

Greater Norwich Growth Board

Minutes

2pm to 2:55pm

24 September 2015

Present:

Board members:

Broadland District Council:

Councillor Andrew Proctor

Norwich City Council:

Councillor Paul Kendrick

South Norfolk Council:

Councillor John Fuller (Chair)

Norfolk County Council:

Councillor Stephen Morphew

New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership:

In Attendance:

Tig Armstrong
Amy Broadhead
Richard Doleman
Ellen Goodwin
Phil Morris
David White

Officers:

Phil Courtier

David Moorcroft
Graham Nelson

Tim Horspole

Chris Starkie

Partnership Manager
Greater Norwich Projects Team
Norfolk County Council
Greater Norwich Projects Team
Norfolk County Council
Norfolk County Council

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Alan Waters, Norwich City Council, (Councillor Paul Kendrick attended as his substitute) and Mark Pendlington, New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership.

2. MINUTES

RESOLVED to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 24 March 2015.

3. NOMINATION TO THE POSITION OF VICE-CHAIR

It was proposed, seconded and **RESOLVED** that Councillor Stephen Morphew be appointed to the position of Vice-Chair of the Board.

4. GREATER NORWICH GROWTH AMBITIONS

Tig Armstrong presented an update on a number of activities being undertaken by the Greater Norwich Projects Team designed to support the Greater Norwich 'Growth Agenda'. He highlighted the need to promote the Greater Norwich area and "put it on the map" for potential developers and said that the GNGB authorities' attendance at the MIPIM UK exhibition in October would be a good start to this.

The Chair spoke highly of the MIPIM event, and emphasised the importance of preparation prior to the event so that there would be an improved chance to secure investment in the Greater Norwich area.

RESOLVED to note the report.

5. JOINT CORE STRATEGY: REVIEW AND ROLL FORWARD

Members considered a report of the Greater Norwich Infrastructure Delivery Board which presented the Board with the reasons why it was considered necessary to begin a review and roll forward of the Joint Core Strategy (JCS). It was noted that a local plan would normally take around five years to review, so adoption of a replacement was unlikely before 2020.

The Board was invited to consider the Member involvement in the review. There was agreement that the governance for the Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP) had worked well when preparing the original Joint Core Strategy, especially when considering detailed technical matters. There was also recognition that wider Member input may be useful in providing the necessary steering from partner authorities and that input from other Members should not be underestimated.

Members noted that weight would have to be given to different budgetary pressures before any plans to proceed could be finalised.

RESOLVED to agree

1. To recommend that each of the local planning authorities, supported by other partners, commit to work together to review and roll forward the JCS incorporating site allocations, with any requirements for development management policies produced separately and, as far as possible, concurrently.
2. That proposals for governance arrangements be developed and be subject to a future report for consideration.

6. ANNUAL GROWTH PROGRAMME 2016/17

Tig Armstrong presented the report which provided an update on the 2014/15 and 2015/16 Annual Growth Programmes and proposed projects for inclusion in the 2016/17 Growth Programme. The Board noted the reasons for some slippage in a small number of projects and officers provided reassurance that these projects were still on course for completion.

Members noted the errata, tabled at the meeting, which outlined a number of amendments to the report, and which detailed the requirements of seven projects requiring final approval for the use of up to £2.52 million of pooled funding.

Mr Armstrong made reference to the four projects brought forward in the 2016/17 Business Plans preparations for inclusion in the 2017/18 Growth Programme. Discussion followed regarding the importance of continued delivery of green infrastructure projects and it was noted that these helped to mitigate impacts of growth, relieving pressure on the internationally designated sites.

RESOLVED to

1. Note progress on the 2014/15 and 2015/16 Annual Growth Programmes.
2. Endorse the seven projects recommended for inclusion in the 2016/17 Annual Growth Programme and commit £2.52 million from the pooled Infrastructure Investment Fund towards these projects (see table three), and
 - a. Approve in-principle four projects (brought forward in the 2016/17 Business Plans) for inclusion in the 2017/18 Growth Programme and commit in-principle £1.025 million from the pooled Infrastructure Investment Fund towards these projects (see table four).
3. Delegate responsibility to the Greater Norwich Infrastructure Delivery Board to manage the delivery of the 2016/17 Annual Growth Programme, report progress to the next GNGB Board and to consider inclusion of further schemes emerging from the identified development work.
4. Reaffirm endorsement of the 5 year NATS programme as set out in Appendix C and the use of £2,150,000 of pooled CIL funds to support delivery from 2017/18 to 2019/20 within future annual growth programmes.
5. Reaffirm their commitment to borrow funds as and when required to support the delivery of the significant infrastructure projects including the Northern Distributor Road (NDR), Long Stratton Bypass and other transportation improvement measures.

7. GROWTH PROGRAMME – CASE STUDIES AND HIGHLIGHTS

David White, Senior Green Infrastructure Officer at Norfolk County Council, gave a presentation on some of the success stories of the Growth Programme to date.

The projects delivered at Danby Woods and Marston Marshes were highlighted as examples of the achievements of the CIL funding programme. The Yare Valley corridor was a popular recreation area and would serve a large housing development built alongside it. The use of pooled funding had allowed for the enhancement of, as well

as improved access to, the green infrastructure provision in the area, and the use of volunteers had meant that both projects were able to be delivered under budget allowing funds to be returned to the Infrastructure Investment Fund to fund other schemes.

Other projects presented to Members included the Health Walk scheme near the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, Harrison's Wood on the edge of the White House Farm development at Sprowston, and the first phase of improvements to Marriott's Way in the centre of Norwich. These projects would not have been delivered without the allocation of funds from the pooled Infrastructure Investment Fund and the Board acknowledged that the successful delivery had been instrumental in demonstrating a deliverable method of mitigation to national environmental bodies such as Natural England.

8. GREATER NORWICH LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

Phil Courtier introduced the report which provided an update on the Greater Norwich Local Infrastructure Fund. It summarised the applications received to date, including an updated financial profile for information. He confirmed that the City Deal through which the LIF was established, provided access to £20million of borrowing to help bring forward the delivery of infrastructure to unlock growth. Mr Courtier confirmed that a measured approach was needed when attempting to access the funding and considered a review every six months to identify if a more robust approach was required.

The Chair queried the status of the £20million and asked if this could be re-allocated to other projects. Phil Courtier confirmed that this might be a possibility but suggested that sunset clauses could be added to schemes allocated funding where it was deemed appropriate in order to encourage delivery. Councillor Stephen Morphew agreed that caution would be required when accessing the funding.

A brief discussion then followed where details of some of the delays on stalled projects were explained.

Chris Starkie informed the Board that sometimes the delays were being caused, not by a lack of funds but by a skills shortage and that this was sometimes beyond the Board's control.

It was then

RESOLVED to

1. Note progress on the proposals approved in principle to date
2. Reaffirm the in-principle loan agreement for the Buxton Road / North Walsham Road East – West Link noting that some progress has been made since the original in-principle agreement in March 2015.
3. Agree that work continues to progress loan agreements for each of the schemes given in-principle agreement by the Board, and to review each of the agreements against progress every 6 months to ensure meaningful progress is being made.

CHAIR

The meeting closed at 2:55pm