

Greater Norwich Growth Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 4 June 2019

Time: 2.10pm

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

Present:

Board Members:

South Norfolk Council:

Cllr Lisa Neal (substitute for Cllr John Fuller)

Broadland District Council:

Cllr Shaun Vincent

Norwich City Council:

Cllr Alan Waters

Norfolk County Council:

Cllr Andrew Procter

New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership:

Officers:

Phil Courtier

Phil Courtier

David Moorcroft
Graham Nelson

Vince Muspratt

Chris Starkie
(for part of the meeting)

In attendance:

Joe Ballard, Greater Norwich Project Team

Grace Burke, Greater Norwich Project Team

Matt Tracey, Greater Norwich Project Team

Anne Sommazzi, Green Infrastructure & Woodlands Officer, Broadland District Council

Mark Heazle, Community Leisure Manager, South Norfolk Council

One member of the public was also in attendance.

1. HANDOVER OF CHAIR

Cllr Waters confirmed that he had enjoyed his term as Chairman of the Greater Norwich Growth Board and advised that he was pleased with the good work undertaken and the impact of the investment decisions made by the Board, over the past year.

It was **RESOLVED** that Cllr John Fuller be appointed as Chairman and that Cllr Andrew Proctor be appointed as Vice Chairman of the Greater Norwich Growth Board for the next municipal year.

In the absence of Cllr Fuller, Cllr Proctor agreed to chair this meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received on behalf of Cllr Fuller and it was noted that Cllr Neal was in attendance as the substitute member of South Norfolk Council.

In response to a concern raised by Cllr Proctor regarding the absence of a member from the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP), officers advised that confirmation had been received from the LEP that Chris Starkie would voice the opinions of the LEP in the absence of a LEP Board Member. It was agreed that any key decisions would be emailed to the absent LEP member for his agreement.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. MINUTES

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting of the Greater Norwich Growth Board held on 4 February 2019 be confirmed as a correct record.

5. INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT FUND PROJECT SHOWCASE KETTS PARK SPORTS HUB – ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCH

Mark Heazle, the Community Leisure Manager of South Norfolk Council, provided the Board with a presentation which sought to give members an overview of the delivery of the Ketts Park Improvement Project. A copy of this presentation is appended (Appendix A) to these minutes.

The Board was made aware of the background of the project and the history of Ketts Park, as detailed in the presentation. Members were informed that the poor condition of existing grass pitches, resulting in the loss of 60 matches during the 2016/17 season, due to poor weather, and the further demand of pitch space due to expected housing growth all contributed to the strategic need for an artificial grass pitch at Wymondham, which had been highlighted by Norfolk County Football Association as an important area of growth.

The Community Leisure Manager detailed the procurement and delivery of the artificial grass pitch, advising that an agreement had been reached between South Norfolk Council (SNC) and Wymondham Town Council (WTC) for the management of the site with WTC undertaking the grounds maintenance of the whole site and SNC taking responsibility for all other aspects. The Board was pleased to note that there had been no capital costs to SNC for the delivery of the artificial grass pitch as the overall cost of £650K had been met from £250K of CIL monies which had helped to lever in the remaining £400K from the Football Foundation.

Members were advised that, as part of the next stage of the project, matched funding was being sought to improve the tennis facilities and clubhouse on the site.

The Board thanked Mark Heazle for his presentation and agreed that the project was a good example of project management and joint working which had provided residents with a good resource at no cost to ratepayers.

6. GREATER NORWICH INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN 2019

Vince Muspratt provided the Board with the report which introduced the Draft Greater Norwich Infrastructure Plan (GNIP) 2019. He advised that the draft Plan identified potential projects which may require funding during the next five years, explaining that, if members were minded to approve the GNIP, a call for projects for the Infrastructure Investment Fund (IIF) would be initiated.

In response to a member's question regarding the possibility that new projects could be added, it was confirmed that the GNIP was a living document and was reviewed and updated annually to reflect the latest information.

Members queried the role of Norfolk County Council in the Greater Norwich Growth Programme Process and it was clarified that ownership of the CIL sat with District Councils as the collecting authorities with the County Council acting as the accountable body.

A typographical error was noted on page 58 of the agenda papers which officers agreed would be amended before the GNIP was published.

After a brief discussion, it was:

RESOLVED to accept the Draft Greater Norwich Investment Plan, noting that this would initiate the call for projects for the Infrastructure Investment Fund.

7. LEP UPDATE

Chris Starkie, Chief Executive of the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership, provided members with a verbal update.

The Board was advised that the Economic Strategy for Norfolk and Suffolk had been published and was available on the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership's website. It was noted that the Strategy was a shared endeavour between a wide range of partners, including the Greater Norwich Growth Board and focussed on the evolving needs and opportunities of the local economy, improving productivity and growth. Chris Starkie advised that the first building blocks of evidenced-based research to gain an understanding of the environment and to test theories across many sectors had almost reached completion and that documentation would be published in the Autumn of 2019, after a summer consultation.

Members were advised that major initiatives were underway to promote place which would further enable the LEP to work with existing companies and to also target new businesses.

With regard to driving local growth, members were advised that the LEP had reviewed the impact of their programmes to check their alignment and value for money against influences and issues such as Brexit etc. The LEP was pleased to report that 8,000 businesses had been assisted by the hub and that more than 700 businesses had received grant funding. It was also reported that most of the transport for Norwich was on track and on budget.

In response to a question from Cllr Proctor, regarding the role of the private sector, Chris Starkie advised that local authorities did not create jobs but helped to deliver the infrastructure for the private sector to deliver employment. Cllr Waters shared Cllr Proctor's concerns, stating that local authorities invested in building homes and culture, but he questioned where the private sector added value. He stressed that the Procurement Strategy included paying the voluntary living wage and that grants should be given to business to incentivise them to provide better-paid, full-time, secure jobs which would, in turn, increase productivity.

The Board discussed the need to galvanise key site and elements of Norfolk and Suffolk and associate them with each other to push forward the strengths of Greater Norwich, agreeing that collectively promoting its best assets in the area would ensure that Greater Norwich did not become lost across Norfolk and Suffolk.

8. EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC

The Chairman:

RESOLVED to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of items 9 and 10 (below) on the grounds contained in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

9. GREATER NORWICH LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

Phil Courtier, Director of Place for Broadland District and South Norfolk Councils, presented the *exempt* report.

It was:

RESOLVED not to accept the recommendation in the *exempt* report, owing to outstanding information. An amended proposal was sought for a decision via written procedures.

10. GREATER NORWICH GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE

Phil Courtier, Director of Place for Broadland District and South Norfolk Councils, presented the *exempt* report.

it was:

RESOLVED to agree all of the recommendations in the *exempt* report.

Chairman