



Date 21st January 2019

**Letter to Lowestoft Town Councillors re Lowestoft Rising.**

Dear Lowestoft Town Councillors,

At their most recent meeting, the Lowestoft Rising Sponsor Group partners expressed their surprise and disappointment at the decision of Lowestoft Town Council not to contribute to the work of Lowestoft Rising and thus not to become part of the Sponsor Group.

They felt that they Town Council should be an integral partner in a place based partnership such as this, in the same way that Felixstowe Town Council and Leiston Town Council are in relation to Felixstowe Forward and Leiston Together respectively. As the key, holistic partnership covering the town, this seems like a decision that is very difficult to understand, particularly given the significant amount of funding that the partnership has attracted for a wide range of projects. At the last count Lowestoft Rising has brought additional funding of £2,185,000 into Lowestoft to help tackle key issues, that otherwise would not have happened.

However, the impact of Lowestoft Rising is much wider than just funding, our collaborative working has enabled us to impact on some key issues facing the town for example street drinking and homelessness through our MEAM workers and SWEP, health and wellbeing through our Solutions Social Prescribing project which has seen reductions of 44% in GP appointments from the first cohort of 100 patients and our mental health ambassador and manifesto, not to mention our work with the Community around mental health and our work with schools, including the mentoring programme and work inspiration activities that has seen significant improvements in attainment and attendance levels.

Other key projects include the three Community Enablers for Kirkley, Harbour and Kessingland funded by the National Lottery on the basis of a bid developed through Lowestoft Rising and the work to save the Food Bank which involved VCSE and public sector partners finding the funding to secure its future, moving 22 tons of food and funding a new lead organisations - all within a couple of weeks.

The Group also expressed concern that no one from Lowestoft Rising was given the opportunity to speak to the Town Councillors at one of their meetings or provide any information about the impact of the partnership, and that the recommendation on which this key decision was based was one from the Finance Committee without the full facts.

The Sponsor Group partners unanimously urge you to reconsider your decision.

Yours Faithfully,

Phil Aves Change Manager Lowestoft Rising