

# Greater Norwich Growth Board

Minutes

3pm to 4.30pm

31 July 2014

## Present:

### Board members:

#### Norwich City Council:

Councillor Brenda Arthur (chair)

#### South Norfolk Council:

Councillor John Fuller (vice chair )

#### Broadland District Council:

Councillor Andrew Proctor

#### Norfolk County Council:

Councillor Steve Morpew

### Officers:

Jerry Massey

Gwyn Jones

Tim Horspole

Phil Kirby

Tom McCabe

Fiona McDiarmid

Sandra Eastaugh

Richard Doleman

### New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership:

Chris Starkie (substitute for Mark Pendlington)

## 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mark Pendlington, New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), who was unable to attend the meeting due to a family emergency. He had read the papers for the meeting and had mandated Chris Starkie, managing director, LEP, to act as his substitute and vote on behalf of the LEP. The LEP would be making arrangements to appoint a member of its board to act as a substitute for Mark Pendlington if necessary. Councillor Fuller was a member of the LEP board.

Apologies were also received from Graham Nelson, Norwich City Council, and Phil Courtier, Broadland District Council.

## 2. Appointment of chair and vice chair

**RESOLVED** to elect, for a 12 month period:

- (1) Councillor Arthur as chair;
- (2) Councillor Fuller as vice chair.

### **3. Governance**

Sandra Eastaugh presented the report.

**RESOLVED** to note the joint working agreement as agreed by the constituent partners of the Greater Norwich Growth Board.

### **4. Annual growth programme 2014-15**

The chair introduced the report and pointed out to avoid confusion that the recommendations contained in paragraph 6.4 of the report had not been amended and that the recommendations on the first page were the final version.

Richard Doleman presented the report.

During discussion board members noted that the 2014-15 growth programme was for a 6 month period and provided a good foundation. Members also welcomed that there were no financial constraints on the funding available for projects which met the criteria.

The chair on behalf of the board thanked the officers and colleagues for their contribution to the preparation of schemes for inclusion in the programme.

**RESOLVED** to:

- (1) approve the 2014-15 growth programme, as set out in table 3 of the report, compiled from the annual business plans and subject to acquiring additional information on costs and delivery for particular schemes;
- (2) delegate to the Greater Norwich Infrastructure Delivery Board to collect further information on schemes as required and report any amendments to the annual growth programme;
- (3) ask the Greater Norwich Infrastructure Delivery Board to report progress on the annual growth programme to this board;
- (4) recommend to the promoters that they develop the schemes listed for preparatory work carried out in 2014-15 to support development of the 2015-16 programme.

### **5. New Anglia LEP growth deal**

Chris Starkie presented the report and a power point presentation (A copy of the presentation is available on the website.).

The chair welcomed the Growth Deal overall but expressed disappointment that the bid for growth deal funding to support the delivery of the Norwich area transportation strategy (NATS) had been unsuccessful in the first round of funding. She hoped that when LEP sought other funding sources, including 2016-17 growth deal funding,

they would press for more investment in Greater Norwich as this is where the government would see the most output in terms of economic benefits.

**RESOLVED** to note the report and the contents of the presentation.

## **6. Greater Norwich City Deal**

(Ellen Tilney, economic development manager, Norwich City Council, attended the meeting for this item.)

Sandra Eastaugh presented a power point presentation, together with Ellen Tilney, who presented a report on the first quarter performance of the Growth hub for the period April to June 2014. (Copies of the presentations are available on the website.)

During discussion Fiona McDiarmid said that although there had been difficulties in the national apprenticeship schemes these had been overcome at a local level. The chair said that an important element of the City Deal was to ensure that people had the right skills for economic growth.

**RESOLVED** to note the contents of the presentation.

## **7. Greater Norwich local infrastructure fund**

The chair introduced the report and explained that the board would need to consider the detailed financial appraisals under item 9, below, which were exempt from publication because the reports contained commercially sensitive information. The chair said that she would leave the room whilst the city council's application for Bowthorpe Three Score was being discussed.

Richard Doleman presented the report.

Discussion ensued in general terms on loan agreements and the arrangements for developers to repay the loan to the fund. Members considered that there should be greater flexibility for funding schemes than commercial banks would allow. Repayment profiles would be agreed with developers on an individual scheme basis and rather than a loan being paid at the end of the period could be paid when milestones were reached during the five year loan period. Chris Starkie said that the purpose of the loan was not to replicate bank funding but to fill a gap and in effect to act as a bridging loan to get developments started. Within the five year loan period the developer could move into a position where a bank could invest in the development allowing for the loan to be repaid in full. Members noted that funds must be repaid in 5 years but considered that there needed greater clarity as to when the loan period commenced.

**RESOLVED** to ask officers to clarify the wording contained in the criteria set out in the local infrastructure fund governance arrangements.

## **8. Exempt items**

**RESOLVED** to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following item on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as specified in Part 1 of Schedule 12 A of the Local Government Act 1972 (paragraphs 1 and 3)

(Councillor Arthur and Gwyn Jones (author of the bid) left the meeting at this point. Councillor Fuller, vice chair, was in the chair.)

## **9. Greater Norwich local infrastructure fund (paragraphs 1 and 3)**

### **Bowthorpe /Three Score, Norwich**

Richard Doleman presented the revised appendix 1 and answered members' questions. Members concurred with the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report.

**RESOLVED** to approve in principle, subject to local infrastructure fund governance arrangements, to grant £1.865m of funding to provide onsite road and utilities, which will accelerate delivery of 1,100 dwellings and commence in September 2014 and for the loan to be repaid by 2016.

(Councillor Arthur and Gwyn Jones were readmitted to the meeting. Councillor Arthur was in chair.)

### **South Wymondham development infrastructure package**

Richard Doleman presented the appendix 2 and answered members' questions.

During discussion members considered that the application met the criteria and that it was judicious use of the fund, though members considered that further assurance on the risks and security of the application was required. Members concurred with the conclusions and recommendations contained in paragraph 5 of appendix 2.

**RESOLVED** to approve in principle, subject of local infrastructure fund governance arrangements, to grant £3.5m to Endurance Estates Strategic Land for £3.5m to widen the existing rail bridge on Silfield Road, construct 1.5m of cycleway and improve drainage associated with the proposal for 1,230 new dwellings, which will accelerate the delivery of the infrastructure and is requested in 2015-16 with full repayment by 2021.

### **Deal Ground**

Sandra Eastaugh presented the appendix 3 and answered members' questions.

During discussion members considered that there needed to be clarification on the applicant's business case for the development of this complicated brownfield site and a commencement date given. The board concurred with the conclusions and recommendations set out in paragraph 5 of appendix 3.

**RESOLVED** to approve in principle, subject of local infrastructure fund governance arrangements, to grant £3.5m, to Serruys Property Company Ltd to provide a spine road, bridge and other associated works to open up the Deal Ground for development; noting that the site has consent for 670 dwellings, a local centre and leisure uses, and that draw down is requested from 2015 and the loan to be repaid in 2020.

#### **10. Jerry Massey**

The chair said that this would be the last meeting that Jerry Massey, deputy chief executive (operations) would be attending as he was leaving the city council and thanked him on behalf of the board for his work on the City Deal and providing support to members and colleagues.

Jerry Massey in response praised the strength of the members and officers and said that he looked forward to seeing new developments coming forward.

**RESOLVED** to record the board's gratitude to Jerry Massey for his contribution and to wish him well in the future.

CHAIR