

Greater Norwich Growth Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday 6 February 2018

Time: 11.00 am

Venue: Broadland District Council, Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road, Norwich, NR7 0DU

Present:

Board Members:

Broadland District Council:

Cllr Andrew Proctor (Chair)

Norwich City Council:

Cllr Alan Waters

South Norfolk Council:

Cllr John Fuller

Norfolk County Council:

Cllr Cliff Jordan

Officers:

Phil Kirby
Phil Courtier
James Dunne

David Moorcroft

Debbie Lorimer

Wendy Thomson
Tracy Jessop
Sebastian Gasse
Isobel Horner
Jane Blackwell

In attendance:

Amy Broadhead

Angela Freeman

Steve Davidson (for item 3)

Andrew Hunt (for item 3)

Raphael Markellos (for item 3)

Greater Norwich Projects Team

Greater Norwich Projects Team

Marsh

Aviva

UEA – Norwich Business School

On behalf of the Board the Chairman thanked Amy Broadhead, who was leaving her current post to take up a role with South Norfolk Council, for her hard work in supporting the Board.

1. APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Laura McGillivray.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 DECEMBER 2017

The Minutes of the meeting held on 7 December 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

3. NORWICH FINANCIAL INDUSTRY GROUP : NORWICH FINANCIAL CLUSTER

The Board received a presentation from Steve Davidson the Managing Director of Marsh and the Chairman of Norwich Financial Industry Group (FIG) (attached at Appendix 1 to these Minutes).

It was emphasised that the FIG could play a key role in collaborating with local government to strengthen and expand the 'Financial Cluster' in Norwich and it was suggested that regular informal meetings with Board Members could take place to facilitate this.

In response to a query about a lack of risk capital from businesses to unlock the economic potential in Greater Norwich, it was acknowledged that there had not been enough progress yet, however a lot of good projects were coming forward through the UEA and Norwich Research Park and the new Norwich Enterprise Centre would assist in the process of bringing these to the market.

In answer to a question regarding linkages to the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), the Board was advised that the financial sector was now a priority of the LEP and Lindsey Rix from Aviva had been appointed to the Board to represent the sector. The FIG was also supporting the development of the next LEP Economic Strategy. It was emphasised, however, that the role of the FIG was to promote Norwich as a 'Financial Cluster' and it had less of a focus on the rest of Norfolk and none at all on Suffolk.

A Member noted that Norwich could not be complacent about established businesses, as had been seen with Britvic and Colman recently, and it was crucial to make the LEP aware of the importance of the financial sector to the City. It was, therefore, suggested that a presentation should be made to the LEP, as there were a lot of linkages in areas such as job creation and building a highly skilled workforce. The locational advantage of Norwich was also noted, as well as the policy implications for Norfolk County Council in terms of supporting education and the jobs market.

It was noted that there was a lack of good quality office space in Norwich for larger companies, but for smaller start up enterprises there was sufficient space and the critical mass of the Financial Cluster would act as a stimulus to

their businesses.

It was confirmed that a link to the new FIG website would be forwarded to the Greater Norwich Project Team, so that the Board could consider linking to the website.

4. CHILDREN'S SERVICES GROWTH PLANNING

The report provided an update on the Children's Services Local Growth and Investment Plan and the implications of the planned housing growth in Greater Norwich on the local school system. It also requested the Board to consider how the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) might support its future provision.

It was emphasised that the County Council had a statutory duty to ensure there were sufficient school places and Children's Services had concerns about how to fund the £118m required to support the provision of new schools in the Greater Norwich Growth Area.

Moreover, there would also be an increase in the number of children with special educational needs, which required further provision on top of the projected additional places that would be required

Another key factor to consider was matching the timing of new school provision to the pupil demand from new developments.

A Member noted that there were difficult decisions to be made for prioritising CIL expenditure and a significant amount had been committed to transport including the Northern Distributor Road.

It was noted that Somerset County Council was borrowing £116m through the Public Works Loan Board to fund schools in its growth areas, so this might be an option for the County Council.

Members suggested that Children's Services continue their discussions regarding capital funding issues with the Greater Norwich Growth Board Officer Group.

RESOLVED

- (i) to note the contents of the report and the developments to date to provide new and improved school places; and
- (ii) that Children's Services discuss the Community Infrastructure Levy Programme with the Greater Norwich Growth Board Officer Group, to explore if a mechanism could be devised to support future provision of the additional school places required to support growth.

5. FUTURE SUPPORT TEAM ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GREATER NORWICH GROWTH BOARD

The Board was informed that a recruitment process was being undertaken to replace Amy Broadhead, who was leaving her post on Friday. Four or five internal candidates had been selected for interview.

A handover meeting would take place this week and interim cover would be put in place in the intervening period.

6. GREATER NORWICH GROWTH BOARD FORWARD PLAN

The report set out the Forward Plan for the Greater Norwich Growth Board.

RESOLVED

to include the following additional items on the Work Programme:

12 March 2018

- Local Enterprise Partnership – to consider the Greater Norwich offer within the LEP structures.

Future Meetings

- Norwich Financial Industry Group – to consider collaboration.
- Schools Capital Programme
- Special Purpose Vehicle

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

12 March 2018, 14:00pm
Mancroft Room, City Hall, Norwich.

The meeting closed at 12.35 pm.