

2pm to 2:55pm

24 March 2016

**Present:**

**Board Members:**

**Broadland District Council:**

Councillor Andrew Proctor

**Norwich City Council:**

Councillor Bert Bremner  
(on behalf of Cllr Alan Waters)

**South Norfolk Council:**

Councillor John Fuller

**Norfolk County Council:**

Councillor Stephen Morphew (Chair)

**New Anglia Local Enterprise  
Partnership:**

**In Attendance:**

Tig Armstrong  
Mike Burrell  
Richard Doleman  
Ellen Goodwin

**Officers:**

Phil Courtier

Graham Nelson

Tim Horspole

Tom McCabe  
Harvey Bullen

Chris Starkie

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

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillor Alan Waters, Norwich City Council, (Councillor Bert Bremner attended as his substitute), Mark Pendlington, New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership, David Moorcroft, Norwich City Council and Simon George, Norfolk County Council, (Harvey Bullen attended as his substitute).

**2. Minutes**

**RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

### **3. Chair Handover**

Councillor Morpew, Norfolk County Council, was appointed to the position of Chair of the Board.

### **4. Nomination to the position of Vice-Chair**

Councillor Proctor, Broadland District Council, was appointed to the position of Vice-Chair of the Board.

### **5. Growth Programme update**

Cllr Fuller declared an interest as a member of the Government's CIL Review Panel.

Phil Courtier introduced the paper and outlined its recommendations. Cllr Proctor noted that comparable financial figures would be useful for future reporting. Recommendation 5 was queried and Phil Courtier confirmed that this was part of an ongoing arrangement and that Members would be fully briefed on progress of proposed Five Year Joint Investment Plan.

**RESOLVED** to agree:

1. To note the current financial standing of the Infrastructure Investment Fund
2. To note the progress on the 2014/15 and 2015/16 Annual Growth Programmes
3. The new process for developing the 2017/18 Annual Growth Programme
4. To reschedule its meeting on 22 September 2016 to October 2016 to allow for the new Growth Programme process timescales for development
5. Delegate responsibility to the Greater Norwich Infrastructure Delivery Board and Section 151 Officers to manage the development of the 2017/18 Annual Growth Programme

### **6. Greater Norwich Local Plan: Interim Member Engagements Arrangements**

Graham Nelson presented the item and outlined the interim member engagement arrangement proposed by the paper. The three Local Planning Authorities have each agreed to the preparation of a joint Local Plan. He noted that the GNGB did not currently have the remit to make decisions on strategic plan making and that the proposed interim arrangement would allow for Member steer and input into the development of the Greater Norwich Local Plan while longer term governance was arranged.

Cllr Fuller stressed the importance of proper democratic process and the need to rigorously hold technical work to account. He expressed concern that the proposed arrangement would be a retrograde step for the Partnership and emphasised the need for pace to allow for timely delivery of the Joint Local Plan.

Cllr Proctor noted that that the proposal would mean a Member Group of around 30 which he thought would be largely unproductive. He expressed the view that the reestablishment of a Group like the GNDP Board, albeit a potentially a more streamlined version, or a Joint Planning Committee, to allow for collective decision making, would be more appropriate. He also emphasised the need for governance resolution as soon as possible. Finally Cllr Proctor noted that he did not think the devolution context was relevant to the development of the Joint Local Plan.

Graham Nelson reminded the Board that the 'call for sites' was a joint evidence gathering exercise. Concern was raised about beginning the process in advance of a governance arrangement being in place and that the exercise should be postponed until each authority had had a chance to consider this further.

Cllr Bremner noted the importance of transparent decision making regarding the sites assessment stage. He also questioned what the impact would be of postponing the 'call for sites' evidence gathering exercise until after the local elections. Graham Nelson replied that a postponement was likely to lead to a significant delay in the preparation of the Plan. Cllr Fuller noted that the recent publication by the Local Plan Expert Panel would shorten the timetable for developing the Joint Local Plan if agreed by Government.

Cllr Morphew pointed out that as plan making was outside the remit of the GNGB, he could not commit Norfolk County Council beyond the current constitution. He suggested that a way forward would be to defer until June 2016 so Members could get their authorities' steers organised after the local elections.

The following revised recommendations were agreed

**RESOLVED** to:

1. Recommend that the individual authorities consider the approach to plan making governance by June 2016
2. Recommend that the authorities defer the call for sites evidence gathering exercise until a position on governance has been agreed

## **7. Technical consultation on implementation of planning changes: suggested framework for combined Greater Norwich response**

Tim Horspole explained that the Government has published a technical consultation document on the implementation of planning changes and are asking for comments to help inform secondary legislation. He recognised that much of the document is beyond the remit of the Board but highlighted that as a subregion that was 'up for growth' it was important to respond with a succinct set of relevant responses.

**RESOLVED** to agree:

1. The 'headline' responses to the consultation questions and asked the Greater Norwich Infrastructure Delivery Board to prepare, agree and submit a full response to the consultation document.

## **8. Greater Norwich Local Infrastructure Fund**

Phil Courtier introduced items 8 and 9. The Board were asked to note a loan agreement had been signed for Loddon and that the South Wymondham application had been withdrawn.

Cripps Developments have applied for £1.5m from the Local Infrastructure Fund to help fund infrastructure at Little Plumstead. Cllr Fuller suggested that the Board needed to progress loans on the basis of full planning consent. It was suggested that a long stop date of 31 December 2016 be included to ensure swift drawdown.

**RESOLVED** to agree:

1. To note the signing of the first loan agreement and the progress of the other proposals approved in principle to date.
2. To note the withdrawal of the South Wymondham scheme from the fund
3. Subject to further detailed financial scrutiny under item 9 on the agenda the proposal be approved in principle and authorise negotiations to commence between the Accountable Body and the applicant to prepare a loan agreement.

## **9. Greater Norwich Local Infrastructure Fund**

The meeting closed at 14:55.