

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

6.00 P.M.

28TH APRIL 2021

PRESENT:- Councillors Tricia Heath (Chair), Paul Anderton, Stephie Barber, Andrew Gardiner (Substitute for Stewart Scothern), Mandy King, Abi Mills and John Reynolds

Also in Attendance:-

Councillors Roger Dennison, Adrian Duggan, Merv Evans, Tim Hamilton-Cox, Janice Hanson and Cary Matthews

Apologies for Absence:-

Councillors Stewart Scothern (Vice-Chair) and Alistair Sinclair

Officers in attendance:-

Jenny Kay	Civic & Ceremonial Democratic Support Officer
Stephen Metcalfe	Principal Democratic Support Officer

35 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 10th March, 2021 were agreed as a correct record and would be signed in due course.

36 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS AUTHORISED BY THE CHAIR

There were no items of Urgent Business.

37 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

38 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by the Chair and unanimously agreed :

“That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item(s) of business, on the grounds that it could involve the possible disclosure of exempt information, as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of that Act.”

Resolved:-

“That, in accordance with Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business, on the grounds that it could involve the possible disclosure of exempt information, as defined in paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of that Act.”

The 'live' Teams meeting concluded at 6.05pm and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee convened in a private Teams meeting to consider the exempt item.

39 RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MORECAMBE FUTURE HIGH STREET BID INFORMAL TASK GROUP

The Chairman presented the recommendations of the Morecambe Future High Street Bid Informal Task Group. It was reported that the informal group had studied the failed bid and had a number of positive suggestions to assist with future bids for funding for the district that the City Council made.

The Committee considered each recommendation individually and made comments.

Resolved unanimously :-

1. That Officers ensure that consultants have a local based knowledge for future bids.
2. That any future bids consult with a wider base of stakeholders with a broader scope of interests.

That all ward Councillors are invited to participate from town, city and county.

3. With regard to Destination Morecambe - restructuring and reimagining how people arrive and connect with the town :-

That full consultation takes place with County Highways, Network Rail, Eden North and other relevant interested parties to ensure a whole structured, environmentally friendly transport plan is conceived for the area.

4. With regard to the New Contemporary Heart proposals within the bid :-

That more sustainable regeneration proposals are developed following wider consultation taking into account the 80+ Market traders.

5. Regarding the Call for housing - new development of Telephone Exchange car park:-

That conversion of empty business premises and new build of housing is introduced throughout the town centre to bring back the community feel of the whole of the centre.

6. With regard to the Winter Gardens provision of essential new infrastructure to increase the capacities, opportunities and viability :-

That the Winter Gardens remain an essential part of Morecambe's future and should be included in any future bid.

7. Regarding Hyperfast Broadband - installation of engineered servicing to facilitate hyper provision for Morecambe Town Centre :-

That Lancaster City Council tries to source other funding for Hyperfast Broadband provision in Morecambe Town Centre.

8. That comparisons with other sites contained within the report should be like for like. There is no benefit comparing a seaside-based, seasonal tourist town with major city yields and operations.
9. That, as a rule, the final bid (ultimately spending commitment) should be signed off by the Departmental Head, the Chief Executive, the Portfolio holder and Leader of Council.
10. That for clarity, an Executive summary should be attached to the report, which also defines the original council brief, tasks undertaken, personnel involved and third party outsourcing responsibilities.
11. That this bid is not re-used in the future as it is outdated and no longer fit for purpose, post COVID.
12. That a new Morecambe Area Action Plan is drafted with full participation of all Morecambe councillors and business representatives.
13. That a Capital Strategy policy be developed to include purchases specifically for the economic growth of Morecambe, for instance bringing redundant premises back to use.

Chair

(The meeting ended at 6.38 p.m.)

**Any queries regarding these Minutes, please contact
Jenny Kay, Democratic Services - email jkay@lancaster.gov.uk**