

ECONOMIC SUCCESS POLICY DEVELOPMENT PANEL

Minutes of a meeting of the Economic Success Policy Development Panel of Broadland District Council, held at the council offices on Monday 21 February 2022 at 6pm.

Committee Members Present: Councillors: A Crotch (Chairman), N Brennan, S Beadle, S Catchpole, J Davis and K Leggett.

Cabinet Members Present: Councillors: J Copplestone and T Mancini-Boyle.

Officers in Attendance: The Assistant Director Economic Growth (GD), the Community Assets Manager (MH), the Programme Manager – Economic Growth (DBM), National Management Trainee (EH) and the Democratic Services Officer (LA)

63 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST UNDER PROCEDURAL RULE NO 8

Member	Minute No & Heading	Nature of Interest
Cllr S Catchpole	69- Bure Valley Railway Future Options Review	Ward Member where part of the Business was based

64 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N Harpley, L Hemsall G Peck and K Vincent.

65 MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 22 November 2021 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

66 ECONOMIC GROWTH PLAN – DRAFT

The Programme Manager for Economic Growth introduced the report highlighting that to complement national, regional, and local economic strategy and policy, an Economic Growth Plan had been developed for Broadland and South Norfolk Council. This plan would map out a delivery plan against the Council's ambition of supporting economic growth and set out a case for future investment.

The draft plan had been brought before members to seek input on the content feeding into the final Economic Growth Plan. The Final Plan was expected to come before the Panel at the next scheduled meeting in April where the formal approval process would commence.

The Panel noted at a district level, the Council's Strategic Plan 2020-2024 outlined three objectives for supporting Economic Growth across the districts:

- Promote areas as a place that businesses want to invest in and grow, attracting investment for our areas
- Create an inclusive economy which promotes skills and job opportunities for all.
- Build a productive, high performing and dynamic economy for the future.

In addition to the above, further Council documents also outlined aspirations and activities to support businesses and communities to be more resilient and enable growth. These included 'Our Plan for Recovery from the Covid-19 Crisis', 'Delivery Plan 2021-2022' and the 'Draft Delivery Plan for 2022-2024'. The National Management Trainee took members through a presentation that provided further details on the subject areas within the draft plan, including the strengths and weaknesses of each section.

The Chairman thanked officers for their presentation and opened the discussion up for comments from the Panel. A question was asked around the decision for a joint plan to be created with South Norfolk Council. Officers explained that work resulting from the plan would form cluster workstreams that would cover both areas.

The Portfolio Holder for Finance asked for clarification as to how the progress of the plan would be monitored. She further stressed the need for any performance measures to reflect what was happening in the Broadland area. Officers confirmed that separate KPIs would be measured at both Councils. Further clarification was sought on the role of the Environmental Officer in the joint plan who was solely employed by Broadland District Council. It was noted that work was separated to make sure this was upheld.

One Member queried the name of the plan, explaining further that the Economic Growth Plan would be best suited as an Economic Strategy. Officers explained that the title originated from the department as a whole and offered a broad approach to enable a wider range of areas to be covered.

A concern was highlighted regarding the placement of the Carbon Neutral target under section eight: "Threats" and that the Carbon Neutral target should be treated as an opportunity rather than a threat. The Chairman commented that placement of the target highlighted the possible disruption to local businesses in achieving the target and the cost of this. The Portfolio Holder for Finance agreed and added that a wording change would help resolve this issue.

In response to a question about when members had been consulted on the draft plan, officers explained that discussion took place late last year with the Cabinet members and officers would amend the report to reflect this. After further questions from members, officers stressed the need for the document to be broad to allow a range of work to be completed.

A member raised the importance of securing better transport links within the district to provide key service links for residents. The Assistant Director for Economic Growth agreed, adding that officers would continue to apply pressure to partners.

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Development welcomed the plan and added that the plan had been highlighted as a goal in the original feasibility study. She noted that it had been a long process with the Council seeing a lot of change in the area over the last year resulting in the need for the plan to be put in place.

Reference was made to affordable housing and the suitability of the areas suggested in the report. A member commented that in previous years the Council had a policy in place in relation to shared ownership which allowed residents to pick the location they wanted to live. Officers stated that they would look back to see the parameters of the policy but noted that this would sit outside the scope of the plan.

Several members were pleased to see the opportunities within the plan for improvements in health and wellbeing. After officers answered further questions on specific areas, it was unanimously:

RESOLVED:

Members noted the draft plan and made the comments reflected above. The final plan would be brought to the next Economic Success Policy Development Panel in April to commence the formal approval process.

67 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED:

To exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following two items of 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.

68 BROADLAND COUNTRY PARK

Members considered the exempt report of the Community Assets Manager which gave the Panel an update on the progress made at the Broadland Country Park. The report also outlined the proposals for ongoing improvement of the site and proposed a structure of governance for the project when moving onto the next phase.

Following discussion, during which officers answered members' questions, it was then,

RESOLVED to recommend Cabinet:

to delegated authority for the Assistant Director Economic Growth, in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder for Economic Growth, to establish a decision-making Project Board for Broadland Country Park.

69 BURE VALLEY RAILWAY FUTURE OPTIONS REVIEW

Members considered the exempt report of the Community Assets Manager which was inviting the Panel to recommend Cabinet to agree proposals for future options for the Bure Valley Railway Future. Following discussion, during which officers answered members' questions regarding finance and further options, it was

RESOLVED to recommend Cabinet:

To support Option 5.1 contained in the exempt report.

(The meeting concluded at 7.55pm)

Chairman