

WEST SUFFOLK JOINT GROWTH STEERING GROUP

MONDAY 23 JUNE 2014

10.00 AM - 12.01 PM

Members Present

Forest Heath District Council

C J Barker
 D W Bowman
 W Hirst
 T J Huggan

St Edmundsbury Borough Council

P Chung
 T G Marks
 Dr A S Pugh
 D Redhead
 J Thorndyke

Also in attendance

A Mayley, Head of Economic Development and Growth
 A Newman, Public Health and Housing Manager
 J Talbot, Principal Growth Officer
 K Pitwood, Principal Growth Officer
 S Turner, FHDC Cabinet Officer/Committee Administrator

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors W J Bishop (FHDC) and A D Rushen (SEBC).

Councillors R Dicker (FHDC) and R D S Hood (FHDC) were also unable to attend the meeting.

Substitutes

Councillor W Hirst attended the meeting as substitute for Councillor W J Bishop (FHDC).

SCHEDULE OF RECOMMENDATIONS

	ITEMS OF BUSINESS	RECOMMENDATION
018	<u>APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN FOR 2014/2015</u> That Councillor Dr A S Pugh (SEBC) be appointed as Chairman for 2014/2015.	RESOLVED
019	<u>ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRMAN FOR 2014/2015</u> That Councillor D W Bowman (FHDC) be elected as Vice Chairman for 2014/2015.	RESOLVED

	ITEMS OF BUSINESS	RECOMMENDATION
020	<p data-bbox="277 208 1126 275"><u>SCHEDULE OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 31 MARCH 2014</u></p> <p data-bbox="277 315 1126 383">The schedule of recommendations from the meeting held on 31 March 2014 were received and noted.</p>	NOTED
021	<p data-bbox="277 427 1126 495"><u>WEST SUFFOLK SIX POINT PLAN FOR JOBS AND GROWTH – UPDATE (VERBAL)</u></p> <p data-bbox="277 535 1126 703">The Steering Group received and noted a presentation (attached) from the Head of Economic Development and Growth which provided an update on the progress which had been made on the actions contained within the West Suffolk Six Point Plan for Jobs and Growth.</p> <p data-bbox="277 743 1126 810">A discussion was held on a range of issues arising from the presentation, which included:</p> <p data-bbox="277 851 1126 985">(a) The establishment of the West Suffolk Business Forum had been effective and now also allowed countywide initiatives to be incorporated into West Suffolk as well.</p> <p data-bbox="277 1025 1126 1344">(b) Officers had undertaken three themed leaflet drops by visiting businesses on the business parks. A Member stated that some businesses had contacted him and had not appreciated these visits, as it was considered to be non-productive, based on previous experience working with the Council. The Officer acknowledged and accepted that this type of initiative may not necessarily be welcomed by all businesses.</p> <p data-bbox="354 1384 1126 1664">It was noted for the future, that Ward Members would be informed when the Growth officers were due to be visiting businesses within their Wards, so that they were aware that visits were taking place. It was also acknowledged that Officers and Ward Members needed to closely liaise to ensure awareness of any local issues within that particular area.</p> <p data-bbox="277 1704 1126 1951">(c) West Suffolk had hosted the New Anglia LEP Board meeting on 19 June 2014 in Bury St Edmunds. Officers considered that this had been a very successful initiative. Members requested for an invitation to also be extended to the Greater Cambridge/Greater Peterborough LEP to hold their board meeting within West Suffolk.</p> <p data-bbox="277 1991 1126 2024">(d) Work was currently being undertaken on the</p>	NOTED

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	<p>Business Festival which was to be held from 1 to 10 October 2014. Further information would be provided to the next meeting of the Group.</p> <p>(e) An Events Calendar, which set out activities and events, had now been established and was used to inform social media and website content. However, it was considered that Members may also find this information useful. Therefore, Officers would ensure that this calendar was also accessible by Members.</p> <p>Officers were commended on the progress being made, however, to be able to achieve some of the initiatives identified it was acknowledged that there needed to be improved co-ordination between the County and District/Borough councils. The Chairman considered that some progress was being made, an example being that regular meetings were now being held with Suffolk County Council Economic Development Officers. Also more joined-up work was now taking place within West Suffolk between the services of Housing, Planning and Economic Development.</p>	
022	<p><u>PRODUCTION OF AN INWARD INVESTMENT PACK – UPDATE (VERBAL)</u></p> <p>The Steering Group received and noted a presentation (attached) from the Principal Growth Officer on the production of an inward investment pack. This would be a West Suffolk 'fact pack' to be made available for businesses which were relocating or starting up. Members were shown examples of the various inserts, photographs and information which was to be included within these packs.</p> <p>Members were also requested to provide relevant information for inclusion within these packs, along with any proposed businesses who could be used as 'case studies'.</p>	NOTED
023	<p><u>WEST SUFFOLK HOUSING STRATEGY (VERBAL)</u></p> <p>The Steering Group received and noted a verbal report from the Public Health and Housing Manager (on behalf of the Housing Development and Strategy Manager) on the timescale and process for the adoption of the West Suffolk Housing Strategy.</p> <p>The Strategy was designed to develop and supply a range of housing options across the private sector, the</p>	NOTED

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	<p>private rented market and social/affordable housing, ensuring that all tenures would provide sustainable and suitable homes for the residents of West Suffolk.</p> <p>The Strategy would be subject to a six week consultation process. The consultation document was due to be considered by both Cabinets on 24 June 2014 (SEBC) and 15 July 2014 (FHDC), with the consultation process starting after.</p> <p>As part of this consultation process, various briefing sessions would be held. Members would also be given the opportunity to comment on the document, prior to adoption by both Cabinets on 2 September 2014 (SEBC) and 16 September 2014 (FHDC).</p>	
024	<p><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></p> <p><u>Future Items for Consideration</u></p> <p>It was agreed for the following items to be considered by the Steering Group at their next meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shepherds Grove Industrial Estate, Stanton - Development Management Policy 28 (Housing in the Countryside) - Markets (extend invitation to the Market Development Officer) - Business Festival – 1 to 10 October 2014 	RESOLVED
025	<p><u>WEST SUFFOLK INNOVATION AND INCUBATION SUPPORT STUDY (VERBAL) (CONFIDENTIAL)</u></p> <p>The Steering Group received and noted a presentation from the Principal Growth Officer which set out the recommendations from the West Suffolk Innovation and Incubation Support Study.</p> <p>Members also had the opportunity to comment on the recommendations from the Study.</p>	NOTED