

# Broadland Economic Success Policy Development Panel

## Agenda

### Members of the Broadland Economic Success Policy Development Panel

Cllr Adrian Tipple (Chairman)  
Cllr Paul Auber  
Cllr Jo Bailey  
Cllr Fraser Bowe  
Cllr Sue Catchpole  
Cllr Jo Copplestone

Cllr James Harvey (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr Adrian Crotch  
Cllr Simon Jones  
Cllr Lisa Starling  
Cllr Karen Vincent

### Date & Time:

Monday, 15 April 2024 at 6.00 pm

### Place:

Upper Yare - Horizon Centre, Peachman Way, Norwich, NR7 0WF

### Contact:

Jessica Hammond, tel 01508 505298  
Email: [committee.bdc@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk](mailto:committee.bdc@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk)  
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### Public Attendance:

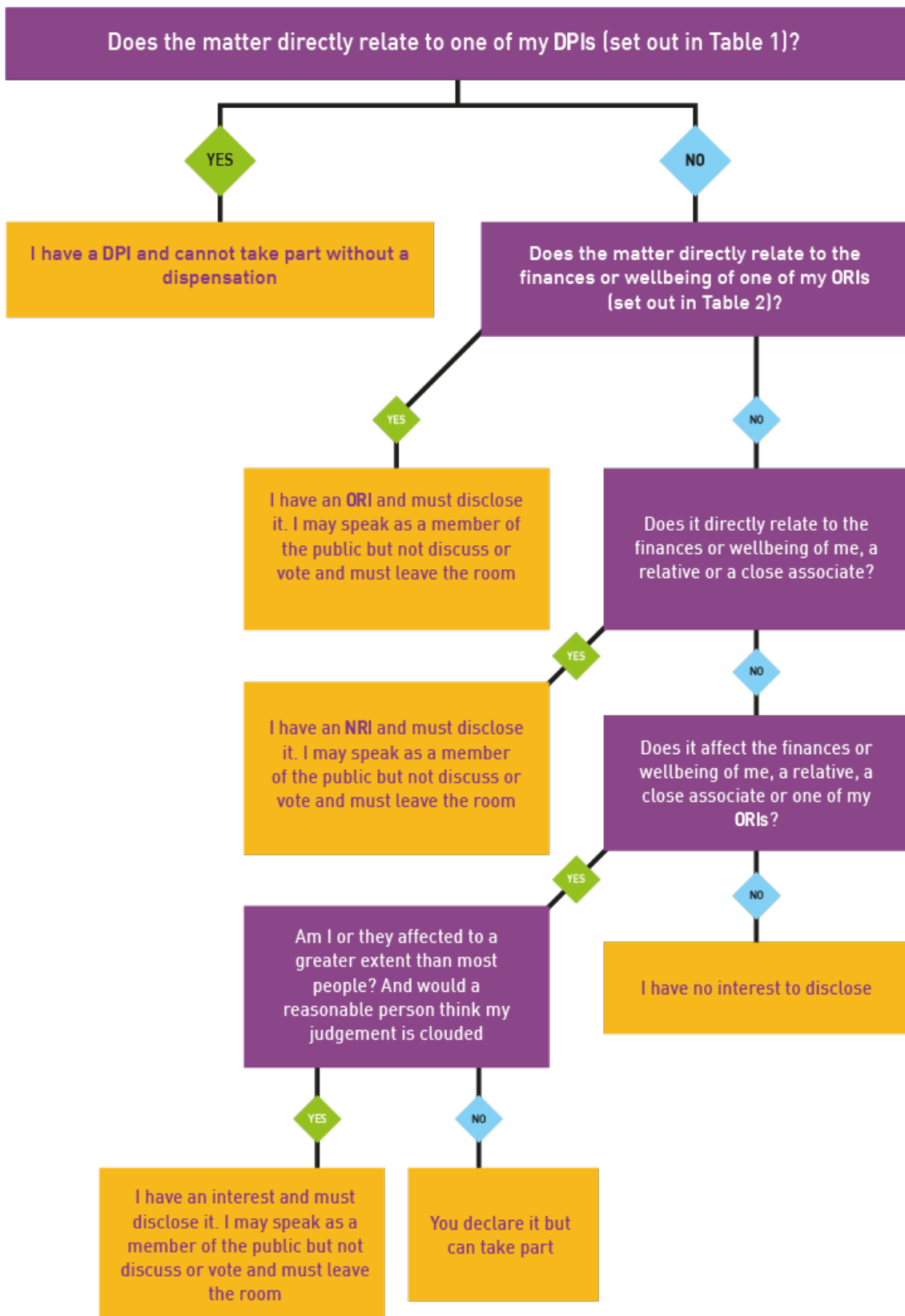
If a member of the public would like to attend to speak on an agenda item, please email your request to [committee.bdc@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk](mailto:committee.bdc@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk), no later than 5.00pm Wednesday, 10 April 2024.

# AGENDA

1. **Declarations of Interest** (Pages 3 - 5)  
To receive declarations of Interest from Members (guidance attached).
2. **Apologies for absence**  
To report apologies for absence and to identify substitute members.
3. **Minutes** (Pages 6 - 10)  
To confirm the minutes from the meeting of the Economic Success Policy Development Panel held on 19 October 2023, and consider any matters arising.
4. **Business Builder - Midpoint Review** (Pages 11 - 18)

## Interests Flowchart

The flowchart below gives a simple guide to declaring an interest under the code.



**Table 1: Disclosable Pecuniary Interests**

This table sets out the explanation of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in the

[Relevant Authorities \(Disclosable Pecuniary Interests\) Regulations 2012.](#)

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation</b>	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
<b>Sponsorship</b>	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the council) made to the councillor during the previous 12-month period for expenses incurred by him/her in carrying out his/her duties as a councillor, or towards his/her election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
<b>Contracts</b>	Any contract made between the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners (or a firm in which such person is a partner, or an incorporated body of which such person is a director* or a body that such person has a beneficial interest in the securities of*) and the council — (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged
<b>Land and Property</b>	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of the council. 'Land' excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not give the councillor or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners (alone or jointly with another) a right to occupy or to receive income.
<b>Licenses</b>	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of the council for a month or longer

<b>Corporate tenancies</b>	Any tenancy where (to the councillor's knowledge)— (a) the landlord is the council; and (b) the tenant is a body that the councillor, or his/her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/ civil partners is a partner of or a director* of or has a beneficial interest in the securities* of.
<b>Securities</b>	Any beneficial interest in securities* of a body where— (a) that body (to the councillor's knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of the council; and (b) either— (i) the total nominal value of the securities* exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or (ii) If the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which the councillor, or his/ her spouse or civil partner or the person with whom the councillor is living as if they were spouses/civil partners have a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

\* 'director' includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

\* 'securities' means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

**Table 2: Other Registrable Interests**

<p>You must register as an Other Registerable Interest :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) any unpaid directorships</li> <li>b) any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your authority</li> <li>c) any body <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) exercising functions of a public nature</li> <li>(ii) directed to charitable purposes or</li> <li>(iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union) of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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# Agenda Item 3



## **BROADLAND ECONOMIC SUCCESS POLICY DEVELOPMENT PANEL**

**Minutes of a meeting of the Broadland Economic Success Policy Development Panel of Broadland District Council, held on Thursday, 19 October 2023 at 6.00 pm.**

**Committee Members Present:** Councillors: A Tipple (Chairman), J Harvey (Vice-Chair), P Auber, F Bowe, S Catchpole and J Copplestone

**Apologies for Absence:** Councillors: J Bailey, A Crotch, S Jones, L Starling and K Vincent

**Substitute:** Councillors: P Berry (In place of A Crotch) and J Emsell (In place of S Jones)

**Cabinet Member in Attendance:** Councillor: M Booth

**Officers in Attendance:** G Denton (Assistant Director of Economic Growth), A Sommazzi (Clean Growth and Sustainability Manager) and C White (Democratic Services Manager)

**Also in Attendance:**

### **12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

### **13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs J Bailey, A Crotch, S Jones, L Starling, and K Vincent.

### **14. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting of the Economic Success Policy Development Panel held on 7 November 2022 were confirmed as a correct record.

*Minute No: 10 – Rural England Prosperity Fund*

A member reminded the Panel that an additional recommendation had been added to the report, which proposed a midpoint update on the Rural Business Builder Capital Fund to come back to the Economic Success Policy Development Panel for oversight.

In response, the Assistant Director for Economic Growth confirmed that a report would be brought to the Panel in due course.

The same member also noted that a potential project listed in the Rural England Prosperity Fund report was for purchasing processing equipment for the Broadland Food Innovation Centre to help enhance the processing capability of this sector and she asked what progress had been made with this. She also noted that at the same meeting several members had requested an update on the position of the Food Innovation Centre for the Panel.

In respect of the processing equipment, the Assistant Director for Economic Growth advised the meeting that this would be subject to a business case that would be brought to members in due course. Members were also advised that a review of the Food Innovation Centre and was being scoped out for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Chairman advised members that he would discuss this matter further with the Chairman of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## **15. BROADLAND COUNTRY PARK: VISITOR FACILITY CONCEPT AND DESIGN**

The Clean Growth and Sustainability Manager introduced the report, which sought approval to develop existing concept designs for a visitor kiosk and supporting facilities at Broadland Country Park. The project would require developing detailed funding options, costed designs, a procurement strategy, and submission of a supplementary planning application.

Members were reminded that Broadland Country Park comprised 57 hectares of Council owned land and 19 hectares of leased land.

The site had been acquired as part of the Council's requirement to deliver 'Sustainable Alternative Natural Greenspaces', to mitigate against the impacts of recreational disturbance by visitors to Special Protection Areas. However, it had been recognised that Broadland Country Park could go beyond this statutory requirement, and that it represented a unique opportunity to develop the natural resources on site to create a space that could foster local communities, grow a sense of place, support wellbeing and outdoor education, as well as enhancing and promoting biodiversity.

When purchasing the site, the following management objectives had been set out:

- Provide facilities that meet the needs of a range of different user groups.
- Encourage wider public awareness and use of Broadland Country Park.
- Improve access to and from Broadland Country Park.
- Enhance biodiversity.
- Develop long-term financial sustainability across Broadland Country Park.

Section 106 monies had also been allocated from nearby developments in Horsford, to support the delivery of key visitor infrastructure on the site. This included a surfaced circular walk, improved parking provision, play facilities, new walking routes, way-marking, interpretation, promotion, and marketing of the site. In addition, funding via the Business Rates Pool had been secured to compliment the onsite works.

A member noted that the report stated (on page 25 of the agenda) that the study should be read in conjunction with the Future Development Options and Financial Analysis document by Planning Solutions Consulting Ltd, which had not been provided to members. She added that an interim report from the consultants, which had been published in January 2023, had included several different options for the site which were also not included in the report, and neither was the overall cost of the project. She also had concerns about the size and location of the kiosk, which appeared to be sited on the leased land.

In response, the Clean Growth and Sustainability Manager advised that the kiosk would be situated on Council owned land and would be of modular design, so could be increased in size to meet demand and usage as required. It was emphasised that the report was seeking agreement to progress the first stage of the scheme, and this would be followed by detailed funding options, costed designs, a procurement strategy, and a supplementary planning application.

In answer to a query about the legal implications it was confirmed that the Council had an obligation to provide alternative recreational facilities to mitigate against the impact that residential development could have on Special Protection Areas, which were a network of sites of international importance for nature conservation. The provision of additional visitor facilities, such as toilets and a low-key catering option, would augment this offer.

A member suggested that the scheme did not seem ambitious enough and suggested that it should just be the start of the development of the Park.

In contrast, another member raised a concern about the environmental sustainability of the scheme and questioned if large numbers should be encouraged.

In response, the Clean Growth and Sustainability Manager emphasised that the Council was taking a very sensitive approach to the scheme and would ensure that environmentally important areas in the Park were protected. She added that although the facilities could be enlarged as needed, it was anticipated that the proposed kiosk would meet the current need. The proposed scheme prioritised catering facilities and toilets and other facilities such as educational spaces could be looked at if there was sufficient demand.

A member commended the proposal as a wonderful addition to a very attractive natural environment for residents and visitors to the District.

In respect of a query about stewardship schemes for parts of the Park the Clean Growth and Sustainability Manager advised the meeting that she understood that the grants for these areas had been rolled over. She also noted that there was an active volunteer group at the Park who invested a lot of time and effort into the site and the Council wished to provide an area which complemented the work that they undertook.

A member suggested that the proposed 80 space car park might not be sufficient and might result in visitors parking on the road. He suggested that bus companies might be approached to provide a service to the park.



In response, the Clean Growth and Sustainability Manager informed the meeting that an 80-space carpark had been deemed to be adequate at this stage and that there was also another carpark adjacent to the Country Park. She added that a balance was sought between visitor numbers and the impact on the environment and that the Council was trying to encourage access through public transport as well as pedestrians and cyclists.

In respect of materials, members were advised that the report was only setting out design concepts and materials would be agreed in detail at the next stage. It was stressed that the materials would be sustainable and locally sourced, where possible.

In respect of the toilets the Panel was informed that the configuration and equality issues would also be considered at the next stage. Regarding the additional £300,000 required for this project, members were advised that the funding might be accessed from a range of sources such as the Green Infrastructure Fund, the Greater Norwich Growth Board, and the Council's Environmental Project Reserve. It was emphasised that there would be no additional cost to progress to the technical design stage, including funding options, detailed costed designs, a procurement strategy and supplementary planning application.

The Portfolio Holder for Economic Development stressed that the Council would seek to progress the project via external funding and it was the intention to have a scheme that was ready to take forward when that funding became available.

It was noted that the land adjoining the Country Park, which would be an ideal site for a carpark, was in the ownership of three different landlords, which had made its acquisition difficult. The Council would, however, continue to explore options for this land.

In response to a query about the ongoing costs of the kiosk, members were advised that the facility would be leased to a third-party supplier, and it was estimated that it would generate rental income for the Country Park of between £6,500 and £9,000 per annum. Members were also advised that the Council had a policy of not charging for parking at its carparks.

In commending the project, a member also noted that the kiosk would go towards making the Park economically sustainable.

In summing up, the Chairman noted that the kiosk would be an asset to the Park that because of its modular design could be further developed as required.

It was unanimously

## **RECOMMENDED TO CABINET**

To

1. Endorse the existing concept design for a visitor kiosk at Broadland Country Park.

2. Agree to progress the existing plans at Broadland Country Park to technical design stage, including funding options, detailed costed designs, a procurement strategy and supplementary planning application.

(The meeting concluded at 7.10 pm)

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Chairman



## Economic Success Policy Development Panel 15 April 2024

### Business Builder – Midpoint Review

**Report Author(s):** Paul Chapman  
Business Development Manager  
01508 533892  
Paul.chapman@southnorfolkandbroadland.gov.uk

**Portfolio:** Economic Development

**Ward(s) Affected:** All

#### **Purpose of the Report:**

For members to note the progress with delivery of the Councils "Business Builder" business support programme

#### **Recommendations:**

Economic Success Policy Development Panel to agree to:

1. Recommend to Cabinet that an options appraisal for the future of the 'Business Builder' support programme is presented for consideration in February 2025.

## **1. Summary**

- 1.1 In October 2020 Broadland District Council was awarded £428,573 from the Norfolk Strategic Fund (NSF). The NSF was a one-off grant programme, funded from Norfolk's pooled business rates, that was to be used to support economic recovery activities. The funds were split equally between the seven district councils, with a larger amount awarded to the LEP/Norfolk County Council (NCC), by agreement of the Norfolk Leaders group. This was used to create and deliver our "Business Builder" business support programme.
- 1.2 Further funding became available to Broadland District Council from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and a later addendum to this in the form of the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF), in both cases to fund projects/programmes from 2022 to March 2025.
- 1.3 The Business Builder support programme launched in October 2022. To date, more than 182 business have been supported, with 81 grants paid resulting in £341,952 of investment into businesses in the district.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 In October 2020 Broadland District Council was awarded £428,573 from the Norfolk Strategic Fund (NSF). The NSF was a one-off grant programme, funded from Norfolk's pooled business rates, that was to be used to support economic recovery activities. The funds were split equally between the seven district councils, with a larger amount awarded to the LEP/Norfolk County Council (NCC), by agreement of the Norfolk Leaders group.
- 2.2 As agreed with Norfolk County Council (NCC), the NSF allocation was to be used for Broadland District Council to put in place a wrap-around business support package that would incorporate: business advice, access to training, mentoring, signposting to other stakeholders and services, and grants to help facilitate business growth. From the outset there was to be one additional full-time officer (at an estimated cost of £85.5k across the course of the programme) to supplement the resources of the existing experienced team to help deliver the support programme. This was to be fully funded from the programme monies.
- 2.3 It was also agreed that a sum of £15k be committed to support the Cambridge Norwich Tech Corridor.
- 2.4 Launch of the programme was delayed due to ongoing Covid restrictions and the administration of associated grants. In July 2022, Cabinet and NCC approved a revised package of support, to be delivered by June 2025. The offer includes:
  - Online business training, one-to-one start-up advice and other non-financial support for pre-start-ups (Foundation support)
  - Smaller grants of up to £1,000 for entrepreneurs in their first two years of trading (Build-Up Grants)

- Grants of up to £5,000 to help support the growth plans of businesses that had already been trading for at least two years (Development Grants).

All grants required the businesses to co-invest in the items of expenditure that would be seeking to help grow their businesses. As agreed, the programme encourages applicants to energy efficiency improvements and environmental benefits as part of their project development and applications.

- 2.5 In responding to the Government's UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) prospectus Broadland District Council had to agree and submit to Government for approval a three-year Investment Plan covering 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2025. One of the core aims of the fund is to "boost productivity, pay, jobs and living standards by growing the private sector" through the investment priority "support for local businesses and people and skills". In accordance with that agreed Investment Plan a further £130k was made available to build upon this existing work stream supplementing the NSF funding to enable the Council to support the growth plans of more local businesses via the established Business Builder support programme in accordance with the grant structure and values set out above.
- 2.6 The Rural Prosperity Fund is a top-up to the UKSPF and is available to eligible local authorities in England. It succeeds EU funding from LEADER and the Growth Programme which were part of the Rural Development Programme for England. It can only be used to fund capital spending that supports new and existing rural businesses to develop new products and facilities that will be of wider benefit to the local economy. Only part of the district qualifies as rural and the following are generally excluded: Hellesdon, Drayton, Taverham, Thorpe Marriott, Old Catton, Sprowston, Thorpe St Andrew, St Andrews Business Park/Broadland Business Park/Meridian Way.
- 2.7 As agreed by Cabinet, £519,552 of the Council's allocation has been ring-fenced to provide larger capital grants to enable growth in Broadland based businesses.
- 2.8 Businesses are able to apply for up to £25,000 of capital funding at a 50% intervention rate. Broadland District Council is using this capital funding to provide match funding to approved projects up to maximum of £25k grant award per successful applicant. Projects eligible for consideration when they will deliver one or more of the following:
- a) additionality in productivity in the business, or in the efficient use of resources
  - b) additionality in diversifying into new income streams (this is available to farm businesses, as well as other businesses)
  - c) additionality in the carbon reduction of the business, or other positive environmental impacts
  - d) additionality in making the business more resilient to natural hazards

Additionality in this context, means "the positive impact or outcome that would not have otherwise occurred without that capital investment".

- 2.9 In each case these larger capital grant applications go before an internal panel of senior Finance/Economic Growth Officers (chaired by the Assistant Director for Economic Growth) for decision on whether to approve a grant award. Further details of eligibility and the operation of this programme is available on the Council's website on the Rural Business Builder Capital Grant page.
- 2.10 The operation of the UKSPF programme as a whole (which incorporates the REPF) is subject to a comprehensive assurance process with reporting of progress of the wider SPF programme being overseen by a local partnership group, the SPF Board, looking at the delivery of the fund.
- 2.11 As required by DLUHC, progress against agreed outputs and outcomes for UKSPF and REPF are reported on a quarterly basis. The contracted outputs and outcomes for the project are as follows:

UKSPF - Intervention E23 Strengthening local entrepreneurial ecosystems, and supporting businesses at all stages of their development to start, sustain, grow and innovate, including through local networks

- Output – Number of businesses receiving non-financial support: 100
- Output – Number of potential entrepreneurs provided assistance to be business ready: 30
- Outcome – Number of businesses adopting new to the firm technologies or processes: 20
- Outcome – Number of businesses engaging in new markets: 4

REPF – Intervention 1.1 Funding (capital grants) for small scale investment in micro and small enterprises in rural areas

- Output – Number of businesses supported: 12
- Outcome – Number of jobs created: No number specified, however, delivery must be evidenced

### **3. Current positions/findings**

- 3.1 A dedicated Business Builder Economic Development Officer joined the team in September 2022 to lead on delivery of the grants, supplementing existing officers in providing start-up advice and other business support. The programme officially launched in October 2022.
- 3.2 Availability of this support has been publicised via our fortnightly business newsletter, at Business Breakfasts, at other business events, via social media and when calling on local businesses.
- 3.3 Following the success of the Broadland Business Builder support programme, South Norfolk approved use of their UKSPF and REPF allocations to launch a similar scheme. The salary for the Business Builder Economic Development Officer is split across the two authorities. All grants and the additional staffing resources are fully funded from external funds and do not draw upon the Council's core budgets. We will need to explore funding options to continue to provide an

evolved business support package under the umbrella of 'Business Builder' post 30 June 2025.

3.4 The table below shows some of the volumes associated with our support provision so far:

	Number of applications	Number of businesses paid a grant to date	Total financial awards already paid out	Funded licence to online business training resource
Number of businesses accessing pre-start-up advice service	43	Not applicable	£ Nil	22 @ % £65 per licence
Build-Up Grants to support growth in businesses in their first two years of trading	32	24	£22,306	
Development Grants to support growth in businesses that have been trading for two years or more	77	50	£181,227	
Rural Capital Grants of up to £25k each	30	7	£138,419	
Total	182	81	£341,952	

3.5 We visit all applicants so that we can have a face-to-face discussion to understand where they may need advice, where applicable how a grant might support their growth plans within the structure of this support programme and to connect them with other services/agencies.

3.6 A year on from when the first grants were paid we will be beginning a review exercise following up to see the difference the grants/support interventions have made beyond the commitments made at the outset, so that we can report on specific outcomes to funding providers.

3.7 Examples of cases where the Business Builder programme has supported a business in becoming greener by part funding:

- Commissioning of two new day boats moving them over to electric powered in the process.

- Equipment and training for a plumbing and heating business to take on an additional employee, enabling the business to increase capacity for air source heat pumps installations.
  - Two landscape/gardening businesses to replace petrol-powered mowers with rechargeable ones.
  - Enabling a visitor attraction to create additional activities by creating wildlife dipping ponds, increasing biodiversity and acting as a soakaway for excess water run-off from their car park.
- 3.8 Other examples illustrating how grants have helped support business growth by part funding:
- Towards the fit out of a new gym allowing a growing gym to move to a larger premises, to increase the amount of equipment in the gym and allow them to expand their membership.
  - The specialist training and initial salary costs for a business to take on another member of staff as the business grows. This allowed the business to scale up its operation by opening extra days of the week and taking more bookings.
  - The fit-out costs for a food production to outgrow a home-based operation and set up in purpose-built premises giving them the capacity to service much larger customer orders.
  - A specialist printing machine which allowed the business to bring the print production “in-house” and to offer other products alongside their graphic design services.
  - A food producer to invest in a blast chiller to improve the quality and finish of their high-end, award-winning frozen food. The purchase of the blast chiller has allowed them to bid for larger contracts overseas and in leading supermarkets.
- 3.9 Further detailed case studies featuring testimony from businesses supported by the programme are available to view from the [Business grants and funding page of the Council’s website](#).
- 3.10 Applications for the rural business builder grants have been received equating to in excess of £500,000. The available funding is expected to be fully committed in the near future with all projects aiming to complete by December 2024.
- 3.11 In terms of those rural business builder grants so far 12 businesses have received the approval from our panel that we will part-fund their project to a combined value of over £225,396 of our £519,552 two-year funding pot. The intended reportable outcomes/outputs from those approved cases are that we will have:
- Supported 12 businesses, and
  - Supported investment which is anticipated to lead to the creation of 41.5 jobs
- 3.12 The Foundation support, Build-Up & Development Grants funded through NSF and UKSPF have sufficient funds to continue at the current rate of distribution. From all the funding sources there is approximately a £655,000 to pay out in grants between now and June 2025. Much of this is already the subject of applications for funding towards capital projects and business revenue expenditure that are yet to be approved, incurred, evidenced or drawn down.



#### **4. Proposed Action**

- 4.1 Officers to continue delivery of the business builder programme using SPF & REPF funds through to 31 March 2025 and NSF funds through to 30 June 2025. To include ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the investments.
- 4.2 To explore funding options to continue to provide an evolved business support package under the umbrella of 'Business Builder' post 30 June 2025.

#### **5. Other options**

- 5.1 To stop delivery of the programmes and return funding to providers. Much of the remaining funding, particularly for the larger capital grants, is already the subject of applications that have been submitted and expenditure committed awaiting delivery of projects. This action would potentially deny Broadland based businesses hundreds of thousands of pounds of grant support.
- 5.2 Negotiate an arrangement with an alternative provider to process grant applications and put in place contractual arrangements for them to do so. The time taken to put such arrangements in place halfway through the SPF/REPF programme would prejudice the likelihood of being able to distribute all of the funding to local businesses within the required timeframe. Other authorities that are operating in this way locally are seeing slower uptake of funding.
- 5.3 Suspend the grant schemes and go through the process of getting rescoped schemes agreed, process and webforms redesigned, implemented and promoted – while still delivering on the agreed outcomes. We have a scheme that is generally well understood by local businesses and well developed in terms of our operational arrangements. Significant variations to grant schemes would need agreement from DLUHC for UKSPF/REPF and NCC for NSF funding. Lost momentum in delivery may prejudice full distribution of the funding support available.

#### **6. Issues and risks**

- 6.1 UKSPF and REPF funding must be fully spent by 31 March 2025. Demand for the funding must be managed to ensure funds are spent in line with DLUHC requirements.
- 6.2 Any variations to the agreed project delivery, milestones, outputs or outcomes must be agreed by DLUHC for UKSPF/REPF and NCC for NSF funding.
- 6.3 It is likely that approved cases for the REPF funded Rural Business Builder Capital Grant will exhaust the funds available in the next few months. Officers will continue to signpost to alternative sources of funding, however there are limited options for significant capital grants limiting future support for business growth.

## **7. Conclusion**

- 7.1 In-house delivery of the business builder support programme has proven an effective means of engaging with the local business community. Since the programme launched in October 2022, over 180 businesses have engaged with the team and 81 grants have been paid totalling £341,952 of investment in the district.

## **8. Recommendations**

Economic Success Policy Development Panel to agree to:

1. Recommend to Cabinet that an options appraisal for the future of the 'Business Builder' support programme is presented for consideration in February 2025.

### **Background papers**

- Norfolk Strategic Fund grant: Business Builder, Cabinet, 19 July 2022
- Shared Prosperity Fund – Investment Plan, Cabinet, 19 July 2022
- Rural England Prosperity Fund, Cabinet, 29 November 2022