

The Greater Thetford Development Partnership Board held its second meeting on Friday 2 October.

Attending the meeting were: Anna Graves – Chair – Breckland District Council; Julie Kennealy – Breckland District Council; Cllr Ellen Jolly – Breckland District Council; Sarah Barsby – Breckland District Council; Cllr Denis Crawford – Norfolk County Council; Chris Hey – Norfolk County Council; Terry Jermy – Thetford Town Council; Bob King – Croxton Parish Council; Tony Poulter – Brettenham & Kilverstone Parish Council; Will Van Cutsem – The Crown Estate and Pigeon; Mike Brown – Thetford Business Forum; and Tig Armstrong – NCC.

At October's meeting, members:

- Discussed how important it was to **demonstrate transparency** on the Board's role and work. As a result, it was agreed that future meetings would be open to the public. Like other public meetings, however, the agenda would be in two parts, to allow confidential or commercially sensitive information to be discussed in private at the end of the meeting. In addition, the Board supported the introduction of a six-monthly Partnership Board forum, where the public could hear about – and question – the Board about its work. A protocol will be worked up for this.
- Agreed that to keep residents, community groups and businesses well informed about the Board's work, they would accept Breckland Council's offer to produce a **partnership communications plan** and protocol for their input and approval. As well as updating residents via the web and local media, the plan will help draw together a database of local newsletters and community magazines to reach the widest possible audience.
- Received an outline of the progress on appointing an **independent Chair**, with a small sub-group from the Board working with Breckland Council on recruitment.
- Discussed the Board's **three sub-groups**: communities; inward investment; and planning and projects. Draft Terms of Reference (TOR) have been circulated for the Communities sub-group to comment on and approve, with the TORs for the other two sub-groups to follow shortly.
- Agreed that development of the **Thetford Enterprise Park (TEP)** should be a growth priority for the Board.  
The Board discussed a proposal by Breckland Council on how **residual funding from Moving Thetford Forward (MTF)** could be used to secure the further funding needed to make TEP a reality. It was also confirmed that the MTF funding belongs to Breckland Council, which is accountable for how it is spent.

The Board supported this proposal with expressed reservations about outstanding MTF bids – it was agreed that Breckland Council would explore alternative sources of funding with bid applicants and members of the Board, providing officer support for the three outstanding community proposals which had initially bid for MTF funding, as MTF no longer exists. Timescales for this to be immediate, in terms of contact with community groups to demonstrate commitment.

- Noted that a **Norfolk Healthy Towns bid** (including Thetford) had been submitted to central government for decision.
- Agreed that **primary health care provision** is still a priority for the Board and that someone from South Norfolk Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) would be invited to attend the next meeting, to help inform discussions.