

Minutes of the Greater Norwich Growth Board

Date: Tuesday 19 March 2024

Time: 2pm

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

Present:

Name	Organisation	Role
Phil Courtier	South Norfolk Council & Broadland District Council	Officer
Cllr Daniel Elmer	South Norfolk Council	Board Member substitute
Cllr Sue Holland	Broadland District Council	Vice-Chair
Trevor Holden	South Norfolk and Broadland Council	Officer
Cllr Kay Mason Billig	Norfolk County Council	Chair
Graham Nelson	Norwich City Council	Officer
Chris Starkie	Norfolk County Council	Officer
Cllr Mike Stonard	Norwich City Council	Board Member

In Attendance:

Name	Organisation	Job Title
Mike Burrell	Norfolk County Council	GMLP Policy Planner
Grace Burke	Norfolk County Council	Project Team Leader
Wendy Brooks	Norfolk County Council	Head of Environment
Thomas Cushan	Norfolk County Council	Greater Norwich Project Officer
Helen Lambert	Norfolk County Council	Programme and Contract Manager
Nicola Ledain	Norfolk County Council	Committee Officer
Ellie Leeper	Norfolk County Council	Greater Norwich Project Officer
Eliot Lyne	Norfolk Wildlife Trust	Chief Executive Officer
Ruth Oyeniyi	Norfolk County Council	Greater Norwich Senior Project Officer
Rachel Savage	Norfolk Wildlife Trust	Director of Development and Partnerships
Matt Tracey	Norfolk County Council	Sustainability, Infrastructure and Development Group Manager

1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Lord John Fuller, substituted by Cllr Daniel Elmer. Apologies were also received from Tom McCabe.

2. Declarations of interest

- 2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

3. Minutes

- 3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 November 2023 were confirmed as an accurate record of proceedings.

4. Sweet Briar Marshes Project Presentation

- 4.1 The Board received a presentation about the Sweet Briar Marshes, a Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT) project. The presentation is attached at appendix A.
- 4.2 The Board were pleased to see what facilities were planned for the project, particularly those for young children. Future funding for the project would be through the normal income generation of NWT and the 60 nature reserves that they already maintained. This was through fundraising, memberships, and potential corporate support.
- 4.3 The Board were supportive of the project and acknowledged it was a fantastic opportunity with lots of potential particularly due to its location close to pockets of deprived inner-city areas.
- 4.4 The projects relationship with Aviva was progressing well, and they were a very active partner of the project. It was very much in line with their sustainability agenda in terms of climate change and identity of communities and how communities felt about the place they lived.
- 4.5 The Chair thanked the Norfolk Wildlife Trust for their presentation. They looked forward to hearing the future plans and wished them well for the opening on 12 May 2024.

5. Greater Norwich Annual Growth Programme 2024/2025

- 5.1 The Board received the annexed report (5) which confirmed the Greater Norwich Annual Growth Programme (AGP). These were the new projects which were prioritised for delivery in 24/25 and would be funded either wholly or in part by the Infrastructure Investment Fund (IIF). The AGP was assembled from the Joint Five-Year Infrastructure Investment Plan, the draft of which was recommended for approval by the GNGB on 30 November 2023 and since been agreed by each of the district partner Cabinets.
- 5.2 A short demonstration of the digital version of the report was shown to Board Members which showcased an interactive map highlighting all the projects across Greater Norwich which had received confirmed funding or had been delivered from the Greater Norwich Growth Board.

5.3 The Board highlighted that the map was extremely useful and it showcased all the excellent work that was being done.

5.4 **RESOLVED**

To accept the Greater Norwich Annual Growth Programme 24/25, committing £3,428,00 to four new projects from the IIF, as outlined in appendix 5a of the report.

6. Greater Norwich Physical Activity and Sport Strategy Annual Update

6.1. The Board received the annexed report (6) which introduced an annual update to the Greater Norwich Physical Activity and Sport Strategy (appendix 6a and 6b of the report), showcasing the work undertaken by the Greater Norwich partners in the year since the strategy was agreed.

6.2 The Chair commented that facilities like The Nest offered extremely beneficial all-inclusive opportunities to access sport and this Strategy would feed nicely into the County's Walking, Wheeling and Cycling Strategy.

6.3 **RESOLVED**

To note the Greater Norwich Physical Activity and Sport Strategy Annual Update (Appendix 6a and 6b of the report)

7. Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Strategy Update

7.1 The Board received the annexed report (7) which provided an update on the delivery of the Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Strategy (the strategy), work for which was approved by the Greater Norwich Growth Board (GNGB) at their meeting on 2 December 2021, with delegated authority granted to the Greater Norwich Infrastructure Delivery Board (IDB) to manage its programme. The strategy commenced in August 2022 and was due to be completed in December 2024.

7.2 **RESOLVED**

To note the appointment of Chris Blandford Associates who would help to deliver the Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure strategy and delivery plans alongside the already established cross authority teams.

8. Application for Match Funding – Long Stratton Bypass

8.1 The Board received the annexed report (8) which proposed a new allocation of £2,000,000 from the match funding pot, to support the delivery of Long Stratton Bypass.

8.2 Members supported the application. The proposed bypass would enable development around Long Stratton plus make both Norwich, South Norfolk and Suffolk more accessible, as well as making the commute to London easier. It would also be of benefit to the residents of Long Stratton. The Chair reported that in South Norfolk

District the only place that air quality readings had been poor was in Long Stratton due to the amount of traffic queueing along the High Street and she was sure that local residents would welcome the bypass taking traffic out of the centre of the Town.

- 8.3 There had previously been concern by some members of the Board at the amount of money that had been contributed to the project and it was hoped that this extra money, which is for a contingency fund, would not be needed. However, it was important for this development to proceed and therefore this recommendation was supported.

8.4 **RESOLVED**

In the event that Department of Transport (DfT) 'Network North' funding was not secured for the current funding shortfall, the GNGB use its delegated authority from district cabinets, to allocate £2,000,000 of Match Funding to Long Stratton Bypass, from the Match Funding category of the Infrastructure Investment Fund.

Subject to the following conditions:

- The project cannot draw down any IIF funding until all remaining match funding is secured, and onsite delivery of the project begins. Until that point, the project will progress towards delivery at its own risk.
- The project must provide confirmation of Land Ownership to the principal contact prior to start on site.
- The project must provide confirmation of Planning Approval to the principal contact prior to start onsite.
- The project has until 31 March 2025 to secure all remaining match.
- In the event that DfT 'Network North' funding is secured for the current funding shortfall for the bypass, this allocation of £2m from the Match Funding category will be withdrawn from the project.

7. **Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday 19 March 2024 at 2pm, Council Chamber, County Hall, Norwich

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 2:50pm