

Greater Norwich Growth Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Tuesday 27 June 2023

Time: 2pm

Venue: Council Chamber, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich NR1 2DH

Present

Name	Organisation	Role
Cllr Mike Stonard	Norwich City Council	Board Member
Graham Nelson	Norwich City Council	Officer
Louise Rawsthorne	Norwich City Council	Officer
Cllr John Fuller	South Norfolk Council	Board Member
Phil Courtier	South Norfolk Council & Broadland District Council	Officer
Cllr Sue Holland	Broadland District Council	Board Member
Cllr Kay Mason Billig	Norfolk County Council	Chair
Matt Tracey	Norfolk County Council	Officer

In Attendance

Name	Organisation	Job Title
Grace Burke	Norfolk County Council	Greater Norwich Project Team Leader
Thomas Cushan	Norfolk County Council	Greater Norwich Project Officer
Ruth Oyeniyl	Norfolk County Council	Greater Norwich Senior Project Officer
Cherry Harper Jones	Norfolk County Council	Geospatial Data Analyst
Daniel Voisey	Norfolk County Council	Geospatial Data Analyst

Minutes

Item	Minute
1.	<p>Handover of Chair</p> <p>Cllr Kay Mason-Billig was duly elected as Chair for the ensuing year.</p> <p>The Board thanked Cllr John Fuller for his year as Chair.</p>
2.	<p>Apologies for absence</p> <p>There were no apologies received.</p>
3.	<p>Declarations of Interest</p>
4.	<p>Minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2023</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 30 March 2023 were agreed as an accurate record.</p>
5.	<p>Project Showcase: Ormiston Victory Academy</p>
5.1	<p>The Board received a presentation from Isabel Horner, Sufficiency Delivery Manager at Norfolk County Council, which showcased the expansion that had taken place at Ormiston Victory Academy. The Board had invested £4 million into the project. The presentation is attached at appendix A.</p>
5.2	<p>It was noted that the new learning environment would help engage the pupils. Having been part of building the new facilities and the planning process, the pupils would have found this extremely beneficial, and it was hoped that by being part of the process, it had shown pupils career paths into construction as well as feeling much more engaged with their learning environment.</p>
5.3	<p>The Board thanked officers for the presentation and noted the excellent work that had been carried out.</p>

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6.	Recommended financial option to support the work of Norfolk Environmental Credits Ltd
6.1	The Board received the report which provided an overview of Nutrient Neutrality (the requirement for applicants seeking planning permission to evidence that development will be nutrient neutral) and gave an update regarding the actions taken by different bodies to support applicants to meet this requirement.
6.2	As previously directed by the Greater Norwich Growth Board (GNGB), the Greater Norwich Infrastructure Delivery Board (IDB) had reviewed the financing options that were available to the partners and were returning to recommend a mechanism for providing potential financial loan support to Norfolk Environmental Credits Ltd (NECL), a joint venture whose work would ultimately provide evidence of nutrient mitigation and therefore enable planning decisions to proceed again.
6.2	<p>The following points were discussed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was clarified that the whole £20 million was not going to be spent on nutrient neutrality. The money would be released and it was likely there would be bidding put in place for the loan funding. While paperwork was being drawn up and arrangements made, South Norfolk had put in place some seed funding on a loan basis so time was not lost in gaining the biodiversity and environment credits. • Although it was hoped that Government would be able to sort the arrangements on a national basis, it was important to have this running on a local basis. • The Director of Place, Broadland and South Norfolk Council reported that the NECL had been set up and was functioning. A general manager had also been appointed.
6.3	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>i) To commit to accelerating the development of the City Deal Borrowing loan fund.</p> <p>(ii) To welcome an application to this new fund on behalf of Norfolk Environmental Credits Limited. This will be subject to due diligence, consideration of a full business case and a formal unanimous agreement by the GNGB at a future meeting.</p>

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7.	Greater Norwich Infrastructure Plan 2023
7.1	The Board received the report which introduced the Draft Greater Norwich Infrastructure Plan (GNIP) 2023. This year's version of the GNIP was published as a PDF and also on a digital platform to create a more engaging and user-friendly experience. The Board also received a live demonstration of the new digital platform which the GNIP appeared on and were shown how to navigate around the site.
7.2	<p>The following points were discussed and noted</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new online format of the GNIP was useful to be able to dig deep into the detail without having to look through a lot of pages. It was also useful to see on a map how many local plans there were. • The new digital platform was a result of a lot of hard work, and the Board were pleased to see it come to fruition. It would mean that honest conversations could be held with developers who pay the CIL to show what the priorities of the Board were, and it would enable residents to see what local CIL money was spent on. • The GNIP had been made more accessible and more transparent and was an excellent piece of work.
7.3	<p>RESOLVED</p> <p>(i) To accept the Draft GNIP 2023. (Appendix A)</p> <p>(ii) To note that by accepting the GNIP this will initiate the opening of the 'call for projects' for the Infrastructure Investment Fund (IIF-strategic pooled CIL).</p>
8.	Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Strategy – Progress update
8.1	The Board received the report which provided an update on the delivery of the Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Strategy, which was approved by the GNGB at their meeting on 2nd December 2021, with delegated authority granted to the Greater Norwich Infrastructure Delivery Board. The strategy commenced in August 2022 and was due to be completed by June 2024.
8.2	The Board received a presentation on the baseline report. The baseline report was the first main output of the GN GI Strategy and was signed off by the IDB in March 2023. It provided a summary of all the information currently available about GI provision in Greater Norwich and was based on the most robust evidence base to date. Whilst the report had produced some estimates on access to green spaces, final figures were subject to change as the validation process continued.
8.3	The Board also received a mapping demonstration which showed the systematic approach to analysing the proximity of accessible greenspace in relation to where people lived.

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8.4	In relation to being able to measure improvements based on the increase of the greenspace areas, Officers explained that whilst the strategy would consider what greenspaces already existed, allocated sites would also be taken into consideration. With the tools that had now been developed, potential impact on the population would be able to be assessed.
8.5	The Board challenged that the analysis was repeating what was already know and that resources could be used to produce different outcomes. Whilst it was an interesting analysis, it was suggested that it was stating the obvious. Officers clarified that the analysis included all accessible greenspaces as well as public rights of way. This was just one strand of analysis that was being used to inform the GN GI Strategy.
8.6	The board felt that the presentations were an interesting starting point, and there was concern expressed about working with Natural England and their standards, however the Board looked forward to seeing further analysis, especially what the public said about greenspaces. It was noted that the county had a lot of greenspaces and it was important that they were protected and looked after, especially as they had been so important to individuals during the Covid-19 pandemic.
8.7	The Board noted the update and progress made and looked forward to further updates.
9.	<p>The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 27 September 2023 at 3:00pm County Hall, Council Chamber</p> <p>Cllr Fuller expressed concern at the next meeting date in conjunction with steps that will be needed to be taken in relation to the Long Stratton Bypass approval. Officers would look into this.</p>