

Minutes of a meeting of the **Economic Success Panel** held at Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich on **Wednesday 22 January 2020** at **6pm** when there were present:

Mrs J K Copplestone – Chairman

Mr S C Beadle

Mr N J Brennan

Ms S J Catchpole

Mrs T M Mancini-Boyle

Mrs K A Vincent

Also attending were Mr S Vincent and Mr M Murrell.

Officers in attendance were the Director of Place, the Strategic Economic Growth and Funding Manager and the Committee Officer (DM).

### 10 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Member	Minute No & Heading	Nature of Interest
Mr S Beadle	14 – Investment Proposal for the Food Innovation Centre	Other interest – Director of a company whose customers included 2 companies associated with the project

### 11 APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Mr A D Crotch.

### 12 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 19 August 2019 and the joint meeting with the Wellbeing Panel on 20 November 2019 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

*19 August 2019 - Minute no 8 – Car Parking – a Consistent Approach*

In response to a question regarding the timeframe for work on this project, the Chairman indicated that it was proposed to undertake the survey work January to March 2020, the consultations from April to June 2020 and the drafting of the report in the autumn 2020.

### 13 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

#### **RESOLVED:**

to exclude the Press and public from the meeting for the remaining business because otherwise, information which was exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 would be disclosed to them.

### 14 INVESTMENT PROPOSAL FOR THE FOOD INNOVATION CENTRE

The Panel considered the report of the Strategic Economic Growth and Funding Manager briefing Members on an investment proposal to fund a project which would deliver a Food Innovation Centre located within the Food Enterprise Park (Honingham) and support a programme for the agri-food sector. This proposal would act as a catalyst for unlocking the site at pace as well as enhancing the agri food sector to provide economic benefits including new jobs, business growth increasing GVA and increased spend on R&D. The site and sector were strategically important to the region as recognised within the New Anglia Local Industrial Strategy and within two priority locations (Greater Norwich and the Cambridge/Norwich Tech Corridor) within the Norfolk and Suffolk Economic Strategy.

The Strategic Economic Growth and Funding Manager explained the background to the development of the potential project and highlighted the key elements of the proposals.

The Panel was invited to consider the proposals and formulate a view to recommend to Cabinet.

A detailed discussion took place on the proposal, as set out in the exempt minutes attached. Members recognised the significance and importance of the project but were mindful of the risks associated with the development of the project and the need for finalisation of the detailed proposals.

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND** Cabinet to support the recommendations contained in the report to progress work on the potential project, together with an additional recommendation that financial provision be made to cover the costs of preparatory work as set out in the exempt minutes.

*NB. The Chairman advised Members that, due to the close proximity of the date of the next scheduled meeting of the Economic Success Panel, on 17 February 2020, this meeting would be cancelled.*

The meeting closed at 7:30pm