

Greater Norwich Growth Board

Minutes

10:00 to 11:35

27 November 2018

Venue: Norwich City Council, Mancroft Room, City Hall, St Peters Street, Norwich,
NR2 1NH

Present:

Board members

Norwich City Council

Councillor Alan Waters (chair)

Broadland District Council

Councillor Shaun Vincent

South Norfolk Council

Councillor John Fuller

Norfolk County Council

Councillor Andrew Proctor

Officers

David Moorcroft

Phil Courtier

Debbie Lorimer

Vince Muspratt
Phil Morris

In attendance:

Joe Ballard, Greater Norwich Project Team
Grace Burke, Greater Norwich Project Team
Jeremy Wiggin, Norfolk County Council

Apologies:

Douglas Field, New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership
Sandra Dinneen, South Norfolk Council
Phil Kirby, Broadland District Council
Laura McGillivray, Norwich City Council
Chris Starkie, New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership
Wendy Thomson, Norfolk County Council



NORWICH
City Council



Norfolk County Council



1. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes

Councillor Fuller asked for an update on resolution (5) of the last item 'Greater Norwich Local Infrastructure Fund':

recommend that the Greater Norwich Project Team actively promotes the LIF loan facility to encourage more expressions of interest from SMEs with a focus on affordable housing, whilst continuing to manage the cash flow forecast for the total LIF loan commitment.

Grace Burke, project manager, said that they had updated the delivery officers group that the LIF loan facility was still available and requested that they inform developers. As a result, the team have received a number of queries, received one expression of interest and are expecting 2 more in the future. The delivery officers group was asked to forward contact information for all known SMEs to the project managers so that a joint email could be sent out. This has not happened to date.

RESOLVED to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 7 September 2018.

3. IIF Project Showcase – GP13 Eaton Interchange – Presentation

(Jeremy Wiggin, Transport for Norwich Manager, Norfolk County Council, attended the meeting for this item.)

Jeremy Wiggin gave a presentation on works at Eaton Interchange. He said that the works aimed to make it easier and safer to get around by Eaton by bicycle, on foot and by bus, without delaying general traffic.

Members noted that it was useful to see the outcome of schemes which had been funded.

RESOLVED to thank Jeremy Wiggin for the presentation.

4. Infrastructure Investment Fund - New Processes Overview

(The chair took this item early)

Phil Courtier, head of planning, Broadland District Council, presented the report. He highlighted that the Delivery Officer Group was now replaced in the process map by the Greater Norwich Project Team. He noted that the Greater Norwich Infrastructure Plan would be considered by the Greater Norwich Growth Board in May 2019.

In response to a question from Councillor Waters, Joe Ballard, project manager said that paragraph 5.6 referred to the fact that the instigation of the process map did not have an environmental impact; it was the project itself that did.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) agree the process map attached as the new overall process for projects receiving funds from the Infrastructure Investment Fund; and
- 2) continue to give the Infrastructure Development Board delegated authority to oversee the changes to forms and guidance of the Infrastructure Investment Fund.

5. Draft Five Year Infrastructure Plan

Debbie Lorimer, director of growth and business development, South Norfolk District Council, presented the report. She explained that the Five Year Investment Plan (5YIP) set out the projects which support the growth as planned within the Joint Core Strategy (JCS) and the Greater Norwich City Deal. The projects were funded from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Officers from the Greater Norwich Project Team had reviewed the expected CIL income and revised the figures which were lower than had previously been expected. It was recommended that those projects which had already been agreed to be delivered in 2019/20 continue to go forward and that funds previously allocated as a cash reserve be used to finance these projects. The project team had spoken with every project agreed within the programme, had reworked the figures so those presented in the report were the best forecast achievable.

The plan included £2M per annum for education.. An amendment to the report was noted; the last sentence on the education section, agenda page 19, should read:

£2M committed in 2018/19 has helped with two projects; one to identify and secure a new site to move the existing school at Blofield into larger and more suitable accommodation and two, in Brundall to ensure the primary school has suitable accommodation for larger cohorts of children.

Councillor Fuller provided context to the historical expectations of CIL amounts. He said that the possible introduction of Norwich City Council's Exceptional Circumstances Relief Policy (ECR) could impact on the amount of future CIL income received. The chair suggested that a report on CIL ECR policy and other factors that could impact on CIL could be brought to the next committee.

Councillor Fuller raised concerns regarding the repayments for Northern Distributor Road (NDR) and Long Stratton Bypass. Vince Muspratt, acting assistant director (economic development and strategy), Norfolk County Council, said legal agreements were in place regarding repayments in relation to both schemes. He suggested that he could circulate the

likely total cost of borrowing for the NDR. The project manager noted that the repayments for the loans continued beyond the 5YIP.

Councillor Fuller highlighted the need for a CIL review to understand future CIL income levels. Councillor Proctor said it would be useful to note which order loans were called on and which debt was repayed first if there was a limited amount of CIL available. Members debated a CIL review and where this would be directed from. The project manager confirmed that this was in the job description of Mike Burrell, Norfolk County Council.

RESOLVED to:

- 1) note the Draft Joint Five Year Infrastructure Investment Plan 19-24;
- 2) instruct officers to update this draft to reflect changes since its preparation before consideration at Partner's Cabinets and Councils in January 2019 and the Greater Norwich Growth Board meeting at its meeting on 4 February 2019;
- 3) agree the proposed 2019/20 Annual Growth Programme;
- 4) agree that the cash reserve should be reallocated into the IIF to support the delivery of previously agreed annual growth programmes, and to also instruct officers to forward plan the establishment of a new cash reserve in future versions of this Plan;
- 5) note the amendment to the report; the last sentence on the education section, agenda page 19, should read:

£2M committed in 2018/19 has helped with two projects; one to identify and secure a new site to move the existing school at Blofield into larger and more suitable accommodation and two, in Brundall to ensure the primary school has suitable accommodation for larger cohorts of children.

- 6) ask the project team to arrange for a report on the potential impact of Norwich City Council Community Infrastructure Levy Exceptional Circumstances Relief Policy and the changing landscape on CIL income;
- 7) ask the project team to circulate figures on the likely total cost of borrowing in relation to the NDR; and
- 8) the project team to report back on the timeline for a CIL review.

6. Response to the Independent Review of Build Out rates

Debbie Lorimer, director of growth and business development, South Norfolk District Council, presented the report. She explained that the report sought instruction from the board on the development of a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). The report suggested that an informal workshop be arranged to explore options as set out in paragraph 4.6. of the report.

Following discussion it was;

RESOLVED to:

- 1) ask the project managers to arrange an informal workshop for board members to explore the development of a Special Purpose Vehicle or Vehicles; to include the commissioning of a specialist consultant; and
- 2) agree a joint contribution from authorities to fund this workshop.

7. Date of Next Meeting

RESOLVED to note the date of the next meeting at 14:00 on Monday, 4 February 2019.

CHAIR