Aviation Engineering Practice degree was the first of its kind. It would be delivered by CCN, in partnership with KLM, validated by the UEA. It has already recruited over 30 entrants.
- Recruitment had also already started for several 16-18 courses.
- The Academy could take up to a maximum of between 200 and 250 students undertaking a wide range of long and short term courses. Details regarding these courses were included in a list that was passed around the committee tables for Members to see.
- The Emulation Zone would be CAA compliant, as the aircraft would technically still be airworthy. There was no intention to move the aircraft until it became obsolete for training purposes.
- The total build costs for the project were originally estimated at £12.23m, funded from a range of public and private sources that had been made public

previously. Details can be found on the Committee pages website. However, costs had come in a little higher, but thanks to value engineering and amendments, the project remains on budget and there are not expected to be any major issues.

- Previous presentations to members had explained the huge growth in aviation world-wide, and the lack of skilled people in all areas, but especially engineering.
- Norwich already had significant and well-established training facilities through KLM UK Engineering and CCN. The airport has space (a rare commodity at most airports) and the various partners including the County Council have worked together to create a facility to capitalise on that opportunity.
- The Academy would be operated by International Aviation Academy - Norwich Limited (IAA-N Ltd). This will be the Academy Board and will take over from the existing Project Board when it commences operating in late 2016.
- The current Project Board would continue to operate for the next few months to finalise the design and construction of the Academy but with operational issues dealt with by the IAA-N Board.
- The Academy Board will be responsible for the management and operation of the Academy on a day to day basis plus marketing its use to secure more tenants, building maintenance and facilities management provision, strategic property and future management of expansion projects.
- Selected Academy tenants would be invited to be members of a liaison/advisory board to represent the views of the tenants and help inform the successful operation of the Academy. That would be formed formally later this year.
- Norse had created Norse Development Company Ltd to hold the asset and to receive the LEP grant. Ultimately, Norse stood behind the loan provided by NCC.
- Building work has already commenced with demolition prior to re-build now fully underway. The planning application for change of use to an educational facility was submitted in Dec 2015 and had been granted in full, although a couple of conditions remain to be met.
- KLM UK Engineering and City College Norwich were expected to commence fit-out in January 2017 with full building completion and handover at Easter 2017.

8.3 The Sub-Committee noted the detailed presentation.

9. County Farms

9.1 It was noted that this item had been withdrawn from the agenda for this meeting. Please see minute 4B above.

10 Finance Monitoring report

10.1 The Sub-Committee received a report from the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services that provided the Sub-Committee with the financial position for the service to the end of the 2015-16 financial year, including the planned use of reserves. The report also provided an overview of the budget for 2016-17.

10.2 The Sub-Committee noted the year end position for Economic Development and Strategy for 2015/16 and the budget for 2016/17.

11 **Performance Management Report**

11.1 The Sub-Committee received a report from the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services that was based upon the revised Performance Management System, which was implemented as of 1 April 2016, and the Sub-Committee's 4 vital signs indicators.

11.2 It was noted that performance was reported on an exception basis using a report card format, meaning that only those vital signs that were performing poorly or where performance was deteriorating were presented to the Sub-Committee. None of the vital signs indicators had met the exception criteria therefore no report cards had been included in the report. All report cards were made available to view through Members Insight. It is intended to make these available through the Council's website for future meetings.

11.3 After giving careful consideration to the proposal set out at paragraph 1.5 of the report that an annual report on housing was provided to the EDT Committee and to this Sub-Committee it was:

RESOLVED-

That the Sub-Committee receives at its next meeting a baseline report (that forms the basis for a series of annual reports) from the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services about the correlation between new homes built throughout Norfolk (including housing site completion figures) in the preceding 12 months and the impact that this has had on the creation of jobs in the local economy.

12 **Year End Update on EU Funding programmes, excluding France (Channel) England**

12.1 The Sub-Committee received a report from the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services.

12.2 The Sub-Committee also received a presentation from Eliska Cheeseman, Programme Manager, about securing EU funding for Norfolk. The presentation explained the work of the EU team in securing additional funding for NCC and organisations across Norfolk.

12.3 The Chairman said that he would like the information included in the presentation and in the report about the wide range of EU funding that both NCC and Norfolk's businesses and organisations could benefit from to be shared with County Councillors (through Members Insight) and Parish Councils in Norfolk (through appropriate links).

- 12.4 The Sub-Committee noted the annual report and that following the initial investment of £250K:
- the FCE programme will see the council managing a €209m programme;
 - EU Bids valued in excess of £21.3m from across Norfolk are currently being assessed.
 - £7.4 m secured by NCC for direct delivery to businesses in rural areas
 - £13m secured to manage programme delivery and provide support to future applicants in the coming years.

13. Apprenticeships – Update

- 13.1 The Sub-Committee received a verbal update from Jan Feeney, the Employment and Skills Manager, about the work that was being done to increase the number and levels of apprenticeships in Norfolk.
- 13.2 Laid on the table were details to show how apprenticeships carried out in Norfolk compared with those in the East of England and in the country as a whole.
- 13.3 During discussion Members stressed the importance of Norfolk's apprenticeship strategies and activities taking on board the needs of those with mental health difficulties and those undertaking engineering and manufacturing apprenticeships as well as supporting youngsters seeking appropriate careers advice at school.
- 13.4 The Sub-Committee noted the report and placed on record their appreciation of the high level of work that was being done by Jan Feeney and her team to support apprenticeships in Norfolk that was seen as a flagship activity of the County Council.
- 13.5 The Sub-Committee also noted that at the next meeting they would be presented with details about various apprenticeship strategies and activities. Members also asked for the Apprenticeships Norfolk Strategic Plan and details of the Enterpriser Adviser project together with the names of high schools participating in each.

14. Forward Plan and delegated decisions

- 14.1 The Sub-Committee received a report from the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services which set out the Forward Plan and other relevant decisions taken under delegated powers by the Executive Director within the Terms of Reference of the Sub-Committee since the last meeting on 24 March 2016.
- 14.2 The Sub-Committee noted the forward plan subject to the following additions:

At the meeting on 14 July 2016:

- To receive a report from the County Farms Advisory Board (see minute 4 B).
- To receive a baseline report (that forms the basis for a series of annual reports) from the Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services about the correlation between new homes built throughout Norfolk (including housing site completion figures) in the preceding 12 months and the impact that this has had on the creation of jobs in the local economy.

- 14.3 The Sub-Committee noted the delegated decisions that were set out at paragraph 2.1 of the report.
- 14.4 The Sub-Committee also supported a request that Mrs C Walker made in the meeting that she be provided with an opportunity to be included in a County Council delegation to Parliament in support of a 3rd river crossing for Great Yarmouth.

The meeting closed at 11.40 am

Chairman



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