

# Greater Norwich Growth Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Tuesday 19 May 2020

**Time:** 4.20pm

**Venue:** Online; virtual Teams Live meeting

**Present:**

**Board Members:**

**Officers:**

**Broadland District Council:**

Cllr Shaun Vincent

Trevor Holden

Phil Courtier

**Norwich City Council:**

Cllr Alan Waters

Graham Nelson

**South Norfolk Council:**

Cllr John Fuller

Trevor Holden

Phil Courtier

**Norfolk County Council:**

Cllr Andrew Proctor (Chair)

Vince Muspratt

**New Anglia LEP**

Douglas Field

Chris Starkie

**In attendance:**

Hollie Adams

Committee Officer, Norfolk County Council  
(clerking)

Grace Burke

Greater Norwich Project Team Leader,  
Norfolk County Council

Matt Tracey

Growth and Infrastructure Group Manager,  
Norfolk County Council

## 1. HANDOVER OF CHAIR AND APOLOGIES

Outgoing Chairman Cllr John Fuller started the meeting. He apologised as technical issues had caused the meeting to start 20 minutes late.

The Clerk introduced the Members of the Committee and Officers in attendance of the virtual meeting and noted that no apologies had been received.

Cllr Fuller had enjoyed his year chairing the Board, noting the need for concerted action across all authorities the single purpose to grow the local economy and deliver plans, and the need to be creative about finance and funding to make peoples' lives better, generate wealth and prosperity for all, especially in light of the upcoming challenges presented by future austerity.

Cllr Fuller handed over the Chairmanship of the Board to Cllr Andrew Proctor, who would Chair the group for the ensuing year. Cllr Proctor noted the challenges and changes over the past year and agreed there was a need for the Greater Norwich Growth Board (GNGB) to respond to challenges that may arise, including delivery around the economy and adapting and planning for the current situation such as reordering around the Greater Norwich Infrastructure Plan (GNIP).

## **1B. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIRMAN**

Vice-Chairman for the Board was appointed on rotation, and this year was due to be Cllr Shaun Vincent.

Cllr Vincent queried whether this was appropriate as, the following year when he would become Chairman of the Board, he would also be Chairman of the Development Partnership. The Chairman felt it was appropriate to appoint Cllr Vincent as Vice-Chairman and make changes to Chairmanship next year if required.

Members **NOTED** and **AGREED** the appointment of Cllr Shaun Vincent as Vice-Chairman of the Greater Norwich Growth Board for the ensuing year

## **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No interests were declared

## **3. MINUTES**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2020 were agreed as an accurate record

## **4. GREATER NORWICH INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN**

Phil Courtier, Director of Place, Broadland District Council, gave a brief introduction to the plan; it gave the revised, 2020 version of the Greater Norwich Infrastructure Plan, setting out a high-level list of infrastructure for growth in areas, and providing key information around funding. The report had been prepared prior to understanding the effects of the Covid-19/Coronavirus outbreak, therefore some of the forecasts and other information may have changed since the time of writing.

Cllr Alan Waters noted that assessments would be needed to identify how to deploy resources where they could make the most impact, noting the different landscape post pandemic and possible reduction in resources. He felt that Local Government would play a key role and therefore the GNGB's good reputation as a role model should be capitalised on.

Cllr John Fuller felt that as the plan was predicated on cashflow and plans were drawn up before the Covid-19/Coronavirus outbreak, due to the reprofiling of CIL income, it was possible that the cashflow may not be as anticipated and therefore funding should be focussed on projects with the greatest economic impact, bearing in mind that not all projects may be able to be taken forward.

Cllr Shaun Vincent agreed with the reservations raised by Cllrs Waters and Fuller.

Chris Starkie, Chief Executive, New Anglia LEP, noted that investment and infrastructure were critical to get the economy rebuilt and agreed that Government funding may need to be sought, and the plan would need to be flexed.

The Chairman suggested that the Greater Norwich Infrastructure Plan identified the key priorities to bring forward, but there may be a need to reprioritise. He asked if there was the need to realign the finances and suggested that projects be prioritised to those that support growing the economy.

Phil Courtier confirmed that infrastructure selection could be prioritised towards economic recovery. The Chairman noted that some projects may need to be reprioritised and their funding reallocated.

Grace Burke, Greater Norwich Project Team Leader, clarified that the 5-year infrastructure plan, which would be produced later in the year, would outline the financial plan and confirm the projects that had been prioritised; at that point there would be a clearer understanding of Covid-19, its impact on CIL and any legislation changes. The Board would then be able to make the decisions about which projects would be allocated CIL.

Matt Tracey, Growth and Infrastructure Group Manager, confirmed that the Greater Norwich Infrastructure Plan was part of a suite of documents including the growth prospectus and Norfolk Strategic Delivery Plan; these were being reviewed to look at the prioritisation discussed in the meeting.

The Chairman asked the Committee to note that reviewing and prioritisation of projects was to be carried out.

The Board:

- (i) **ACCEPTED** the Draft GNIP 2020.
- (ii) **NOTED** that by accepting the GNIP this will initiate the opening of the 'call for projects' for the Infrastructure Investment Fund (IIF-strategic pooled CIL).

(iii) **NOTED** that projects would be reviewed and prioritised to support economic recovery

The meeting concluded at 16:36