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MEETING OF THE GREAT YARMOUTH LSP EXECUTIVE

17 August 2007 – 10.00 am

PRESENT:

J Ratcliffe (GYBC) (in the Chair); T Aydin (GYP), L Blizzard (GYWPCT), M Burns (GYBC), P Cheeseman (GYP), T Cockburn (NCC Childrens' Services), J Cook (NCC Social Services), N De Jong (GO-East), D Glason (GYBC), R Gregory (Neighbourhood Management Board), B Horner (Norwich and Norfolk Voluntary Services) and J Lomas (NCC – LAA Team).

R Darnell, N Darwish, R Percy and S Davis (GYBC officials) and T Leonard (LSP Officer) and D Stannard (LSP Consultant).

C Reilly (Great Yarmouth Community Trust) and A Cousins (GYWPCT) attended by invitation.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from D Bartlett, C Congreve, G Empson, H Foale, M Hartley, J Holt, A Lipp and P Wright.

2. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2007 were confirmed subject to the addition of apologies for absence from Lyn Blizzard (GYWPCT).

3. MATTERS ARISING

It was noted that there were no matters arising from the above minutes.

4. LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK

The Executive received a copy of the Key Milestones – Schedule of Local Development Documents for the Local Development Framework. It was noted that national planning guidance for the Framework had come into force in 2004 and the most crucial parts were now underway with each document having three rounds of consultation. The Planning Policy Manager reported that the developing Sustainable Community Strategy would be linked to the Local Development Framework's Core Strategy. Members were also informed that a number of supporting documents had been commissioned as an evidence base, such as a retail assessment, landscape character assessment and strategic flood risk assessment for the Borough. The Planning Policy Manager reported that, as part of the Framework, there was a need to look at the future land uses throughout the borough, ie whether they should be designated as commercial, retail or tourism etc.

Reference was made to the requirement to build 6,000 homes in the Borough in the period 2001–2021, and it was noted that 1,500 to 2,000 housing units had already been delivered and that the URC proposals covered a further 2,000 units. New guidance indicates that 35% of all new builds must be affordable and the forthcoming Housing Market & Needs Assessment would be used as an evidence base to inform the type of houses that were needed around the Borough. The County Council will model the proposals on the highway network to ascertain the impact of the new housing. Further discussions would be held with the County Council's Children's Services Department in relation to the potential for new schools in locations where there was a lot of new building taking place. The Planning Policy Manager added that the issues surrounding flood risk on residential developments are to be taken into account. The point was made that there was also a need to address the potential of increased anti-social behaviour when already densely populated areas were increased. Members were informed that, as far as possible, there would be an attempt to try to design out crime in the early stages.

RESOLVED:

That the Planning Policy Manager be thanked for his update in relation to the Local Development Framework and it be agreed that all the Executive Members' details be added to the LDF consultation database.

5. PLANNING WHITE PAPER

The Council's Planning Policy Manager gave a brief outline of the content of the above White Paper and a copy of the Executive Summary was circulated for information. He added that the White Paper aimed to improve the speed and efficiency of dealing with planning issues, it reaffirmed the importance of the role of the LSP and linked it with the Sustainable Community Strategy.

6. GREAT YARMOUTH COMMUNITY TRUST

Carole Reilly attended and gave a brief presentation in relation to the Trust's activities and aims for the future. It was noted that the Trust had been a charity for approximately six years and had been the lead agency for Sure Start but had now broadened its remit to include adults and the elderly etc. Carole Reilly reported that since her appointment her main priorities had been to ensure that the books balanced and to keep the Grade 1 listed building running as a going concern. She stated that the intention was to become a social enterprise which would remove the need for being reliant on grant funding. The Executive received a copy of the annual report for 2005/06, together with details of the Priory's research services which it was hoped would provide an income for the Trust, to help it become sustainable. Members were informed that the Trust ran two children's centres, one at the Priory and one at the Greenacre School, and also delivered a wide range of services to the community, which included learning provision, a nursery and a crèche. Carole Reilly reported that she was also focussing on the second round of a lottery bid for funding to restructure part of the building to make it more accessible which hopefully would also make it more sustainable.

RESOLVED:

That Carole Reilly be thanked for her informative presentation in relation to the Great Yarmouth Community Trust.

7. NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUNDING

(a) Commissioning Activities for Young People

The Executive received details of the results of the Rapid Response Bids Assessment Panel which had considered various projects for NRF

year seven funding. It was noted that the Panel had consisted of 12 people from all parts of the LSP, with bids totalling nearly £55,000 being approved under their delegated power. Members were reminded that it had been agreed that projects needed to provide “additionality”, which meant that some project proposals had not been successful.

(b) Mini Bidding Round

The Executive received the notes and results of the sub-group meeting on 23 July to consider Year 7 slippage bids, together with details of all the funding available to spend. Members were reminded that existing schemes had been asked if they wanted further funding and the projects had been ranked in priority order for spending as and when funding became available. The LSP Officer reported that there was a possibility of £22,000 under-spend remaining and a discussion ensued on possible uses of that funding, which included more projects for young people, and/or the progression of the Employment and Skills Action Plan projects. He added that a meeting of the Action Plan Sub-Group would be held next week and would consider uses for any further under-spend.

RESOLVED:

(i) That the Projects as detailed in rank order be approved for the allocation of under-spend as and when it became available.

(ii) That the potential uses for any further under-spend be considered at the next meeting following the Employment and Skills Action Plan Sub-Group’s meeting shortly.

8. SUB-NATIONAL REVIEW OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND REGENERATION

The Executive considered the possible implications of the above review and it was noted that the key message appeared to be that Local Authorities must make the case for their area through the new Local Area Agreements. It was likely GO-East would be less hands-on and more strategic. Clarification was sought as to whether the document implied that NRF would continue and Nicholas De Jong acknowledged that this could be a possibility, but it was likely that, if it did, it would be viewed as mainstream through the Local Area Agreement. The point was made that the review was likely to have huge implications for the

Local Area Agreement and the County Council were currently looking at predicted spends of existing monies in order to form a clearer picture.

RESOLVED:

That the LSP Officer, in conjunction with the Chairman, undertake an analysis of the implications and report back to this meeting once details and guidance in respect of new LAA's were known.

9. A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY

The Executive received an update in relation to the above, following the recent workshop meeting held on 17 August. It was noted that the workshops had been organised around the three themes of the existing 20/20 Vision document, with each session examining four specific interest topics reflecting the eight components of the Government White Paper. It was hoped that a first draft of the Strategy, which would include a consultation questionnaire, would be completed by mid-September, with a consultation exercise from then until mid-October, and an analysis of the consultation and final draft being produced by mid-November, with that draft being reported to the LSP Board for ratification and amendment by late December, early January.

The point was made that the Community Strategy needed to suit Great Yarmouth and the most important aspect was outcomes. It was suggested that a draft Strategy be produced for consideration at the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the LSP consultant, in conjunction with Trish Aydin, be asked to produce a draft Strategy for consideration at the next meeting, in line with the draft timetable as reported at this meeting.

10. RAISING EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

It was noted that a joint Great Yarmouth LSP and Eastern Children and Young People's Partnership conference would be held on 27 September and a copy of the draft agenda was circulated for information. The LSP Officer reported that all Members of the Executive, Board and Learning Forum would be invited to the event.

11. MEETING WITH ASDA

The LSP Officer reported that, following refusal of a planning permission to extend their store, representatives of Asda, himself and John Drinkill, the Runham Vauxhall Fair Shares Co-ordinator, had met, as the company wanted to obtain the LSP's support prior to the re-submission of a further application. He outlined the discussions held at that meeting, which had centred primarily on access and signage. The point was made that there was a need to bear in mind the impact of such an extension on communities within the area and that the Retail Study referred to earlier included a sequential planning test when considering applications for retail development on out-of-town sites.

RESOLVED:

That the position be noted and the LSP Officer be requested to report back on any firmer proposals to this meeting.

12. RELOCATION OF MARKET PLACE POST OFFICE

The Executive noted the response from the Post Office to the LSP Officer's letter detailing the Executive's comments regarding the relocation of the Post Office.

13. EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS ACTION PLAN

It was noted that there had not been a new version of the Action Plan since the last meeting, however, progress was being made in relation to the IIC funded project aimed at the long-term unemployed and those on Incapacity Benefit. The LEGI Programme Manager also reported that the LEGI Board had commissioned a report on Incapacity Benefit, which would hopefully be completed by Christmas.

14. NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT

The Executive received an update report in relation to the Neighbourhood Management Programme and, in particular, gave consideration to the finances of the programme, together with the projects under each of the four themes identified as the main priorities, namely, Community Engagement; Raising Aspirations; Cleaner and

Greener; and Community Safety. Members noted that a national Youth Voluntary Service would be launched in January and a representative would be based in the Neighbourhood Management Centre.

15. LEGI

The Executive received the latest update in relation to LEGI and it was noted that there would be more media activity from September. Clarification was sought in relation to progress on the hub building and the LEGI Programme Manager reported that a potential building had been identified but was subject to ongoing negotiations, which hopefully would be concluded by the end of the month.

16. ITEMS FROM GYP/COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Trish Aydin reported that GYP was revising all its paperwork and toolkit on consultation and involvement through the Community Empowerment Network. She added that there was also a need to revise the LSP/CEN protocol, once the structure of the LSP was finalised. Members were informed that GYP was starting to plan its annual event in March and would be using community cohesion as its main theme. An action plan was being pulled together which would focus on regional and national guidance and this would be sent out for consultation, possibly by the next Executive meeting. Paul Cheeseman also reported that a newsletter, stating how the third sector contributed to the green agenda, would be published shortly.

17. FORA UPDATES

It was noted that there were no Fora updates since the last meeting.

18. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting would be held on Friday, 21 September 2007 at 10.00 am.

19. TEENAGE PREGNANCY TARGET

Lyn Blizzard reported that the latest figures in relation to teenage pregnancies in 2005 had recently been issued and early analysis appeared to suggest that Great Yarmouth had not contributed to the rise in Norfolk as a whole. She added that from the period 1997 to 2005 Great Yarmouth's figures appeared to have reduced by 9.1%.

20. BIG LOTTERY FUNDING COMMUNITY ASSETS

The Chairman reported that the Borough Council had been invited to attend a seminar in relation to the above and suggested that a third sector representative also attend and report back to the next meeting.

RESOLVED:

That an LSP representative and Paul Cheeseman attend the Big Lottery Funding Community Assets Seminar being held on 4 September 2007 and report back to the next meeting on any potential ideas for transferring assets.

21. 1ST EAST

The Chairman reported that a new DVD was available to download from Great Yarmouth's website, in relation to improving Great Yarmouth, which had been produced in conjunction with 1st East, Borough Council and County Council.

22. CLOSURE OF MEETING

The meeting ended at 11.55 am.