

The Executive – 7 October 2020

Minutes of the meeting of **The Executive** held on **7 October 2020** when there were present:-

Chairman: Cllr S E Wootton
Vice Chairman: Cllr Mrs C E Roe

Cllr D S Efde
Cllr S P Smith
Cllr I H Ward

Cllr M J Webb
Cllr A L Williams

NON-MEMBERS ATTENDING

Cllrs Mrs J R Gooding, B T Hazlewood and D J Sperring

OFFICERS PRESENT

S Scrutton	- Managing Director
A Hutchings	- Strategic Director
M Hotten	- Assistant Director, Place & Environment
N Lucas	- Assistant Director, Resources
D Tribe	- Assistant Director, Transformation & Customer
S Worthington	- Principal Democratic & Corporate Services Officer
L Morris	- Democratic Services Officer

158 MINUTES

The Minutes of the meetings held on 11 August 2020 and 2 September 2020 were approved as a correct record and would be signed in due course by the Chairman.

159 NO USE EMPTY SCHEME

The Executive considered the report of the Assistant Director, Place & Environment providing details of the No Use Empty Scheme, which would bring vacant commercial premises within the District back into beneficial use.

Responding to a Member question as to who would determine which applicants should receive loans, officers confirmed there were only likely to be a small number of claims, therefore each proposed loan within the Rochford District would come to the Executive for agreement.

In response to supplementary questions about the security of the loans, officers advised that appropriate due diligence and financial checks would be undertaken before any loans were agreed and that the risk of fraud was very small as a result.

Resolved

- (1) To ratify the Council's agreement to participate in a "No Use Empty" scheme across South Essex authorities, subject to a joint bid for 'Getting Building Fund' financing from the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SELEP) being successful.
- (2) To agree that the Council can invest up to £17,000 in match funding towards loans to develop suitable empty properties identified within the Rochford district area. The monies will be held by Southend Borough Council (as the accountable body for the scheme) and will be subject to the governance arrangements set out in the body of this report. (ADPE)

(7 Members voted for, 0 against and 0 abstained.)

160 COUNCIL PROJECTS PROGRAMME MANAGEMENT OFFICE

The Executive considered the report of the Strategic Director providing an update on the closure of the ICT Migration Project and on the Connect Programme.

Resolved

To note the closure of the ICT Migration Project and update on the Connect Programme. (SD)

161 HMS BEAGLE HERITAGE PROJECT – WALLASEA ISLAND

The Executive considered the report of the Strategic Director relating to capital grant funding for the HMS Beagle Heritage Project at Wallasea Island.

Members commended RSPB for completing all necessary works under budget.

In response to a Member question as to whether the interpretation boards, signs and posters would be available to download, officers advised that a Beagle QR code would take the user to the Discover 2020 website with a link to a digital CGI 3D view of the Beagle as she would have looked at sea and moored in Paglesham. This should be launched in a week to 10 days at the same time as a COVID-secure launch of the interpretation boards etc at Wallasea Island.

Members emphasised that although the proposed hide and pathway works were laudible, the RSPB could explore possibilities of match funding or could apply for funding in the future; it was not appropriate to use any underspend on these works.

Members voted unanimously against the recommendation set out at paragraph 1.1 of the report.

The meeting closed at 7.57 pm.

Chairman

Date

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