

CABINET DECISION NOTICES FOR THE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 7 DECEMBER 2016

Call-in period: Friday, 9 December 2016 to Thursday, 15 December 2016

Implementation Date: Friday, 16 December 2016

(For clarity, where an item is 'to be noted' or 'received' this is deemed not to be a formal Executive decision and so the call-in provisions will not apply)

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Cabinet Area	Tourism, Economic Development & Rural Affairs
Title of Report	Lowestoft Ness Regeneration Scheme (East of England Park)
Report Reference	REP1488

Purpose of Report

To seek approval for delegated authority to be given to the Strategic Director, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, in the event of the bid being successful (decision expected March 2017), to accept the grant and agree to the terms and conditions of a contract.

Options Considered

None. A full options appraisal was undertaken following the community consultations in 2014/15. Options for the project were appraised against the AAP objectives, deliverability (including funding) and sustainability criteria. Other funding streams have been considered and sought, however the Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) has provided the greatest opportunity to date.

Reason for Decision

The DCLG will be assessing CCF bids in December 2016 and early 2017, with a final decision on the bid being announced in Spring 2017. At the second stage of the bid, the applicant has to ensure that the project is ready to go as soon as an announcement about the bid is made. Therefore this report seeks delegated authority for a Strategic Director, in the event of the bid being successful, to accept the grant and agree to the terms and conditions in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member. As the result of the bid is unknown at this point, a contract with terms and conditions is not available, however the generic Coastal Community Fund Standard Terms and Conditions for contracts and the generic Additional terms and conditions for Capital projects are appended to the report.

CABINET DECISION:

That Delegated Authority be given to the Strategic Director, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member, in the event of the bid being successful, to accept the grant and agree to the terms and conditions.

Declarations of Interest /	None
Conflicts of Interest	

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Cabinet Area	Tourism, Economic Development & Rural Affairs
Title of Report	Great Places External Funding Bid
Report Reference	REP1493

Purpose of Report

To seek approval to proceed with a grant proposal to Great Places, which has the potential to position culture within Lowestoft as a driver for economic growth and to build a sense of place, community pride and to enhance people's lives and to provide grant aid ranging from £500,000 to £1,500,000 to deliver the project.

Options Considered

Not to apply for the Great Places External Funding Bid. This was rejected as not being in the best interests of the District.

Reason for Decision

If the grant funding is approved, then it will bring in external investment into Lowestoft which has the potential to increase cultural provision, audience participation, change the perception of the town and boost the visitor economy.

CABINET DECISIONS:

- 1. That the submission of a partnership application with Great Yarmouth Borough Council to the Great Places Scheme administered by Heritage Lottery Fund and Arts Council England be approved.
- 2. That the provision of 10% match funding towards the overall cost of the project be approved.
- 3. That the Council enters into a partnership agreement with Great Yarmouth Borough Council, to support delivery partners and deliver activities, subject to the confirmation of Great Places funding.

Declarations of Interest /	None
Conflicts of Interest	

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Cabinet Area	Tourism, Economic Development & Rural Affairs and Resources & Welfare Reforms
Title of Report	Proposed Policy and Guidance for Local Discretionary Rate Relief
Report Reference	REP1489

Purpose of Report

To seek approval to extend Waveney District Council's current business rate relief policy to include Local Discretionary Rate Relief (LDRR). As a result of the Localism Act 2011, Councils are, via the LDRR, able to award rate relief to any type of organisation, rather than a nationally pre-defined, relatively narrow range of organisations as was the case prior to this act.

Options Considered

Not to have a policy to operate the Local Discretionary Rate Relief. This was deemed to be untenable if the Council was to deploy all of its powers to proactively secure business investment in the District, in line with the East Suffolk Business Plan vision, three pronged strategy and specific economic growth actions.

Reason for Decision

By adopting a policy which allows the Council to award Local Discretionary Rate Relief, the Council is maximising the tools at its disposal to secure new business investment within the District. Furthermore, this allowed the Council to direct this investment in line with its key growth sectors and its strategic employment sites. This would also support the East Suffolk Business Plan on multiple levels.

CABINET DECISIONS:

- 1. That the proposed policy and guidelines to determine applications for Local Discretionary Rate Relief (LDRR) be adopted.
- 2. That the establishment of a panel consisting of the relevant Cabinet Members and Officers, to determine applications for LDRR be approved.

Declarations of Interest / Conflicts of Interest	None

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Cabinet Area	Operational Partnerships & Lowestoft Rising
Title of Report	Built Facilities – Waveney Strategy Document
Report Reference	REP1384

Purpose of Report

To present to the Cabinet the results of the Waveney Built Facilities Assessment and to seek Cabinet approval for the adoption of the Waveney Built Facilities Strategy Document and to deliver against the action plan, as set out in the strategy document.

Options Considered

Not to adopt the Waveney Built Facilities Strategy Document or endorse the Action Plan, as set out in the Strategy Document. This was rejected as it was important to have a co-ordinated and evidence based approach to Waveney built sporting facility provision and to focus investment where gaps had been identified.

Reason for Decision

To have a co-ordinated and evidence based approach to Waveney built sporting facility provision and to focus investment where gaps are identified.

CABINET DECISIONS:

- 1. That Waveney District Council adopts the Waveney Built Facilities Strategy Document, subject to the sites within the Strategy being available for public use.
- 2. That Waveney District Council endorses the Action Plan set out in the Waveney Built Facilities Strategy Document.

Declarations of Interest /	None
Conflicts of Interest	

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Cabinet Area	Tourism, Economic Development & Rural Affairs and Resources & Welfare Reforms
Title of Report	Local Discretionary (Business) Rate Relief Application (Exempt Report)
Report Reference	REP1490

Purpose of Report

To consider the award of Local Discretionary Rate Relief to a company, in order to secure a significant business investment in Lowestoft.

Options Considered

Not to award business rate relief. This was rejected as it was not in the best interests of the Lowestoft economy.

Reason for Decision

By awarding business rate relief as outlined in the report, a significant investment in the Lowestoft economy will be secured. This investment aligns very strongly with both the Council's business plan and Economic Growth Plan ambitions, objectives and actions and will further strengthen Lowestoft's growing offshore wind sector.

CABINET DECISION:

That the award of Local Discretionary Business Rate Relief to a company, on the terms as discussed at the meeting, be approved.

Declarations of Interest /	None
Conflicts of Interest	

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Cabinet Area	Resources & Welfare Reforms
Title of Report	Rent Review of Southwold Beach Hut Sites (Exempt Report)
Report Reference	REP1512

Purpose of Report

To seek confirmation as to how to progress the rent review for Southwold Beach Hut Sites, in relation to rent levels.

Options Considered

To continue to apply the annual inflationary rent review in lieu of the 2016 market rent review. Whilst this would likely be more acceptable to tenants, it would not be in the best interests of the Council.

Reason for Decision

Comparable evidence has been analysed, providing a range of values all of which are in excess of the current rents. Although any increase in rent was unlikely to be received favourably by the tenants, the evidence clearly supported this level of rent, which would help to achieve the best value for the Council.

CABINET DECISIONS:

- 1. That an increase in base rent per annum as discussed at the meeting, including VAT, payable from 01 April 2017, be approved.
- 2. That rent review memoranda notices are sent to each beach hut tenant identifying the new rent and the date the rent applies as soon as possible.
- 3. That the Southwold Beach Hut Owners Association is simultaneously advised by letter, with an explanation of the base new rent and the revised payment date.

Declarations of Interest /	None
Conflicts of Interest	

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Cabinet Area	Operational Partnership & Lowestoft Rising
Title of Report	Direct Award for the Replacement of Car Park Pay and Display Machines (Exempt Report)
Report Reference	REP1476

Purpose of Report

To seek approval for Delegated Authority to be granted to the Strategic Director, acting in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Operational Partnerships & Lowestoft Rising, to agree a Direct Award for the replacement of Waveney District Council's Pay and Display Machines.

Options Considered

Not to replace the Council's Pay and Display Machines. This was rejected as the old machines would not be able to accept the new £1.00 coins which will come into circulation in March 2017, which would result in a significant loss of pay and display income.

Reason for Decision

To ensure that an efficient and reliable service is maintained throughout the replacement of the car park pay and display machines, installed pre March 2017, in readiness for the circulation of the new £1.00 coin and without loss of income.

CABINET DECISION:

That Delegated Authority be granted to the Strategic Director, acting in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Operational Partnerships & Lowestoft Rising, to agree a Direct Award to Parkeon for the replacement of Waveney District Council's Pay and Display Machines.

Declarations of Interest /	None
Conflicts of Interest	

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Cabinet Area	Resources & Welfare Reforms
Title of Report	Redevelopment of 18 Ferry Road, Southwold (Exempt Report)
Report Reference	REP1402

Purpose of Report

To seek approval for the development of a vacant building plot at 18 Ferry Road, Southwold.

Options Considered

Not to develop the site. This was rejected as it was not in the interests of the local economy of Southwold.

Reason for Decision

To develop an under-used plot, in order to secure a long term income stream through investment and development of a vacant plot of land in a tourist area.

CABINET DECISIONS:

- 1. That the commitment of financial and staff resource to complete the development of the site as proposed in this report to create a single structure divided into two flats to be let as holiday accommodation, commencing with a planning application for the design shown in Appendix II and make recommendation to Full Council for the sum, as discussed at the meeting, to be included in the Capital Programme for immediate spend be approved.
- 2. That the award of a contract to develop an under-used site and complete the development of a row of timber framed properties that will enhance the area and deliver a design sympathetic to the locality and neighbouring properties and further support Southwold's tourism and local business sector on terms that best protect the Council's interest be approved.

Declarations of Interest /	None
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Cabinet Area	Resources & Welfare Reforms
Title of Report	Demolition and Redevelopment of Chalets 1 – 58, Jubilee Parade, South Lowestoft (Exempt Report)
Report Reference	REP1483

Purpose of Report

To seek approval to award a contract for the demolition and redevelopment of Chalets 1 - 58, Jubilee Parade, South Lowestoft, on terms that protect the Council's interests.

Options Considered

No other options have been considered. The structural engineer's report has identified the most appropriate course of action for the site.

Reason for Decision

To create an improved infrastructure and reinstate the coastal defence, remove defective structures from the seafront and provide an opportunity to redevelop the site.

CABINET DECISIONS:

- That the commitment of the sum, as discussed at the meeting, and to make a recommendation to Full Council for the sum, as discussed at the meeting, to be included in the Capital Programme for immediate spend, to complete the stabilisation of the retaining wall at Jubilee Parade, Lowestoft and the demolition of the remaining adjacent structures on terms that best protect the Council's interests be approved.
- 2. That the immediate commencement of the reinstatement works including procuring, awarding contracts, allowing a margin of plus or minus ten percent, and undertaking all other related works relating to the reinstatement of the wall and subsequent demolition of the remaining structures during 2016/17 financial year with the procurement of the works through a competitive process or through a single supplier route tested under the SCAPE Agreement allowing a margin of plus or minus ten percent and approval to award be delegated to Strategic Director and Chief Finance Officer in consultation with Portfolio Holder for Resource and Welfare Reform be approved.
- That all works are to be preceded by a local communications and engagement process.

Declarations of Interest /	None
Conflicts of Interest	

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Cabinet Area	Resources & Welfare Reforms
Title of Report	Redevelopment of Battery Green Car Park, Lowestoft (Exempt Report)
Report Reference	REP1484

Purpose of Report

To seek approval for the redevelopment of Battery Green Car Park, Lowestoft.

Options Considered

Not to redevelop Battery Green Car Park, Lowestoft. This was rejected due to the constructional issues associated with the building's integrity.

Reason for Decision

The structure of the Car Park is showing signs of erosion and is reported to be unviable to repair. The redevelopment of the site is therefore in the best interests of the Lowestoft economy.

CABINET DECISIONS:

- 1. That the closure of the Battery Green Car Park with effect from 6 January 2017 be approved.
- 2. That, subject to obtaining the necessary planning consent for demolition, Delegated Authority be granted to the Strategic Director and Chief Finance Officer, acting in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Resource and Welfare Reform, to let a contract up to an estimated value as discussed at the meeting, for the demolition of the Battery Green Car Park and make recommendation to Full Council for the sum, as discussed at the meeting, to be included in the Capital Programme for immediate spend.
- That the commitment of financial and staff resource to complete a detailed options appraisal, feasibility assessment and business case for the redevelopment of the Battery Green Car Park to the value, as discussed at the meeting, be approved.
- 4. That agreement is given for the temporary use of the cleared site for car parking during the options appraisal and feasibility assessment period, prior to practical redevelopment of the site, subject to the obtaining of all appropriate consents.
- 5. That the completed business case exploring redevelopment options for the Battery Green Car Park site be the subject of a further report to Cabinet in 2017.

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Cabinet Area	Resources & Welfare Reforms and Operational Partnerships & Lowestoft Rising
Title of Report	Marina Theatre Proposals (Exempt Report)
Report Reference	REP1481

Purpose of Report

To consider a business case for the Marina Theatre proposals.

Options Considered

Not to consider the business case for the Marina Theatre proposals. This was rejected as this would create significant uncertainty regarding the sustainability of the Theatre and its ability to develop.

Reason for Decision

The option and recommendations contained within the report are in the best interests of the Marina Theatre and the Council.

CABINET DECISIONS:

- 1. That officers continue discussions, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Members, with the Marina Theatre Trust on the purchase of the Zenith building.
- 2. That negotiations would be carried out within the financial parameters set out in this paper. Any final decision would be subject to Cabinet approval and a final business case.

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