

Greater Norwich Growth Board

Minutes

14:00 to 15:00

4 February 2019

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 Graham Plant (substitute for
Councillor Andrew Proctor)

Officers

David Moorcroft
Graham Nelson

Debbie Lorimer

Vince Muspratt

In attendance:

Joe Ballard, Greater Norwich Project Team
Grace Burke, Greater Norwich Project Team
Mike Burrell, Greater Norwich Development Plan

Apologies:

Councillor Andrew Proctor, Norfolk County Council
Douglas Field, New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership
Trevor Holden, South Norfolk Council/Broadland District Council
Phil Courtier, Broadland District Council
Laura McGillivray, Norwich City Council
Chris Starkie, New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership



NORWICH
City Council



Norfolk County Council

NEWANGLIA
Local Enterprise Partnership
for Norfolk and Suffolk

1. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Minutes

RESOLVED to approve the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 27 November 2018.

3. Infrastructure Investment Fund Project Showcase Library Self-Access Improvements GP41-43 and 56 -60

(Ian McCann, assistant head of service, Norfolk County Council attended the meeting for this item.)

(Copies of the presentation were circulated at the meeting and are available on the website. Libraries where CIL funding had been used were marked with an asterisk. Video links on customer experiences , which were not available at the meeting, are attached for information:

- What has having open libraries allowed you to do <https://youtu.be/jf15sy34Oqc>
- What would you like to see improved: <https://youtu.be/pcWtRz-9j8Y>)

Ian McCann gave a power point presentation on Open Library which had been partially funded by community infrastructure levy (CIL) contributions. The scheme gave access to local libraries, particularly personal computers, when the buildings were unstaffed and at times convenient to customers. Concerns about misuse of the buildings had not materialised. There had been relatively few incidents of misbehaviour and one occasion where the police had been called. The project was progressing well, with 38 out of the 47 libraries in the scheme in operation, and of these 34 libraries operated between 08:00 to 19:00 Monday to Friday, 08:00 to 16:00 on Saturday and 10:00 to 16:00 on Sundays. Better timetabling had increased the open hours which were staffed. The Open Library project not only increased opening hours but also provided improved facilities such as public toilets and at Plumstead Road, would provide a car park. The next stage of the project would be to raise awareness and promote activities such as after school clubs etc. The library service was grateful to the funding from CIL and the project would not have progressed so fast without it.

In reply to a member's question, Ian McCann said that the age range demographic varied across the local libraries with some having a broad spectrum and Blofield where it was polarised with very young children and older people. A member also pointed out that library services were available 24/7 as books and other media were available to download.

The chair said that he was pleased to see the progress of the project and that staffing numbers had not been reduced.

RESOLVED to note the progress of the project.

4. LEP UPDATE

The board noted that Chris Starkie had been unable to attend the meeting at short notice. However the chair said that there had been an excellent presentation at the last meeting of the LEP board and asked that it was circulated to members.

RESOLVED to ask the committee officer to circulate a copy of the presentation made at the meeting of the New Anglia Enterprise Partnership Board to members of this board.

5. Greater Norwich Annual Growth Programme 2019-20

(The board noted that on page 12 of the agenda; under list of attachments, the full title of Appendix B was Greater Norwich Growth Board – Annual Growth Project 2019-20).

RESOLVED to agree:

- (1) the Five Year Infrastructure Plan (5YIP) subject to endorsement by the respective district councils, and , in the unlikely event that it is subsequently rejected or amended by one of the partners' full councils, note that the matter will be referred back to this board for further consideration);
- (2) Greater Norwich Annual Growth Programme 2019-20.

6. Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in Norwich

Graham Nelson, head of planning services, Norwich City Council, presented the report and explained the city council's decision to introduce a CIL exceptional circumstances relief policy (ECRP). He said that the report did not address the process for reviewing CIL but an informal meeting had been arranged to give partners an opportunity to discuss that subject further following the meeting.

Councillor Fuller referred to the unique situation where the Greater Norwich Growth Board partner authorities had agreed to pool together CIL contributions for infrastructure, such as libraries and schools to support the growth agenda, and said that none of the examples of authorities where CIL exceptional circumstances relief policies had been implemented were

authorities where CIL was pooled with a neighbouring authority. He said that he was disappointed that the city council had not consulted its partner authorities. He expressed concern that the city council's introduction of this policy would have a negative impact on the infrastructure investment plan; that the impact of the policy was uncertain, and the introduction of this policy was premature before the review of CIL had been undertaken.

The head of planning services said that the CIL ECRP was a minor change in the council's procedures for the administration of CIL. He pointed out that the review of CIL was a separate process and part of the evidence base for the emerging Greater Norwich Local Plan on infrastructure and how it's paid for. He explained that nationally, the City Deal arrangements were unique and that the three district councils each collected CIL separately. The CIL ECRP was a response to the specific circumstances that only related to the city, to maximise the development of brownfield sites before development on greenfield sites. The loss of CIL from large developments was only a theoretical loss because if development did not go ahead there would be no CIL. He referred to the council's ECRP and said that it would only be used where it was necessary to bring forward development where permission was granted and development would not otherwise commence. For large developments, it would mean that CIL could be applicable for later phases of construction.

In reply to a question from Councillor Vincent, the head of planning services said that there was no provision to clawback ECR but if it was granted on a phased basis the developer could be liable for CIL in the later phases. There could also be potential to increase S106 payments for affordable housing too.

Councillor Plant said that it was important that CIL ECR should only be granted in exceptional circumstances because CIL provided the facilities of the communities that were being developed. He also pointed out that any decision to grant ECR should be evidenced.

In reply to a question from Councillor Fuller, Mike Burrell, Greater Norwich Development Plan manager, explained that it made sense to align the review of CIL with the development plan.

RESOLVED to note the report.

7. Future Greater Norwich Growth Board Meeting Plan

The chair introduced the report which set out the arrangements for the Greater Norwich Growth Board's handover to South Norfolk Council and the schedule for meetings.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) note that the chair and administration of the Greater Norwich Growth Board to South Norfolk Council;
- (2) agree the meeting schedule as follows:

Thursday, 9 May 2019	10:00 to 13:00
Monday, 8 July 2019	13:00 to 16:00
Thursday, 26 September 2019	13:00 to 16:00
Monday, 25 November 2019	13:00 to 16:00
Tuesday, 17 March 2020	13:00 to 16:00

CHAIR