

**WEST SUFFOLK JOINT GROWTH STEERING GROUP**

**MONDAY 27 OCTOBER 2014**

**10.00 AM - 11.40 AM**

**Members Present**

Forest Heath District Council

D W Bowman (Vice Chairman)  
 C J Barker  
 W J Bishop  
 R D S Hood  
 T J Huggan

St Edmundsbury Borough Council

Dr A S Pugh (Chairman)  
 P Chung  
 T G Marks  
 D Redhead  
 A D Rushen  
 J Thorndyke

**Also in attendance**

G Lockey, Principal Growth Officer  
 A Mayley, Head of Economic Development and Growth  
 K Pitwood, Principal Growth Officer  
 J Talbot, Principal Growth Officer  
 S Wood, Head of Planning and Regulatory Services  
 S Turner, FHDC Cabinet Officer/Committee Administrator

**Apologies**

There were no apologies for absence.

Councillor R Dicker (FHDC) was also unable to attend the meeting.

**Substitutes**

There were no substitutes at the meeting.

**SCHEDULE OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

	<b>ITEMS OF BUSINESS</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
032	<u>SCHEDULE OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE MEETING HELD ON 8 SEPTEMBER 2014</u>  The schedule of recommendations from the meeting held on 8 September 2014 were received and noted.	NOTED

	<b>ITEMS OF BUSINESS</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
033	<p><u>REVIEW AND UPDATE ON 'RAISING THE BAR' – SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL</u></p> <p>The Steering Group received a presentation from Judith Mobbs, Assistant Director of Skills, Suffolk County Council, on the Skills Strategy for Suffolk (which also included an update on 'Raising the Bar').</p> <p>Judith also circulated to the meeting a chart entitled '<i>Developing Suffolk Talent</i>' (copy attached) which outlined the programme which was bringing together all of the work currently taking place within Suffolk, to develop workforce skills for young people, which was an essential part of economic development and growth, both for businesses and the local community.</p> <p>There were four elements to this programme, which centred around:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Work Inspiration</u> (develop a better understanding for young people about the world of work). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 'Raising the Bar' education/employer brokerage service.</li> <li>- Website showcasing the economy to young people (due for launch in early 2015).</li> <li>- Events to bring young people and employers together (ie the Suffolk Skills Show Experience which had been held on 22 October 2014).</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>A discussion was then held on this element of the presentation/programme:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Judith explained that this element of the programme did involve new ventures and wanted to ensure that these were of good quality and effective. The aim was also to increase the numbers of employers and schools who could participate, with the intention of all Suffolk schools being involved in due course. Local councillors could also assist by encouraging their own local schools to participate.</li> <li>(b) With regard to the Suffolk Skills Show Experience, Members requested to be provided with the list of schools who had attended this event.</li> </ol> <p><b><i>Action (1)</i></b>  <b><i>Judith confirmed that Officers were in the process of compiling this information</i></b></p>	RESOLVED

	ITEMS OF BUSINESS	RECOMMENDATION
	<p><b><i>and would provide this to Members once completed.</i></b></p> <p>Judith also explained that she would appreciate help from local Councillors/local representatives within the community, to assist with encouraging schools to participate in the whole range of opportunities open to them.</p> <p>With regard to the employers involved in the Skills Show, Members asked as to whether the horseracing industry had been involved.</p> <p><b><u>Action (2)</u></b>  <b><i>Judith confirmed that she would provide the list of the employers who had been involved with the Show.</i></b></p> <p>Judith also explained that 'Inspiration Brokerage' was now available in Newmarket, in which there would be a number of activities involving the horseracing industry. There were also very close links with the British Racing School, as a provider of apprenticeships.</p> <p>2. <u>Aiming High</u> (ensuring that there were the right opportunities for young people at the age of 16).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A full range of post-16 opportunities.</li> <li>- A Local Apprenticeship Service.</li> <li>- Programmes to support school leavers to make successful transitions.</li> </ul> <p>A discussion was then held on this element of the presentation/programme:</p> <p>(a) Members asked how the success of mentoring 'disadvantaged' young people, in their post-16 opportunities, would be measured.</p> <p>Judith explained that a longitude tracking approach was being taken and that these young people were being tracked at six and twelve month intervals, after taking up their placement (be that college, apprenticeship or employment with training).</p> <p>(b) Members asked whether information and/or guidance was available for school governors, to assist them when setting targets and</p>	<p>RESOLVED</p>

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	<p>measures, for linking into this integrated programme.</p> <p>Judith considered that this was a good suggestion and would give further thought as to the production of appropriate information and/or guidance.</p> <p>3. <u>My Career</u> (ensuring early steps into careers)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Career academies to increase entrants into growth areas.</li> <li>- A 'Youth Employment Guarantee' including a dedicated young person's employment centre ('MyGO' Centre, Ipswich due to open in early November 2014).</li> <li>- Science, Technology and Maths (STEM) Accelerator Programme (currently in development stage with West Suffolk College).</li> <li>- A kitemark to recognise employers supporting young people (currently being developed with the New Anglia LEP).</li> </ul> <p>A discussion was then held on this element of the presentation/programme:</p> <p>(a) Members raised concerns, with regard to youth unemployment, particularly within the very rural areas of West Suffolk, where young people were experiencing problems in being able to get to work, due to poor/non existent public transport routes.</p> <p>Judith also acknowledged this challenge and explained that this would be tried to be addressed as part of the 'MyGO' work, where 'pop-up' centres would be located within various locations within Suffolk.</p> <p><b><u>Action (3)</u></b>  <b><i>The issue of rural transport and access be an future item for consideration by the Steering Group (which may also assist to address the particular issue for young people and access to employment).</i></b></p> <p>(b) Members referred to the horseracing industry, where careers as jockeys were unable to be fulfilled. Therefore, another skills pathway was needed, either to be able to remain</p>	<p>RESOLVED</p>

	ITEMS OF BUSINESS	RECOMMENDATION
	<p>within the horseracing industry or to be re-skilled into another profession.</p> <p><b><u>Action (4)</u></b>  <b>It was proposed that a specific pilot be undertaken within the horseracing industry, in conjunction with Forest Heath District Council, West Suffolk College, Suffolk County Council and the LEPs, in relation to skills transition within the horseracing industry. (If successful, then there could also be the opportunity for a more 'generalised' transition programme to be developed).</b></p> <p>Judith also confirmed that she would be supportive of her Team working with this proposed pilot.</p> <p>4. <u>Skills for Growth</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Training grants to help Suffolk businesses grow</li> <li>- Funding for sectors to solve skills gaps</li> <li>- Innovation vouchers to support employers to work more closely with universities and colleges.</li> </ul> <p>Two further projects, were also being developed with the New Anglia LEP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development of a new degree centre in West Norfolk (within the King's Lynn area)</li> <li>- Further development in engineering facilities for West Suffolk College.</li> </ul> <p>A discussion was held on this element of the presentation/programme:</p> <p>(a) Members discussed the role of universities/ Higher Education sector in the development of skills for growth within the local economy.</p> <p><b><u>Action (5)</u></b>  <b>University Campus Suffolk (UCS) be invited to a future meeting of the Steering Group, to discuss the role of universities/Higher Education sector in the development of skills and growth within the local economy.</b></p> <p>Judith also confirmed that UCS were now understanding and developing their role within the local economy and commended the</p>	<p>RECOMMENDED</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>

	<b>ITEMS OF BUSINESS</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
	<p>proposal for UCS to be invited to meet with the Group to discuss this. As part of her role, she would also be involving UCS in future workstreams.</p> <p>At the conclusion of the presentation/discussions, Members commended and expressed their support to the concept of this programme and what it was designed to achieve. However, it was also important to ensure that regular monitoring was undertaken, and that any necessary modifications made, to ensure that the programme remained 'fit-for-purpose'. Judith confirmed that strong evaluation structures had been developed for this programme.</p> <p><b><u>Action (6)</u></b>  <b><i>Members requested for Judith to be invited back in 12 months time to update the Steering Group on progress, along with the monitoring/any revisions of the programme.</i></b></p> <p><b><u>Action (7)</u></b>  <b><i>The Chairman also wished to inform Members of both Councils of this programme and would liaise with Officers accordingly, as to how this could be relayed through the democratic process.</i></b></p> <p>Councillor R D S Hood left the meeting at 11.00 am, during the discussion of this item.</p>	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>RESOLVED</p>
034	<p><b><u>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</u></b></p> <p>The following items of Other Business were raised:</p> <p>(a) <b><u>Future Items for Consideration</u></b>  (i) <b><u>Shepherds Grove Industrial Estate, Stanton</u></b>  (ii) <b><u>Planning Policy Growth for West Suffolk – Number of house building completions still required to meet the 2031 targets.</u></b></p> <p>Members made reference to these two outstanding items which were still due for consideration by the Steering Group.</p> <p>The Head of Planning and Regulatory Services confirmed that the information relating to the number of house building completions required to meet the 2031 targets, would be circulated to Members accordingly.</p> <p>In relation to the item relating to the Shepherds</p>	<p>RESOLVED</p>

	<b>ITEMS OF BUSINESS</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>
	<p>Grove Industrial Estate, Stanton, the Head of Economic Development and Growth confirmed that this would be included on the next agenda.</p> <p>(b) <u>Brandon Market</u></p> <p>Councillor W J Bishop referred to the minutes from the meeting held on 8 September 2014 (Minute number 027 (Markets Update)) and expressed his concern regarding the small number of market stalls in Brandon. Councillor Bishop requested to be able to work with Officers to improve this position. The Head of Economic Development and Growth confirmed that she would ask the Market Development Officer to liaise with Councillor Bishop accordingly.</p>	<p>RESOLVED</p>