

Greater Norwich Growth Board

Minutes

Date: Thursday, 2 December 2021

Time: 14:00 to 14:45

Venue: Virtual – Zoom

Present:

Board Members:

Norwich City Council:

Councillor Alan Waters (chair)

South Norfolk Council:

Councillor John Fuller (vice chair)

Broadland District Council:

Councillor Shaun Vincent

Norfolk County Council:

Councillor Andrew Proctor

Officers:

Stephen Evans
Graham Nelson

Phil Courtier

Phil Courtier

Vince Muspratt

In attendance:

Grace Burke

Ruth Oyeniyi

Tom Cushan

Charlotte Rivett

Greater Norwich Project Team Leader

Greater Norwich Project

Greater Norwich Project

Norwich City Council

Jobs, homes and prosperity for local people



NORWICH
City Council



Norfolk County Council

NEWANGLIA
Local Enterprise Partnership
for Norfolk and Suffolk

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from CJ Green and Chris Starkie, New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership, Tom McCabe, Norfolk County Council and Trevor Holden, Broadland and South Norfolk District Councils.

2. Declarations of Interests

There were no declarations of interests.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the meeting held on 30 September 2021.

4. IIF Project Showcase – GP69: Aylsham Sports Hub

(Dan Goodwin, Communities Officer, Broadland & South Norfolk District Councils, attended the meeting for this item.)

Dan Goodwin gave a PowerPoint presentation to update members on progress of the provision of a full size 3G pitch and two changing rooms with referee area, as part of the development of the Aylsham Sports Hub, located at Aylsham High School, to develop sports facilities for community and school use. The first phase had been the replacement of the school pool with a high standard pool which offers memberships for community use, pay as you go swimming and a swim school. The first phase was £0.5m. The school had invested £225,000. £1.5m came from S106 payments allocated as part of the Bure Meadow development at Aylsham, with £750,000 still held by the school. The sports hub also included badminton, tennis, basketball, netball, cricket, and cricket nets at the schools existing facilities. The second phase was the 3G pitch which opened on 1 September 2020, providing multi-use facilities for football, rugby, hockey, and athletics training. The primary use of the pitch was for football, and it was one of eight pitches in Norfolk to be accredited by both the FA and FIFA. Despite the disruption of Covid, community usage was at 85 per cent capacity and off-peak capacity at 40 per cent. Twenty clubs and 50 teams had used the pitch, with around 700 players using the pitch per week. The nearest similar facility was at Horsford. There were ongoing discussions with several clubs for the venue to be the home pitch for one or more teams.

The board was advised that the next stage of the development was to provide the changing facilities, gym/spin space, studios, and a community café. Spiraling construction costs meant that it was no longer feasible to build all these facilities without further financial support (estimated at £700k gym only, £1.3-1.5m for the whole plan). The school was looking at options such as phased development using the resources available and seeking additional funding. The provision of the changing rooms alone would make it difficult to convert the building to dual use later, and therefore, consideration was being given to build out the changing rooms, together with the gym and café, and provide the studio space later (alternative studio

space was currently available), as this would allow the hub to maximise its income and reduced the risk of failure to complete. The business model for the hub was that it would be self-sufficient, and it could invest in the studios later.

During discussion, Councillor Vincent said that the sports hub would make a difference in the locality and for the people who used the facilities. It would be interesting to see how the project progressed and what compromises would need to be made. The facilities at the present time were excellent and he was pleased that the GNGB had supported this project. He thanked Dan Goodwin, the school and all those involved in supporting the delivery of this project.

Councillor Proctor commented that a reference had been made in the presentation to the Nest (3G pitch at Horsford) and pointed out that the GNGB was also supporting another 3G pitch at Brundall Sports Hub (GP76). The costs for the next phase the Aylsham Sports Hub were substantial in relation to the provision of the 3G pitch. Dan Goodwin said that the school held £750,000 and a further £700,000 was needed. Sport England had changed its focus to investing in Covid recovery, where previously it would have been expected to fund large scale developments like this. This policy was being reviewed in the new year and funding would be pursued through Active Norfolk. There had been discussions with the Local Enterprise Partnership at officer level to identify potential funding sources, and it would be helpful if senior members could reinforce this. The funding was for the infrastructure only and it was expected that Aylsham Sports Hub would meet its operational needs.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) thank Dan Goodwin for the presentation and ask him to pass on to Aylsham High School and all those involved in delivering the project the board's thanks and congratulations;
- (2) agree to the request for board members to use their influence and contacts to enable further progress to be made for the completion of the project.

5. Greater Norwich Joint Five-Year Infrastructure Investment Plan 2022-27

Phil Courtier, Director of Place, Broadland and South Norfolk District Councils, presented the report, and together with Grace Burke, Greater Norwich Project Team Leader, answered members' questions.

During discussion, members of the board welcomed the clarity of the report and thanked Grace Burke and Ruth Oyeniyi for collating the data and providing the schematic map showing the locations of all previously agreed projects (Appendix C), as previously requested by the board. Members also paid credit to them for the robust processes used to provide accurate information to the board.

Councillor Fuller sought confirmation that the projected figure of £81m in 2026 would not be diminished by the 15 or 25 per cent neighbourhood CIL contributions made to parish and town councils and asked whether benchmarking was undertaken to ensure that the full amount was taken out. Members were advised that only the strategic pooled CIL contributions were included in the cashflow forecasts; the amount after the district council's neighbourhood CIL contributions had been deducted. The calculations were done by the district officers, and it was expected that the uplift in the percentage of CIL to be deducted, as a result of any neighbourhood plans that were expected to be adopted, were considered in the forecast. Each scheme was considered on a case-by-case basis and there were many factors that could change. The CIL forecast was reviewed every 6 months for this reason. If any members had concerns that neighbourhood CIL contributions had been overlooked they should contact the Grace Burke and team. The GNGB had no control over how neighbourhood CIL contributions were spent. Members noted that the district councils published information on neighbourhood CIL payments but considered that it would be useful for the information on all CIL contributions for infrastructure to be in one document and therefore it should be appended to the 5YIIP in future years, as it would inform discussions with parish and town councils and be more accessible to the public.

In reply to a member's question, Grace Burke confirmed that all agreed deferred payments due to Covid had now been paid. Members were also advised that some developers had brought schemes forward for development and had paid their contributions up front, which was sooner than had been anticipated 6 months' ago.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) the approval of the Draft Five Year Infrastructure Investment Plan 2022-27 (the Plan- Appendix 1);
- (2) approve the proposed 2022/23 Annual Growth Programme (page 6 within the Plan);
- (3) agree the draft legal loan agreement for the drawdown of £6.733m through the Greater Norwich City Deal, to support the delivery of Long Stratton Bypass (Appendix E within the plan); and,
- (4) subject to (3) for the Greater Norwich Growth Board to be granted delegated authority to sign the final legal loan agreement together with their s151 officer's, under the direction of Norfolk County Council as the Accountable Body (as detailed in paragraph 3 of the report);
- (5) ask that an appendix outlining neighbourhood CIL contributions be attached to the plan in future for information.

6. Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Strategy and Delivery Plan

Vince Muspratt, Director Growth and Economic Development, Norfolk County Council, presented the report, together with Charlotte Rivett, Planner, Norwich City Council (who had attended the meeting for this item.)

During discussion, Graham Nelson, Executive Director of Development and City Services, confirmed that this proposed strategy for Greater Norwich complemented the wider Green Infrastructure Recreational Avoidance Mitigation Strategy, which sought to ensure that growth sites across the county did not harm specific natural areas, designated Natura 2000 wildlife sites. To get the strategy right it was necessary to minimise pressure on these sites from increases in the numbers of recreational visitors because of new developments. The proposed Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Strategy and Delivery Plan would “join up the dots” and alleviate pressure by encouraging residents to access green infrastructure, within their local areas. For example, the Whittingham, Bridges and Links projects opened up green infrastructure to residents from East Norwich and the city centre.

Members noted that the purpose of the report was to authorise officers to undertake the scoping and development of the strategy but not its “delivery”, and therefore the board agreed that for clarification and to avoid confusion, in relation to recommendation (2) in the report, that the word “delivered” should be deleted and replaced with “produced”.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) agree the draft scoping document to support the direction of the strategy;
- (2) agree for the Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Strategy and Delivery Plan to be produced;
- (3) delegate authority to the Greater Norwich Infrastructure Delivery Board to manage its programme, with commencement subject to confirmation from all partners that match funding is secured (as detailed in section 5 of the report).

7. Date of Next Meeting

RESOLVED to confirm that the next meeting of the board will be held on 16 March 2022 at 13:00 (venue/location to be confirmed).

CHAIR