

# Greater Norwich Growth Board

**Date:** 30 March 2023

**Time:** 2:00pm

**Venue:** County Hall, Council Chamber

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Role</b>
Cllr Alan Waters	Norwich City Council	Board Member
Stephen Evans	Norwich City Council	Officer
Graham Nelson	Norwich City Council	Officer
Cllr John Fuller (Chair)	South Norfolk Council	Board Member
Trevor Holden	South Norfolk Council & Broadland District Council	Officer
Phil Courtier	South Norfolk Council & Broadland District Council	Officer
Cllr Shaun Vincent	Broadland District Council	Board Member
Cllr Andrew Proctor (Vice Chair)	Norfolk County Council	Board Member
Tom McCabe	Norfolk County Council	Officer
Vince Muspratt	Norfolk County Council	Officer
CJ Green	New Anglia LEP	Board Member
Chris Starkie	New Anglia LEP	Officer

## AGENDA

<b>Item</b>	<b>Minute</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Minutes of meeting held on 15 December 2022</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Project Showcase: Ketts Country Long Distance Trail</b> <i>Helen Terry, Team Leader - Greenways, Norfolk County Council</i>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>GNGB Website Update - accompanied by a live demonstration</b> <i>Tom Cushan, Greater Norwich Project Officer</i>	<b>8</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Greater Norwich Annual Growth Programme 2023/24</b> <i>Phil Courtier, Director of Place, Broadland and South Norfolk District Councils</i>	<b>10</b>
<b>7.</b>	<b>How Greater Norwich is taking action to ensure future development is nutrient neutral</b> <i>Graham Nelson, Executive Director of Development and City Services, Norwich City Council</i>	<b>36</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Long Stratton Bypass</b> <i>Phil Courtier, Director of Place, Broadland and South Norfolk District Councils</i>	<b>42</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>AOB</b> Forthcoming retirement of Cllr Waters	<b>N/A</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b> <i>06 June 2023 at 2:00pm</i> <i>County Hall, Council Chamber</i>	<b>N/A</b>

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:**

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If you would like this agenda in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language, please call Grace Burke, Greater Norwich Project Team Leader on 01603 222727 or email [grace.burke@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:grace.burke@norfolk.gov.uk)



Please call Grace Burke, Greater Norwich Project Team Leader on 01603 222727 or email [grace.burke@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:grace.burke@norfolk.gov.uk) in advance of the meeting if you have any queries regarding access requirements.

# Greater Norwich Growth Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 15 December 2022

**Time:** 2.00pm

**Venue:** County Hall, Council Chamber / Virtual Meeting

## Present:

<b>Board Members:</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Cllr John Fuller (Chairman)	South Norfolk Council
Cllr Shaun Vincent	Broadland District Council
Cllr Alan Waters	Norwich City Council
Cllr Andrew Proctor (Vice Chairman)	Norfolk County Council

<b>Officers</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Phil Courtier	Broadland and South Norfolk Councils
Carolyn Reid	Norfolk County Council
Graham Nelson	Norwich City Council

## Also in attendance:

<b>Officers</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Grace Burke	Greater Norwich Project Team Leader
Ruth Oyeniya	Greater Norwich Senior Project Officer
Thomas Cushan	Greater Norwich Project Officer
Susan Moore	Parks and Open Spaces Manager, Norwich City Council

<b>Officers</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
Claire White	Democratic Services Manager, Broadland and South Norfolk Councils
Herbie Wilson-Daze	Digital Requirements and Skills Officer

<b>Item No</b>	<b>Minutes</b>
<b>1.</b>	<p><b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b></p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from CJ Green and C Starkie.</p>
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>MINUTES</b></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2022, were agreed as a correct record.</p>
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT FUND PROJECT SHOWCASE: NORWICH PARK TENNIS</b></p> <p>The Board received a presentation from Susan Moore, the Parks and Open Spaces Manager at Norwich City Council on the expansion of Norwich Parks Tennis, which had been part funded by the Greater Norwich Growth Board.</p> <p>It was explained that improvements to tennis facilities in the city had first been initiated in 2011 at Eaton Park and then later at Waterloo Park, Harford Park, Heigham Park and Lakenham Recreation.</p> <p>The project had been developed by Norwich City Council with the aim of delivering affordable, quality tennis for new and existing players on a sustainable basis. The service had been contracted to the National Tennis Association (NTA), which made a contribution to the Council on an annual basis for the maintenance of the facilities and was, therefore, cost neutral for the Council.</p> <p>Through Norwich Parks Tennis the NTA had built a flagship project, which had received national recognition, as one of the most successful community tennis programmes in the country.</p> <p>The scheme was aimed at making tennis affordable for families. Annual membership was £35 per household for one site, or £65 per household to access all sites. Lighting for courts was available for £2.50 per 30 minutes.</p> <p>The total cost of the expansion project had been £438,025, of which the Greater Norwich Growth Board had contributed £103,453.</p>

By 2020 there were 810 household memberships and court hours had increased to 22,709 hours per annum.

It was intended that during 2023 the programme would cover 22 courts, 14 of which would be floodlit, across seven sites,

Alan Waters emphasised the importance of the contribution to the project by the Greater Norwich Growth Board, which had enabled the scheme to be expanded to further sites across the city. He added that it was one of the great achievements of the partnership that it had funded a whole range of schemes across Greater Norwich, which gave people the opportunity to take part in activities that improved their health and wellbeing and he was delighted to commend this very successful and continually expanding project.

The Chairman noted that the project had delivered very well so far and would initiate wider infrastructure improvements, as the scheme was extended in the future.

**4. DRAFT FIVE-YEAR INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PLAN 2023-28**

Phil Courtier the Director of Place at Broadland and South Norfolk Councils presented the report, which set out the Draft Greater Norwich Joint Five-Year Infrastructure Investment Plan 2023-28, for collective review ahead of the Plan being considered by individual partnership Cabinets and Councils in Feb/March 2023, before returning to this Board on 30 March 2023.

The proposed 2023/24 Annual Growth Programme was appended to the report, which had identified nine projects requiring £10,632,000 in Community Infrastructure Levy funding. These would in turn attract significant funding from elsewhere.

The report also recommended the introduction of two new categories to the Infrastructure Investment Fund. The first was to earmark funds for strategically important major infrastructure projects, in order to provide certainty and seed funding to smooth the delivery and funding process. The second category was for the ring fencing of match funding for projects that were applying to central Government funds (recommendation i).

The report also sought agreement to use the educational portion from the Community Infrastructure Levy pot to repay Norfolk County Council's borrowing to support the delivery of the Schools Capital Programme.

Finally, the report asked for the signing of a Deed of Variation for a minor amendment to be made to the original 2015 Board agreement, to enable a draw down on the City Deal borrowing to support the delivery of the Long Stratton Bypass.

The Chairman advised the meeting that the change in approach to match funding would allow the GNGB to take advantage of opportunities much quicker than it would have otherwise been able to do. He also noted that the education funding allocations from the Infrastructure Investment Fund had been increased.

In summary, the Chairman noted that the £10,632,000 in Community Infrastructure Levy funding in the current programme for this year would support the delivery of schemes worth a total of £26,865,324. He also noted that there was a good mix of projects coming forward; in particular, the infrastructure at Hethel, which would generate 900 jobs, the investment at Venta Icenorum to allow people to enjoy natural environment, as well as the important regeneration project that was taking place at Guildhall and Exchange Street.

Phil Courtier reminded members that the Greater Norwich Project Team did a huge amount of work in support of the GNGB to ensure that the funding was managed to bring forward these infrastructure projects and that the Board continued to enjoy a healthy income from the Community Infrastructure Levy to support growth in Greater Norwich.

#### **RESOLVED**

To recommend to each District Cabinet and Full Council:

- i. the introduction of two new categories to the Infrastructure Investment Fund, Match Funding and Major Infrastructure Projects. (Annex A)
- ii. that Education funding allocations from the Infrastructure Investment Fund be used in whole or in part to repay Norfolk County Council's borrowing, on condition that it is used to support the delivery of a Schools Capital Programme that is ringfenced to the Greater Norwich area, and that annual programme delivery and budget updates are reported to the GNGB. (Annex A)
- iii. to agree to the signing of a deed of variation to the agreement entitled, Partner Draw down and Borrowing Authorisations, that was originally signed by all partners on 21st October 2015. (Annex A).

#### **Subject to agreement of (i)-(iii)**

- iv. the approval of the Draft Five Year Infrastructure Investment Plan 2023-28 which includes the proposed 2023/24 Annual Growth Programme. (Annex B)

**5.** The meeting closed at 2.22 pm.

## Greater Norwich Growth Board Website

*Tom Cushan, Greater Norwich Project Officer*

### Summary

On 22 April 2022 the Infrastructure Delivery Board approved a rewrite and restructure of the existing Greater Norwich Growth Board webpage, as well as the creation of project case study pages. This work sought to give the site a clearer sense of purpose, and to better communicate the work of the Board. This report notes the completion of the first phase of this project, details future work in this area and acts as an introduction to a live demonstration of the website.

## 1. Introduction

1.1 In April 2022 the GNPT proposed several changes to the Greater Norwich Growth Board's website. These changes were focused around better showcasing the successes of the partnerships work and the projects which it funds. At the heart of these changes is a desire to better communicate with the public the work that the Board is doing, and to ensure that residents can navigate the website more easily.

1.2 Following the IDB's approval, the entire website has been reviewed:

- Text has been rewritten to make clearer the GNGBs work, and its successes.
- Navigation Menus have been restructured to improve user journeys.
- A [partnership working](#) section of the website has been created. This section details how the GNGB works in partnership across the districts, it includes key documents such as our Joint Working Agreement and Fund Governance, as well as details of the Joint Core Strategy and our partnership working groups.
- A [project showcase](#) section of the website has been created. Each case study includes information about the project, including its lead authority, infrastructure thematic category, delivery status, the amount of CIL funding, budget and location, in addition to a project description. Each case study can include an image gallery, video, and interactive map, as well contact details, and find out more links. 6 Projects are currently featured on the showcase, with more to come.

## 2. Future Work

- 2.1
- Continued creation of project case studies
  - Exploring ways to integrate project case studies with interactive mapping work.



**Officer Contact**

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper please get in touch with:

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**Greater Norwich Annual Growth Programme 2023/24**

*Phil Courtier, Director of Place, Broadland and South Norfolk District Councils*

**Summary**

This report confirms the Greater Norwich Annual Growth Programme (AGP). These are the new projects which are prioritised for delivery in 23/24 and are to be funded either wholly or in part by the Infrastructure Investment Fund (IIF). The AGP is assembled from the Joint Five-Year Infrastructure Investment Plan, the draft of which was recommended for approval by the GNGB on 15 December 2022.

**Recommendation**

- (i) GNGB to accept the Greater Norwich Annual Growth Programme 23/24, committing £10,632,243 from the IIF to nine new projects.

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 In 2013 the Greater Norwich authorities (Broadland District Council, Norwich City Council, South Norfolk Council and Norfolk County Council) together with the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership, signed a City Deal with Government. To help achieve our growth ambitions, the City Deal agreed a strategic infrastructure programme supported through Government-approved access to borrowing at a preferential rate and the local authorities' commitment to pool a significant proportion of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) income to form an Infrastructure Investment Fund (IIF).
- 1.2 Decisions on delivery and allocations of IIF funding to support the strategic infrastructure programme are overseen by the Greater Norwich Growth Board.
- 1.3 The Greater Norwich Growth Board has responsibility for assembling the Annual Growth Programme (AGP) from the Joint Five-Year Infrastructure Investment Plan (5YIIP), whilst also taking account of any further schemes for delivery across the area which may arise in response to mainstream funding decisions.
- 1.4 The AGP identifies the schemes which are prioritised for delivery and are to be funded either wholly or in part by the IIF.

## **2. Decision Making**

- 2.1 The GNGB recommended the approval of the Draft 5YIIP to the three partner Districts Authorities at their meeting on 02 December 2021.
- 2.2 Each District Cabinet has now agreed the recommendations within the Draft 5YIIP (Appendix B).
- 2.3 The projects within the first year of the 5YIIP are returning to the GNGB and are recommended for acceptance as the Greater Norwich Annual Growth Programme, which will formerly commit their funding allocation from the Infrastructure Investment Fund.

## **3. Using a digitised approach to reporting**

- 3.1 The Annual Growth Programme is reported in a new digital format that is available on the GNGB website. It provides a user-friendly reading experience which can be more easily viewed from a mobile phone or tablet. This shift to digital reporting has also enabled project information to be presented alongside geographical location through the development of an interactive map. [All information reported within the Annual Growth Programme 23/24 can be viewed here.](#)
- 3.2 This year's version of the report includes an additional section that uses the new digital format to report an overview of projects that have completed in the current financial year.
- 3.3 A pdf version of the Annual Growth Programme is included as Appendix A and will also be available on the GNGB website.

## **4. Match funding not yet secured for two projects**

- 4.1 Of the nine new projects included within the Annual Growth programme 23/24 two, Guildhall & Exchange Street and Sloughbottom Park, were seeking match funding from the Levelling Up Fund. Applications were submitted by Norwich City Council to central government on 8 June 2022.
- 4.2 The Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) announced the list of projects that had been successful in securing Levelling Up Funding on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January. Unfortunately, neither of the two projects promoted by Norwich were successful.
- 4.3 Feedback from DLUHC on the bids is currently awaited and details of the likely timing and eligibility criteria for future bidding rounds are also unknown. Furthermore, there has been little opportunity to explore possible alternative routes to delivery and funding sources.
- 4.4 It is therefore considered premature for Norwich City Council to withdraw these schemes from the growth programme. Both projects have progressed through the IIF appraisal process prior to inclusion within the 5YIIP. The projects have been identified as having strong strategic need and are set to deliver

infrastructure that adheres to CIL legislation, meets the rules of the IIF and supports planned growth in Greater Norwich.

- 4.5 If the projects remain within the 23/24 Annual Growth programme, the GNGB would have delegated authority to oversee the delivery of the projects. They would do so in accordance with the agreed and established governance process and IIF fund rules. Any deviations from the project budget and programme as agreed in the 5YIIP would follow the established project change request process. Due to the size of these projects, changes would be considered by the GNGB at a public meeting and a unanimous agreement by all partners would be required. A rescope budget and programme would need to be evidenced and agreed prior to any drawdown from the fund.
- 4.6 It is not unusual for projects within the Greater Norwich Growth Programme to experience changes to their budget, programme or scope. There is a well-established change request process through the GNGB and Infrastructure Delivery Board to manage this.
- 4.7 Each District Cabinet was made aware that the LUF applications had been unsuccessful but they have agreed that both projects should remain within the Annual Growth Programme 2023/24.

## **5. Recommendation**

- 5.1 To agree the Greater Norwich Annual Growth Programme 23/24, committing £10,632,243 from the IIF to nine new projects.

## **6. Issues and Risks**

### **5.1 Other resource implications (staff, property)**

The new projects to be added to the Greater Norwich Growth Programme will be managed within the existing staff resource of the Greater Norwich Projects Team. Resource for project delivery will be the responsibility of the individual project sponsors.

### **5.2 Legal implications**

The Infrastructure Investment Fund pooling arrangements and the designation of NCC as the Accountable Body are set out in the Joint Working Agreement, which formalised the commitment to pool Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) income across the Greater Norwich area and also confirmed in the signed legal agreement relating to GNGB draw-down and borrowing authorisations dated 21st Oct 2015.

### **5.3 Risks**

The most significant risks are project cost and delivery. The responsibility of which remain with the individual projects but should be reported to the Infrastructure Delivery Board through quarterly highlight reports. An annual update is also reported to the GNGB and District Cabinets within the joint Five Year Infrastructure Investment Plan. New projects are asked to sign an IIF funding offer letter to cover any additional project specific risks subject to specific conditions. Funding is also drawn in areas from the IIF.

There is a risk that there will not be enough money within the IIF to make interest and loan repayments in the medium to long term. This risk is alleviated by the agreed monitoring and reporting processes that the GNGB adhere to. The five-year Infrastructure Investment Plan provides an annual financial update, any new allocations are only agreed when all existing commitments are considered. As agreed by each partner s151 officer, a reserve equal to one annual loan repayment is kept in reserves as a safeguard.

#### 5.4 **Equality**

No specific issues arising from the funding of the Growth Programme. Individual project issues are the responsibility of the project manager and sponsor.

#### 5.5 **Environmental implications**

Project managers and sponsors will be required to meet their own environmental obligations.

#### 5.6 **Data Protection Impact Assessment**

Not Applicable.

### **Appendix**

- A- Greater Norwich Annual Growth Programme 2023/24 (pdf version)  
[Greater Norwich Annual Growth Programme 2023/24 \(digital version here\)](#)
- B- [Greater Norwich Joint Five-Year Infrastructure Investment Plan 2023-28](#)

### **Officer Contact**

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper please get in touch with:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Telephone Number</b>	<b>Email address</b>
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# Greater Norwich Annual Growth Programme 2023/24

March 2023



## Introduction

1. The Greater Norwich Growth Board (GNGB) is a partnership that is unlike any other in the UK. Norwich City, South Norfolk District, Broadland District and Norfolk County Councils together with the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership form the GNGB. They have chosen to work together to accelerate the delivery of infrastructure within the joint Greater Norwich area, because they recognise the benefits that can be achieved by looking beyond their individual administrative boundaries.
2. To support the delivery of infrastructure, the partners pool their income received from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) into one Infrastructure Investment Fund (IIF).
3. Since their establishment in 2014, the GNGB has allocated over £30m of IIF funding and £50m of CIL supported borrowing which has levered in at least an additional £240m to deliver infrastructure projects within the Greater Norwich area.
4. Each year the GNGB has responsibility for assembling a new list of projects which are allocated funding from the IIF. These projects are known as the Annual Growth Programme (AGP).

## Approval

5. The projects forming the AGP are drawn from the **Joint Five Year Infrastructure Investment Plan** (5YIIP- Appendix B). This Plan aligns the new AGP against the existing IIF financial commitments and forecasted CIL income until 2027/28. It forms the evidence base which supports the partner authorities' decision-making to make new allocations from the IIF on an annual basis.
6. On 15 December 2022 the GNGB recommended the approval of the draft 5YIIP 2023-28.
7. The 5YIIP was then agreed at the individual district cabinet meetings on the below dates:  
  
Monday 13 February 2023- South Norfolk District Council  
Tuesday 21 March 2023- Broadland District Council  
Wednesday 8 February 2023 - Norwich City Council
8. The AGP will also be reported to Norfolk County Council as the GNGB's accountable body and the New Anglia LEP as partner.



## Delivery and Monitoring

9. The projects included in the AGP will be added to the Greater Norwich Growth Programme. To date, just under 100 projects have been accepted into the programme and allocated funding from the IIF.
10. Monitoring the delivery of the Greater Norwich Growth Programme is the responsibility of the Greater Norwich Infrastructure Delivery Board (IDB). Project promoters provide quarterly highlight reports to the IDB and they consider any in year changes.
11. The IDB report progress on programme delivery (and exception reports if required) to the GNGB.

## Annual Growth Programme 2023/24

12. In accordance with the agreed processes for the IIF, the IDB met on 14 October 2022 to agree which projects are to be put forward as the 2023/24 AGP. Nine new projects totalling £10,632,243 have been identified to be supported by the IIF and are listed below. Project summaries have been included in **Appendix A**.
13. **Figure 1 - Annual Growth Programme Project 2023/24** shows the distribution of the new AGP projects across Greater Norwich.

Table 1 - Annual Growth Programme Projects 2023/2024

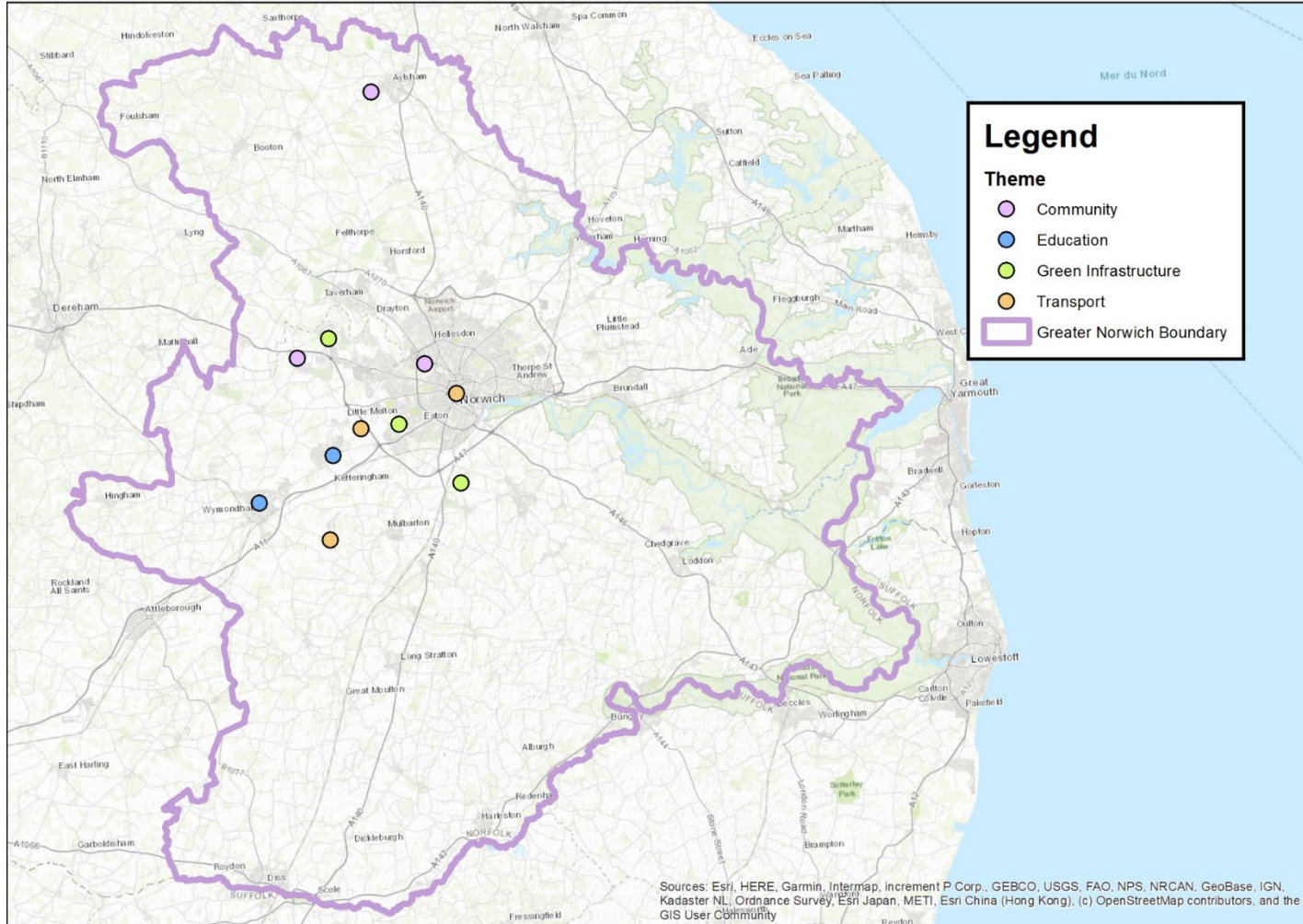
Project Name	Applicant	Amount of CIL requested	Total project size
Youngs Park, Aylsham – 3G AGP	Broadland	£ 250,000	£ 900,000
Hethersett to NRP Cycle Route	County	£ 501,015	£ 728,015
Venta Icenorum	South Norfolk	£ 153,128	£ 155,628
Queens Hills Community Park	South Norfolk	£ 133,552	£ 153,552



Project Name	Applicant	Amount of CIL requested	Total project size
Cringleford Country Park	South Norfolk	£ 468,000	£ 798,000
Easton Village Hall	South Norfolk	£ 505,000	£ 1,505,204
Sloughbottom Park Regeneration	Norwich	£ 850,000	£ 8,512,025
Guildhall & Exchange Street Regeneration	Norwich	£ 2,771,548	£ 5,894,000
Hethel Technology Park	South Norfolk	£ 5,000,000	£ 8,218,900
<b>Total</b>	N/A	£ 10,632,243	£ 26,865,324

14. In addition, Education will receive £2.5million to support the delivery of their capital programme within Greater Norwich.
15. **£4m** is allocated to the IIF reserves as Match Funding. This is for major projects that require match to lever in additional, more substantial amounts of funding from central government.
16. Approximately **£2m** from the IIF is committed to projects that that have a delivery programme spanning multiple years, some of which were agreed in previous AGPs.

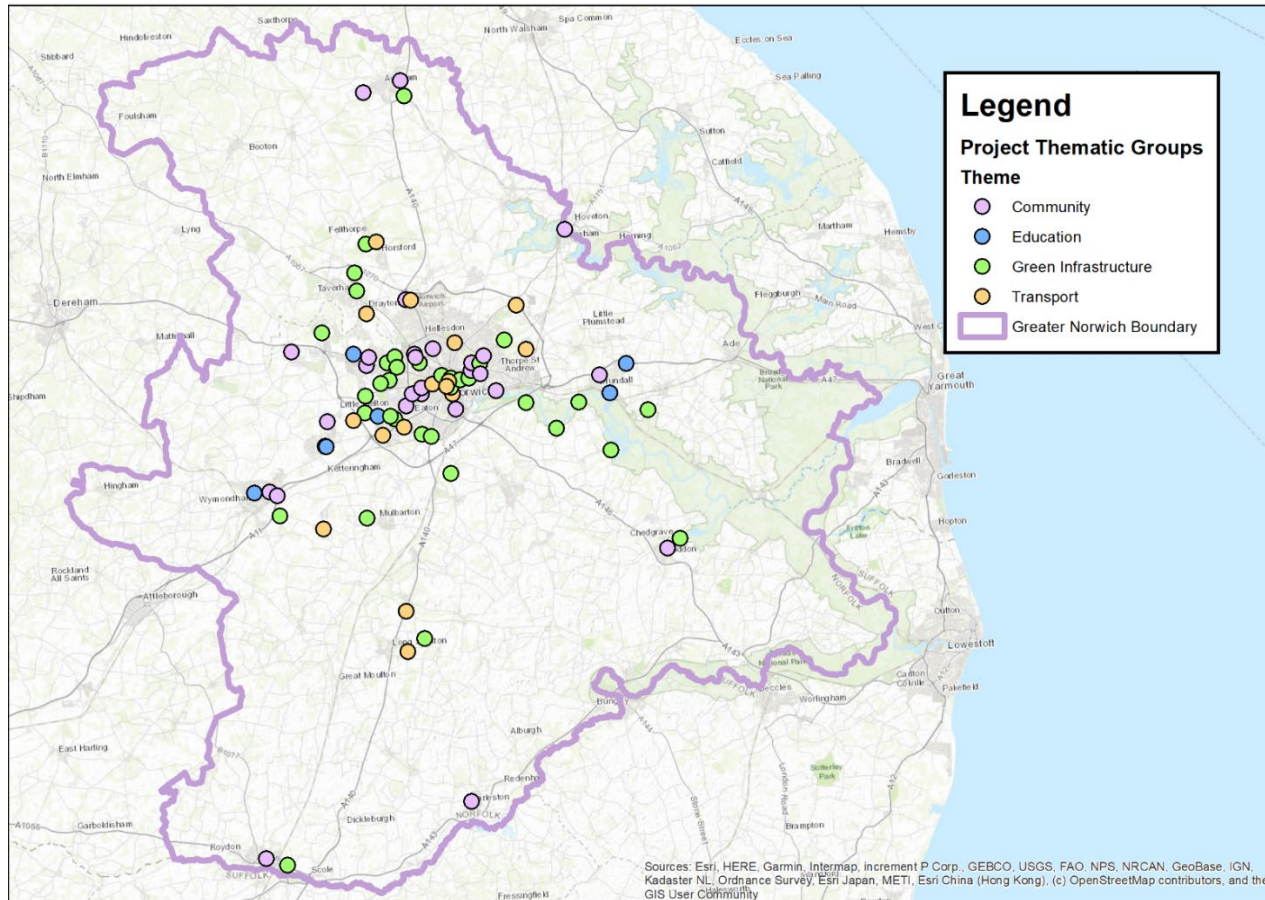
Figure 1 - Map of the 2023-24 Annual Growth Programme



## The Full Greater Norwich Growth Programme

17. The GNGB have committed funding to projects through the acceptance of an Annual Growth Programme each year since the establishment of the IIF in 2014. **Figure 2 - Full Greater Norwich Growth Programme** below shows the distribution of all previously funded projects across the Greater Norwich area. The individual project summaries are listed as Appendix A.

Figure 2 - Map of the full Greater Norwich Annual Growth Programme



## Completed Projects

18. The following projects from the Greater Norwich Growth Programme completed delivery in 2022/23.

Project Name	Project Lead	CIL Contribution	Total project size
GP52 – Thorpe Marriot Greenway	Broadland District Council	£ 121,000	£ 121,000
GP30 – Marriotts Way: Sloughbottom Park/Andersons Meadow	Norfolk County Council	£ 342,504	£ 342,504
GP49 – Earlham Millennium Green Phase 3	Norwich City Council	£ 25,000	£ 25,000
GP72 – Recreation Road Pool	Norwich City Council	£ 60,000	£ 60,000
GP73 – Norwich Parks Tennis	Norwich City Council	£ 103,453	£ 423,000
GP79 – FDC Bowthorpe	Norwich City Council	£ 250,000	£ 929,000
GP17b - (Cromer Rd/Aylsham Rd) A140 Corridor	Norfolk County Council	£ 87,000	£ 416,000
GP67 – Ketts Country Long Distance Trail	Norfolk County Council	£ 97,630	£ 97,630

Figure 3 - Full Greater Norwich Growth Programme

## Appendix A

# Greater Norwich Growth Programme Project Summaries

Below is the complete list of projects included within the Greater Norwich Growth Programme.

Details regarding finance and current delivery are included within the joint Five-year Infrastructure Investment Plan 2023-28 (Appendix B)

### 2014/15 Annual Growth Programme

Ref	Project Description	Delivery Status
GP01	<p><b>Harrisons' Wood, Salhouse Road, Norwich</b></p> <p>This project provides public access improvements to improve connections from Mousehold Heath to the Broads. It contributes to an eventual continuous green corridor extending to the Broads and beyond.</p>	Ongoing
GP02	<p><b>Danby Wood</b></p> <p>This project provided biodiversity and access improvements including thinning parts of the wood, upgrading the main footpath through the wood, and renovating old hedgerows.</p>	Complete
GP03	<p><b>Marsden Marsh</b></p> <p>This project forms part of the Yare Valley path. It improved pedestrian access to the western part of the site, thereby minimising damage and improving the site's resilience whilst also improving the site's biodiversity value.</p>	Complete
GP04	<p><b>Earlham Millennium Green (EMG) (Phase 1)</b></p> <p>This project is part of a programme to improve Earlham Millenium Green creating a pedestrian link from Bowthorpe to the UEA and NRP. This phase involved the creation of high quality open space and wildlife area, improvements to access and enhanced potential for educational use.</p>	Complete
GP05	<p><b>Riverside Way - Oasis site</b></p> <p>This project revised the layout and design of The Oasis, a small pocket park adjacent to Fye Bridge on the River Wensum. Partnership work with stakeholders was undertaken to enhance the site to maximize its use, linkages, and potential for access to the river.</p>	Complete

Ref	Project Description	Delivery Status
GP06	<b>Marriott's Way (Phase 1)</b> This project made improvements to the city end of Marriott's Way, between Pendelsham Rise and Drayton High Road. The path was resurfaced, and lighting improvements were made to encourage commuting by bicycle and on-foot	Complete
GP07	<b>Norwich Health Walks</b> This project developed a footpath through the tree belt surrounding the N&N University Hospital. Offering an opportunity for staff and patients of the hospital to enjoy fresh air and exercise thus aiding a sense of well-being for patients and staff alike.	Complete

### 2015/16 Annual Growth Programme

Ref	Project Description	Status
GP08	<b>Earlham Millennium Green Path Improvements (Phase 2)</b> This project is part of a programme to improve Earlham Millenium Green creating a pedestrian link from Bowthorpe to the UEA and NRP. Improvements included the upgrading of a gravel path with a hard surface path suitable for pedestrians and cyclist.	Complete
GP09	<b>Marriott's Way (Phase 2)</b> A second phase of improvement to the section of Marriott's Way from Thorpe Marriott to Norwich City Centre in addition to those agreed in the 2014/15 Growth Programme. Including repairs to Dragon Bridge to enable adoption, highway improvements to access points and barriers, signage and lighting.	Ongoing

Ref	Project Description	Status
GP 10-17	<p><b>Norwich Area Transportation Strategy (now known as Transport For Norwich)</b></p> <p>Initially 8 projects (GP10-17) were identified from Transport for Norwich's programme of works. The programme aimed to improve accessibility by all forms of transport in and around the city, encouraging the use of more sustainable forms of transport, such as public transport, cycling and walking, while also improving the capacity of the road network, in particular through the Broadland Northway.</p> <p>The programme was delivered by a partnership between Norfolk County Council and Norwich City Council, as well as local authorities within Greater Norwich on schemes in the wider area. Funding sources included the Department for Transport, developer contributions, the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership and local growth funds.</p> <p>IIF was made available to these schemes to use as a top up to fill the programme funding gaps. Some of the initial 8 projects were able to secure alternative funding so the Infrastructure Development Board were able to agree amendments to the projects which received IIF. The projects that were delivered:</p>	Complete
GP11	<p><b>St Clements Toucan Crossing</b></p> <p>This project developed a crossing point at Denton Road/ Chartwell Road/ School Road, in order to enable cyclists and pedestrians to cross much more quickly and directly providing separate cycling and pedestrian crossing areas.</p>	Complete
GP13	<p><b>Eaton Interchange</b></p> <p>This project involved works at the crossroads in Eaton to improve safety and traffic flow. These include reducing traffic calming measures, widening the cycle track, resurfacing the carriageway, a new cycle traffic signal and simplifying pedestrian crossings.</p>	Complete
GP13b	<p><b>Roundhouse Way</b></p> <p>This project created a new bus interchange at Roundhouse Way, Cringleford</p>	Complete
GP16	<p><b>Golden Ball Street</b></p> <p>This project was part of the programme of measures that reduced traffic flow through the city centre and provided a safer and more attractive environment for pedestrians and cyclists.</p>	Complete

Ref	Project Description	Status
GP17b	<p><b>(Cromer Rd/Aylsham Rd) A140 Corridor</b></p> <p>The primary objective of this project was to implement on-carriageway bus priority measures through the reallocation of road space on the A140 Cromer Road north of Norwich city centre. This work enabled the benefits of the Broadland Northway to be realised by improving bus journey reliability and bus service performance as well as having a positive impact on bus patronage. The project involved the provision of an inbound bus lane between Fifers Lane and Waterloo Road along the Cromer Road/Aylsham Road corridor. The inbound bus lane is also shared with cyclists</p>	Complete



2016/17 Annual Growth Programme

Ref	Project Description	Status
GP19	<p><b>St Faiths Rd to Airport Transport Link</b>                      Establishment of road and cycle links between St Faiths Rd and Airport Industrial Estate (AIE) to join the existing employment area with the North East Growth Triangle.</p> <p>-</p> <p><i>Initial scheme feasibility ruled out the immediate possibility of a direct link between Hurricane Way and St Faiths Road. The project stalled and was not able to be delivered in the short term. The project was withdrawn from the programme but was invited to reapply once a deliverable option is identified.</i></p>	Closed prematurely
GP22	<p><b>Heathgate - Pink Pedalway</b>                      This project was one of 22 schemes designed to deliver the creation of an eight mile 'pedalway' across the whole city that could be ridden confidently and safely by everyone.</p>	Complete
GP23	<p><b>Carrow to Deal Ground riverside walk</b>                      Delivery of a short section of cycle/ footway on north bank of the River Wensum providing a key 'missing link' in the route between Norwich city centre/ rail station and Whitlingham Country Park.</p> <p>-</p> <p><i>The project intended to open up access to the Deal Ground and Utilities sites by delivering a cycle and pedestrian route to the city centre. However, delivery of these sites stalled in 2018 with no clear indication of when they will come forward. The rationale for delivery of this section of route therefore no longer existed. The £260,000 match funding for the project (originally from Sustrans) was redeployed elsewhere. The project was withdrawn from the programme but was invited to reapply once a deliverable option is identified.</i></p>	Closed prematurely
GP24	<p><b>Colney River Crossing (also known as NRP to Threescore)</b></p> <p>This project created a new footbridge across the River Yare, and made improvements to existing rights of way and footpaths. These works improved linkages between housing in Bowthorpe and the major employment locations at NRP and the Hospital.</p>	Complete

Ref	Project Description	Status
GP25	<b>Northern Distributor Road (now known as the Broadland Northway)</b> This project delivered a 12.4-mile dual carriageway linking the A47 from the southeast of Norwich to the airport and north of the District. It was supported by the GNGB with £40m of reduced cost borrowing. It was named the Broadland Northway when completed.	Complete
GP26	<b>Long Stratton Bypass</b> This project will deliver a new bypass on the A140, passing to the west of Long Stratton.	Ongoing
GP26B	<b>Hempnall Crossroads</b> This project made improvements to road safety at this busy junction where traffic crosses the a140 near Hempnall, by installing a roundabout.	Complete

### 2017/18 Annual Growth Programme

Ref	Project Description	Status
GP27	<b>Lizard and Silfield Nature Reserves</b> To protect and enhance the Lizard and Silfield Nature Reserve by the creation of alternative green infrastructure routes for recreational access. The project will identify and agree new routes, which will be developed as appropriate. Necessary infrastructure such as stiles, fencing, signage/way marking, hedgerow planting/restoration and interpretation/localised publicity will be provided to encourage and manage use of the network. - <i>Discussions with landowners failed to reach agreement to commit the footpaths as public right of way. IIF funding cannot be allocated to private land so the project was withdrawn from the programme.</i>	closed prematurely
GP29	<b>Barn Road Gateway</b> This project made improvements to the entrance of the Marriott's Way Cycleway with signage, paving and the removal of vegetation, increasing the visibility of it and encouraging more use.	Complete
GP30	<b>Marriott's Way: Sloughbottom Park - Andersons Meadow</b> This project provides improvements to a section of the route to increase safety, comfort and personal security. Works include path widening/realigning, street lighting, vegetation management, tree planting, and drainage improvements.	Complete
GP31	<b>Riverside Walk accessibility improvements</b> This project will deliver a package of accessibility improvements to the Riverside Walk, to enable its use by all.	Ongoing

Ref	Project Description	Status
GP33	<p><b>Strumpshaw Pit Circular Walk</b></p> <p>This project will expand the dog walking capabilities of Strumpshaw Pit, through additional parking, cycle rack provision and access improvements. Offsetting the impact caused to other protected sites</p>	Ongoing
GP36	<p><b>Castle Gardens</b></p> <p>This project will involve restoration and improvement works to Castle gardens to promote the use of the gardens as a park and public amenity space.</p>	Ongoing
GP37	<p><b>Long Stratton Sports Hub (Closed Prematurely)</b></p> <p>This project brings together several facility-providing partners (South Norfolk Council, Long Stratton High School and Long Stratton Parish Council) to improve the sport and leisure facility stock in the village in anticipation of significant housing growth. It created a new sport and leisure 'Hub' across three adjacent sites and providing new and enhanced facilities that are fit for purpose and better suited to the current and future facility needs of residents.</p> <p>-</p> <p><i>Alternative funding was sourced to deliver the improvements to the leisure centre which are now complete. The majority of the IIF funding was earmarked to the swimming pool within the Long Stratton High School site. Following extensive discussions between South Norfolk Council and Enrich Learning Trust, a decision was made not to progress with the refurbishment and re-opening of the swimming pool because the costs associated with renovating, re-opening and then operating the swimming pool were deemed to be too prohibitive. This project closed prior to all funds being drawn down.</i></p>	closed prematurely
GP38	<p><b>Football pitch improvements</b></p> <p>This project includes improvements to drainage and grass species and improved goal facilities through the provision of new posts, nets and additional ground sockets at four Norwich sites: Eaton Park, Sloughbottom Park, Britannia Barracks and Fountain Ground</p>	Ongoing
GP39	<p><b>Hales cricket and bowls clubhouse improvements (Closed Prematurely)</b></p> <p>This project will deliver a new pavilion to serve Loddon and Hales Cricket Club and Hales Bowls Club, giving both clubs a permanent home in spaces that meet their respective needs, allowing them to develop and grow participation across a range of ages.</p> <p>-</p> <p><i>Site access improvement works were completed in January 2020, however due to escalating costs the club decided to stall progress and completely re-evaluate the project. The project was withdrawn from the programme but was invited to reapply once a deliverable option is identified.</i></p>	closed prematurely

Ref	Project Description	Status
GP40	<b>Kett's Park Sports Hub</b>  This project provided a new full-size and floodlit artificial grass pitch, better quality existing natural turf pitches with improved drainage, new tennis pavilion and refurbished community centre.	Complete
GP 41-43	<b>Library self-access improvements</b> Self-access technology allows the library service to automatically control and monitor building access, self-service kiosks, public access computers, lighting, alarms, public announcements and customer safety. Introducing this technology meant that each library could have increased opening hours, making access to the library more convenient for current and new customers without an increase in staff costs. This was a great opportunity for libraries to be accessible and relevant to more people.	Complete
GP41	<b>Wroxham Library: self-access improvements</b> This project delivered public toilets and introduced self-access technology, which allows automatic control and monitoring of building access	Complete
GP42	<b>Plumstead Road Library: self-access improvements</b> This project introduced self-access technology at Plumstead Road Library, and the provision of car and bike customer parking (including disabled parking).	Complete
GP43	<b>Diss library: self-access improvements</b> This project introduced self-access technology, which allows automatic control and monitoring of building access.	Complete
GP44	<b>Education - Hethersett</b> £2m was allocated to support the development of Hethersett Junior School and Hethersett Academy.	Complete

## 2018/19 Annual Growth Programme

Ref	Project Description	Status
GP45	<b>Green Pedalway – Earlham Road Section</b> This project delivered improvements to the Earlham Road (B1108) junction with Mill Hill Road and Heigham Road, providing facilities for both cyclists and pedestrians, creating safer active travel routes.	Complete
GP46b	<b>Marriott's Way Ramp &amp; Resurfacing (replaces GP46 &amp; GP53)</b> This project made improvements in access points and resurfacing on the Marriotts Way between Thorpe Marriott and Costessey plus the creation of a ramp to the rear of the Tesco supermarket in the Drayton area to reduce the gradient allowing much improved accessibility for all.	Ongoing

Ref	Project Description	Status
GP47	<b>UEA to Eaton Boardwalk</b> This project enhanced the Yare Valley Walk, between UEA and Eaton/Cringleford. The path around Cringleford Meadow was improved by laying gravel, improvements were made to the car park, and ditches were dredged to provide additional locations for fish spawning.	Ongoing
GP48	<b>Wherryman's Way- Yare Valley Cycle Route</b> This project improves the Yare Valley Cycle Route with new signage and route improvements, a route that follows the Wherryman's Way Loddon cycle loop and links into the broader Norwich city cycle network.	Ongoing
GP49	<b>Earlham Millennium Green (EMG) Improvement Project (Phase 3)</b> This project is part of a programme to improve Earlham Millenium Green creating a pedestrian link from Bowthorpe to the UEA and NRP. Involved refurbishing and improving existing entrance features, new signage, replacing pond dipping platforms and a timber footbridge connecting EMG with Earlham Marsh.	Complete
GP50	<b>Yare and Wensum Valley Link</b> This project will make improvements for walkers, cyclists and wildlife. These include the resurfacing of the Gunton Lane Marriott's Way Access, tree planting, traffic calming measures, and the creation of linear green space between West Earlham and Bowthorpe.	Ongoing
GP51	<b>Green Infrastructure: Access for All</b> This project implements a range of smaller scale accessibility improvements across various projects and areas. The funding is spread across 5 years with new 'access improvement' projects being identified each year.	Ongoing
GP52	<b>Thorpe Marriott Greenway</b> This project was designed to promote better greenspace and access in the Thorpe Marriott area, and established a path through the current tree belt that leads to Drayton Dreyway.	Complete
GP55	<b>Community Sports Hub- The Nest, Horsford</b> This project created a community sports hub, providing a range of sports facilities as well as offices, cafe and meeting spaces.	Complete
GP56	<b>Harleston Library- self-access improvement</b> This project introduced self-access technology, which allows automatic control and monitoring of building access.	Complete
GP57	<b>Costessey Library- self-access improvement</b> This project introduced self-access technology, which allows automatic control and monitoring of building access.	Complete
GP58	<b>Loddon Library- self-access improvement</b> This project introduced self-access technology, which allows automatic control and monitoring of building access.	Complete

Ref	Project Description	Status
GP59	<b>Earlham Library- self-access improvement</b> This project introduced self-access technology, which allows automatic control and monitoring of building access.	Complete
GP60	<b>Mile Cross Library- self-access improvement</b> This project introduced self-access technology, which allows automatic control and monitoring of building access.	Complete
GP61	<b>Education- Blofield and Brundall</b> This project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>seeks to ensure the primary school in Brundall has suitable accommodation for larger cohorts of children.</li> <li>aims to identify and secure a new site to move the existing school at Blofield into larger and more suitable accommodation</li> </ul>	Ongoing

#### 2019/20 Annual Growth Programme

Ref	Project Description	Status
GP62	<b>Education - Cringleford</b> The funding will be allocated to a new two form entry primary school in Cringleford.	Ongoing

#### 2020/21 Annual Growth Programme

Ref	Project Description	Status
GP63	<b>North West Woodlands Project (now known as Broadland Country Park)</b> This project created a new country park facility, which includes a series of walking, cycling and trim trail routes, habitat restoration and enhancement schemes, public engagement events, car parking and visitor facilities.	Complete
GP64	<b>Hellesdon Station Green Infrastructure</b> The project will deliver a range of inter-related green infrastructure improvements in the Hellesdon Station area. These improvements will improve the quality and access to the area boosting the use of the pedestrian and cycle links that run through it.	Ongoing
GP65	<b>East Wymondham Green Infrastructure</b> The project will deliver infrastructure around the Oxford Common site to create an accessible area for local residents to visit for recreational purposes.	Ongoing
GP66	<b>20 Acre Wood Community Access Improvements</b> The project involved the creation of an accessible and waymarked path through 20 Acre Wood from Enfield Road to Earlham Green Lane.	Ongoing

Ref	Project Description	Status
GP67	<b>Kett's Country Long Distance Trail</b> This project created a long-distance walking trail from Wymondham to Norwich via a number of South Norfolk towns and villages.	Complete
GP68	<b>Frenze Beck Green Infrastructure</b> The project will deliver a number of green infrastructure updates and installations on Frenze Beck, on the eastern edge of Diss.	Ongoing
GP69	<b>Aylsham Sports Hub Stage 3</b> The project will deliver a full-size, floodlit 3G pitch which can be sub-divided into 3 smaller pitches suitable for football and rugby, on the site of the Aylsham Sports Hub at Aylsham High School, to be used by both pupils and the public.	Ongoing
GP70	<b>Wymondham Tennis Club</b> The project improves Wymondham Tennis Club's facilities at Kett's Park in Wymondham. This includes a new fourth court to provide additional capacity in an area of high housing and population growth.	Ongoing
GP71	<b>Crusaders Rugby Football Club</b> The project will provide enhanced facilities including en-suite changing rooms, a new referees' changing space, refurbished and extended social spaces, an accessible entrance, first floor viewing area and new accessible toilet facilities.	Ongoing
GP72	<b>Recreation Road Swimming Pool</b> The project increased car park capacity at the Recreation Road school swimming pool and installed new fencing and a covered bike store. These works increased the community access to the pool.	Complete
GP73	<b>Norwich Parks Tennis</b> The project delivered a total of 5 all-weather tennis courts at Heigham Park and Lakenham Park in Norwich, to add to the provision offered by the Norwich Parks Tennis Programme	Complete
GP74	<b>Plumstead Road Roundabout</b> The project will deliver a new roundabout on Plumstead Road. The delivery also includes the creation of new footways and cycleways, a new pedestrian crossing, road re-alignment and associated services.	Ongoing
GP75	<b>Education- Ormiston Victory Academy</b> This project involves an extensive expansion at Ormiston Victory Academy. This involves a new three-story classroom block and internal remodelling to increase the number of school places to 1500 for ages 11-16.	Ongoing

## 2021/22 Annual Growth Programme

Ref	Project Description	Status
GP76	<b>Brundall Sports Hub</b> This project will deliver a Sports Hub to include a multi-sport floodlit 3G artificial grass pitch with fencing, floodlighting, maintenance storage container, hard standing pathways, car parking and single storey club house/changing room building.	Ongoing
GP77	<b>Bure Valley Path: Access, Promotion and Recreational Enhancement</b> This project provides improvements to the Bure Valley walking and cycle path, including a crossing over the A140 delivering safe passage for cyclists and pedestrians and the creation of 6 circular walks.	Ongoing
GP78	<b>Kett's Heights</b> This project provides improvements to Kett's Heights community garden, making a more accessible and resilient space, but also providing enhancements to the green links through this area.	Ongoing
GP79	<b>Football Development Centre Bowthorpe – 3G Pitch</b> The project replaced an existing full-sized grass pitch with a 3G full sized flood lit football pitch, increasing the hours of use of the facility.	Complete

## 2022/23 Annual Growth Programme

Ref	Project Description	Status
GP80	<b>Yellow Pedalway extension (airport to Broadland Northway)</b> The project will provide an off-road cycleway through the extension of the yellow pedalway to the north of the city from the airport to the Broadland Northway, where it will connect to the broader cycle network.	Ongoing
GP81	<b>Wensum Walkway</b> This project will deliver a new elevated walkway (approx. 70 metres in length) on the Wensum Riverside Walk, closing the last gap in this popular, traffic-free route as it travels from New Mills to Carrow Bridge	Ongoing



Ref	Project Description	Status
GP82	<p><b>Broadland Country Park - Horsford Crossing</b></p> <p>This project will deliver a road crossing Refuge Island on the B1149 Holt Road at Horsford to cater for both pedestrians and cyclists entering Broadland Country Park.</p>	Ongoing
GP83	<p><b>Wherryman's Way Access Improvements</b></p> <p>The Wherryman's Way is a 37.5 mile walking trail from Norwich Train Station to Great Yarmouth Train Station via the Reedham Ferry following the River Yare through the protected landscape of the Norfolk Broads. The project will create access improvements on the route through sections at Surlingham, Bramerton and Hardley Flood allowing improved all ability access. Improvements will include Bank Stabilisation at Surlingham, Bramerton and Hardley Flood, the installation of Bridges at Hardley Flood, the upgrading of footpaths, the restoration of the Bird Hide on Hardley Flood and improvements to the moorings at Rockland Staithe.</p>	Ongoing
GP85	<p><b>Football Development Centre - Heartsease Open Academy</b></p> <p>This project replaces a youth sized grass pitch with a new 7v7 3G football pitch, increasing the hours of use of the facility.</p>	Ongoing
GP86	<p><b>Yare Boat Club</b></p> <p>This project is part of a multi-stage programme designed to improve and expand the existing rowing facilities based on Thorpe Island and owned by Yare Boat Club. The first phase of this project will be the provision of a new, light weight boatshed on the site.</p>	Ongoing
GP87	<p><b>Education – Hethersett</b></p> <p>This project supports further development to Hethersett Academy, in response to 1400 new homes in the village.</p>	Ongoing

## 2023/24 Annual Growth Programme

Ref	Project Description	Status
GP88	<p><b>Education – Hethersett &amp; Wymondham</b></p> <p>This project will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• support the delivery of an extension to Hethersett High Academy.</li> <li>• support the delivery of an extension to Wymondham High Academy.</li> </ul>	Ongoing

Ref	Project Description	Status
GP89	<b>Sloughbottom park Regeneration</b> This project will deliver significant regeneration of Sloughbottom Park, including a new 3G Pitch, changing rooms, improvements to the pavilion, a play park, BMX track refurbishment and cycle improvements.	Ongoing
GP90	<b>Easton Village Hall</b> This project will deliver a multi use village hall with off road parking in Easton, to enhance recreational provision, promote social integration, and create a thriving sustainable community.	Ongoing
GP91	<b>Youngs Park Aylsham AGP</b> This project will see the installation of a full-sized 3G artificial grass pitch. This will replace an existing full sized natural turf pitch, extending the hours of use for both formal and recreational football participation.	Ongoing
GP92	<b>Queens Hill Community Park</b> This project will provide improve access to and within the park, and protect the existing woodland. It will deliver formal footpaths, way markers, 5 circular walks, an additional access point to the park, 6 cycle racks and stock fencing.	Ongoing
GP93	<b>Cringleford Country Park</b> This project will deliver a new 17.24 ha country park, including a new accessible bridge crossing for the River Yare, 400m of accessible boardwalk and a new path linking Cringleford to the Yare Valley Walk.	Ongoing
GP94	<b>Venta Icenorum</b> This project will upgrade and expand the car park by 2,000 sq metres, in order to accommodate an increase in number of visitors to this open space. A security barrier will be installed along with 2 EV charging points an new cycle parking bays.	Ongoing
GP95	<b>Hethersett to NRP Cycle Route</b> This project will deliver a section of off carriageway walking and cycling path along Colney Lane, which provides a key active travel route from Hethersett and Wymondham to the Norwich Research Park.	Ongoing
GP96	<b>Guildhall &amp; Exchange Street Regeneration</b> This project will create a public space in the centre of Norwich between Guildhall, Jarrold Department Store and the Market, and the regeneration of exchange street. Reducing traffic creating a safer pedestrianised area to encourage more use of retail and commercial spaces.	Ongoing

Ref	Project Description	Status
GP97	<p><b>Hethel Technology Park</b></p> <p>This project will deliver a 3 arm roundabout on Wymondham Road, the realignment of Potash Lane and footway and cycle infrastructure. This infrastructure will provide significant economic benefit by unlocking stalled development sites at Hethel.</p>	Ongoing

**How Greater Norwich is taking action to ensure future development is nutrient neutral**  
*Graham Nelson, Executive Director of Development and City Services, Norwich City Council*

## Summary

This report confirms that the Greater Norwich authorities are at the forefront of developing a strategic approach to securing nutrient neutral development, thereby enabling the delivery of planned growth in their partnership area. It outlines the progress made within this fast-moving area of work, which is continuing to evolve as new information comes to the fore. It seeks the Greater Norwich Growth Board's commitment to further explore how they can use their joint skills, influence, and resource to support the delivery of a programme of mitigation through the establishment of a joint venture.

## Recommendations

- (i) GNGB to do what it can to respond to the need to protect the two Special Areas of Conservation: the River Wensum and the Broads, from rising nutrient levels
- (ii) Confirm GNGB's commitment to using their joint skills, influence, and resource to help ensure that all participants in the market, especially SMEs, are able to mitigate the direct effects of additional environmental load resulting from their activities.
- (iii) GNGB to agree to explore commercial, operational and regulatory risk factors and, where justified, develop the financing options or market interventions to support the work of Norfolk Environmental Credits Limited.

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## Report

### 1. Introduction

Nutrient pollution is the process where excess nutrients, mainly nitrogen and phosphorus, are added to bodies of water causing adverse consequences to the environment in specially designated Special Areas of Conservation, a special designation.

1.1 To ensure that this imbalance is not further exacerbated by new development of overnight accommodation, applicants seeking planning permission must demonstrate that any residual nutrients discharged within foul water is offset by other measures which reduce nutrients entering the watercourse, upstream of the point at which it is discharged into the river. Achieving this is referred to as nutrient neutrality and it is a means of ensuring that a development plan or project does not add to existing nutrient pollution within water catchment areas.

1.2 The Environment Agency's impact assessment shows that new development provides a very small percentage of the total nutrient load compared to other existing uses such as agricultural uses, existing housing stock and industrial processes.

1.3 The Levelling Up Bill currently incorporates a requirement for Water Companies, including Anglian Water, to improve the capacity of waste water recycling centres (WWRCs) serving more than 2000 population to reach technically achievable limits (TAL) by 2030. This means that the effectiveness of 15 WWRCs will be substantially enhanced by 2030 but even at TAL these WWRCs will not strip out all the phosphates and nitrates and so the challenge of nutrient neutrality will still need addressing post-2030.

### 2. Background

2.1 On the 16 March 2022 Natural England wrote to seventy-four local authorities and advised them, as the Competent Authority under the Habitats Regulations, to carefully consider the nutrients impacts

of any new plans and policies (including new development proposals). In Norfolk, the two Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) that need to be protected from rising nutrient levels are the River Wensum and the Broads.

- 2.2 Norwich City, Broadland and South Norfolk District Council are all Competent Authorities for planning decisions; however, the habitats legislation requires that sites that are in the catchments of the Wensum SAC and Broads SAC only be granted planning permission when there is certainty that the associated levels of nutrient enrichment are offset by corresponding mitigation.
- 2.3 Almost the entirety of the Greater Norwich Strategic Growth Area falls within the affected catchments of the Wensum and Broads SACs. Whilst the Norfolk Councils consider the Royal Haskoning advice, this has had a significant impact on housing development, with the majority of pending planning applications for new overnight accommodation being effectively on hold. Some smallscale developments in rural areas may be able to demonstrate that there is no riparian path between the respective site and the Wensum and Broads SACs and subject to criteria the applicant may be able to demonstrate in limited circumstances that there is no obligation to offset the phosphates arising from the development.
- 2.4 On 15 March 2023 the Chancellor announced a consultation with the objective of establishing a government backed fund for locally led nutrient mitigation schemes which the Norfolk authorities will be well placed to access in due course.
- 2.5 The need to demonstrate nutrient neutrality is a new requirement and the development sector is still coming to terms with it. Many of the developers in Norfolk are small and medium sized organisations and they do not have capacity to secure their own nutrient neutrality solutions. Many will have already purchased land or have options on sites. There is a significant risk that many of these small and medium sized enterprises will go out of business if the granting of new planning permissions in these catchments does not get moving soon. Work by local councils to address this market failure should support the construction sector in the economy, the second largest industrial sector in Norfolk.
- 2.6 The broader impact of the nutrient neutrality requirements has been significant for all three Greater Norwich authority areas, as well as for neighbouring Breckland Council and North Norfolk District Councils. All the authorities have growth aspirations which are predicated on providing housing as part of their place shaping agenda.
- 2.7 Meeting the nutrient neutrality requirements will place further pressure on viability of development which may reduce the scope to deliver against wider economic, environmental, and social objectives through the planning process.
- 2.8 This may affect the delivery of transport infrastructure and affordable housing in particular. It is estimated that between 1,750 and 2,200 homes per year are currently on hold across Norfolk due to the nutrient neutrality constraints. In addition, there is a significant backlog of applications that were halted on the 16 March 2022 which is estimated to equate to 12,000 homes in the planning system which are impacted by nutrient neutrality.

### **3. The Government's role in developing a solution**

- 3.1 The development of nutrient pollution mitigation is a new area of work that is being developed by a growing number of parties, authorities, and national bodies. It's an area of work that is progressing at pace and is continuing to evolve as new information comes to the fore. In principle, nutrient pollution can be mitigated in a variety of ways. Solutions include enhancements to water infrastructure (over and above its planned programme of works), the conversion of septic tanks to

private package treatment plants, retrofitting flow reduction measures in existing housing stock, the creation of wetlands/reedbeds and the planting of trees to form buffer strips alongside rivers. These solutions are considered to be in their relative infancy and further development is underway.

- 3.2 Natural England is working to provide a way to identify nutrient mitigation schemes and are approaching landowners in a targeted way, inviting them to offer their land as potential sites, but this work is still at an early stage of development. Once they identify a mitigation scheme, the amount of nutrient mitigation it will provide will be calculated and converted into what is called 'credits'. These credits will be available for purchase by developers. Developers can then use these 'credits' as evidence to the Local Planning Authorities, demonstrating their development is being offset and therefore is nutrient neutral. Unfortunately, there are no mitigation schemes currently identified in Norfolk which means there are no credits available for developers in Greater Norwich to buy.
- 3.3 Whilst there are numerous parties involved in the development of a solution, the route to mitigation continues to be directed by emerging government policy. Within the budget on 15th March 2023, it was announced that the Department of Levelling Up and Communities will open a call for evidence from local authorities in England for locally led nutrient neutrality credit schemes. Where high quality proposals are identified, the government will provide funding to support clearer routes for housing developers to deliver 'nutrient neutral' sites, in line with their environmental obligations. The Greater Norwich authorities are well placed to feed directly into this process because they already have a reputation as a well-established partnership and are amongst the small group of authorities who are at the forefront of developing this work. The principle of reducing nutrient load is one that everyone can aspire to. But the practical and economic costs are yet to be calculated and the opportunity for the market to find an equilibrium price for mitigation has not yet occurred. This means that any capital commitment to providing mitigations should be considered on-risk unless councils restrict themselves to being brokers between private actors in the market.

#### **4. Norfolk planning authority's role in developing a solution**

- 4.1 The Norfolk planning authorities have been working together since March 2022 to look at the nutrient mitigation requirement and considering potential solutions. Royal Haskoning were commissioned to support this work. A calculator to assess the mitigation need was published in autumn. Work is continuing to identify the potential solutions and how they could be best delivered.
- 4.2 Alongside the technical work the local authorities have also been considering their role in developing a scheme in which they could offer credits to offset the constraints on nutrient neutrality. There is a strong case for taking such action as there are no signs that the emerging Natural England Scheme or market solutions will be available within an acceptable timescale. Without swift action to mitigate nutrient neutrality there is a considerable risk to Norfolk's development industry and deliver of our shared growth agenda.
- 4.3 This has led the authorities to develop proposals for a joint venture company to be established jointly with Anglian Water to address the issue. The principle of entering such a joint venture has now been endorsed by all five of the affected Norfolk local authorities.
- 4.4 The Joint Venture is to be called Norfolk Environmental Credits Limited (NECL) and it is anticipated that it will comprise membership of the three Greater Norwich District authorities together with Breckland Council, North Norfolk District Council and Anglian Water. Anglian Water is also affected by nutrient neutrality and the government has indicated that the performance of wastewater treatment plants also must improve by 2030 and it will be a key partner in securing long term, largescale mitigation schemes.

- 4.5 NECL will not directly own or deliver the mitigation projects itself, instead it will seek out and develop a mixed programme of measures, convert the amount of mitigation into credits and act as an official body for developers to buy nutrient credits from. Furthermore, in due course NECL may explore future options for other mitigation activities and the associated trading of credits, including biodiversity net gain.
- 4.6 The immediate level of benefit to the housing market will be determined by the level of mitigation that can be identified and secured. It is anticipated that it will take some time to secure the mitigation required to address all the backlog and future planned developments. Currently it is anticipated that NECL will provide mitigation for approximately 40% of the entire catchment's growth proposals and many of the larger, strategic sites in the Greater Norwich area will develop their own mitigation solutions for nutrient neutrality.
- 4.7 NECL has secured initial seed loan funding from its member authorities to cover the operating costs of the Joint Venture. Additionally, NECL is seeking substantial capital loan investment to accelerate the mitigation programme in the short term, bridging the gap until ample credit payments can be received.
- 4.8 Alongside the development of the Joint Venture, the Norfolk Water Strategy Programme (a partnership of Water Resources East, The Nature Conservancy, Anglian Water and Norfolk County Council) are developing a Water Fund. Water Funds are well-established models for implementing nature-based solutions. In its first phase, this fund would work in the Bure and Wensum catchments, with a focus on nutrient balancing and water quality.
- 4.9 It is also apparent that independent or isolated mitigation credit agreements are being negotiated between private parties. Whilst this remains to be in the minority, it demonstrates that there is potential for private sector solutions to evolve in time. The GNGB is acutely aware of the need to support small and medium sized developers to bring forward their schemes too.

## **5. The Greater Norwich Growth Board's role in developing a solution**

- 5.1 The GNGB was established in 2014 to accelerate the delivery of infrastructure that supports the planned growth. Their unique partnership arrangement has enabled them to bring forward a pipeline of nearly 100 infrastructure projects across their joint Greater Norwich area. During this time, they have developed an exemplar model of working and are known for designing creative solutions to overcome the barriers of bringing forward delivery. The financial models that are available to them are outlined here:
- 5.2 As part of the Greater Norwich City Deal agreement the partners signed with government in 2013, the GNGB were afforded the opportunity to access lower-cost loan funding from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB). A total of £80m borrowing was allocated to them: £60m for identified strategic infrastructure projects and a further £20m provided to establish a cyclical loans fund to support local infrastructure projects. To date £40m of the borrowing potential has been drawn down for strategic infrastructure projects, a further draw down is planned in relation to the Long Stratton Bypass. None of the cyclical loan fund borrowing was drawn down.
- 5.3 In 2021 the GNGB agreed in principle to seek to repurpose the £20m borrowing capacity to create a Strategic Infrastructure Fund that could act as a locally controlled cyclical fund. Work progressed during 2022, draft terms of reference were agreed and the GNGB was granted delegated authority to manage the allocation of the City Deal loan money. The cyclical loan fund is currently being developed under the direction of the Greater Norwich Infrastructure Delivery Board, but until the processes supporting the borrowing have been fully developed and agreed, it is not possible for any specific allocation to be made by the GNGB.

- 5.4 In addition to the reduced cost borrowing, the GNGB established the Infrastructure Investment Fund (IIF). Income received from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is pooled within the IIF and allocated to infrastructure projects through a competitive application process. To date the GNGB has allocated £30m to deliver infrastructure projects within the Greater Norwich area with a further £10m set to be committed to delivery in 23/24.
- 5.5 The GNGB is incentivised to ensure that the management of nutrient load does not constrain economic growth more generally and the construction industry in particular. They have a role to act to ensure that all market participants can access nutrient mitigation strategies regardless of size. However, there are economic, operational and regulatory risks that need to be fully understood before capital over-and-above the establishment of NECL is allocated. Further, there need to be an assessment of whether local efforts will duplicate other emerging schemes or otherwise interfere in the development of market-based solutions. Whilst it is desirable for a solution to be found that convenes all interested parties, it is not wholly necessarily for the Councils to undertake this work if the market starts to solve it for itself. Prior to any financial commitment being made, there needs to be further development of the NECL credit scheme model, and any risks associated with this needs to be fully understood, considered, and transferred. This work will require specialised legal and financial advice plus detailed input from s151 officers. Possible options under investigation include accelerating and amending the new cyclical fund. Options will be investigated alongside the development of NECL, against the backdrop of information received through the government's soon to open consultation.

## 6. Recommendations

- 6.1 Having considered the details within this report and understanding the key role that Norfolk Environmental Credits Limited will play in ensuring future development in Greater Norwich is nutrient neutral. The GNGB are asked to
- (i) GNGB to do what it can to respond to the need to protect the two Special Areas of Conservation: The River Wensum and the Broads, from rising nutrient levels
  - (ii) Confirm GNGB's commitment to using their joint skills, influence, and resource to help ensure that all participants in the market, especially SMEs, are able to mitigate the direct effects of additional environmental load resulting from their activities.
  - (iii) GNGB to agree to explore commercial, operational and regulatory risk factors and, where justified, develop the financing options or market interventions to support the work of Norfolk Environmental Credits Limited.

## 7. Issues and Risks

### Resource Implications

Work to explore and develop the financing options that are available to them to support the work of Norfolk Environmental Credits Limited will be undertaken by the existing resource of the Greater Norwich Projects Team working alongside specialist financial and legal resources provided by the constituent local authorities.

### Legal Implications

The legal implications associated with seeking to develop financing options to support Norfolk Environmental Credits Limited will need to be explored as part of the ongoing works.

### Risks



There are potentially large risks involved in providing financial support to Norfolk Environmental Credits Limited. These include but are not limited to financial risk, land ownership risk, legislative risk and regulatory risks. Further development of the Joint Venture model will be required to fully understand these risks and specialist advice will be sought with each partner's 151 officer involved.

The mention of the City Deal Borrowing cyclical loan fund, does not predetermine the acceptance of a loan to Norfolk Environmental Credits Limited. Any loan will be subject to eligibility and require the completion of a full application process, the details of which are yet to be confirmed.

### **Equality**

No specific issues arising from the acceleration of this work.

### **Environmental implications**

This report confirms that the GNGB is committed to protecting the River Wensum and the Broads, from rising nutrient levels.

### **Data Protection Impact Assessment**

Not applicable

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## **Officer Contact**

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper please get in touch with:

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**Long Stratton Bypass**

*Phil Courtier, Director of Place, Broadland and South Norfolk District Councils*

**Summary**

On 16 March 2023, Long Stratton Bypass (LSBP) was approved at the South Norfolk Council Development Management Committee. This represents a significant milestone in the project after planning was stalled in March 2022 due to Nutrient Neutrality.

The need for a Bypass was first identified in 1937, and since this time has seen several iterations. Bringing the project to this stage has required a great deal of work across the partnership, and is a significant achievement.

A full timeline is presented overleaf. It is anticipated that construction work will commence in April 2024, and the bypass will open to the public in October 2025

