

Greater Norwich Growth Board

Date: 30 November 2023

Time: 11:00am

Venue: County Hall, Council Chamber

SUPPLEMENTARY A g e n d a

- 5a Match funding confirmed for Sloughbottom Park Regeneration Project**
*Graham Nelson, Executive Director of Development and City Services,
Norwich City Council*

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Match funding confirmed for Sloughbottom Park Regeneration Project

Graham Nelson, Executive Director of Development and City Services, Norwich City Council

Summary

On Monday 20th November, Norwich City Council received confirmation that Sloughbottom Park Regeneration project has provisionally been awarded £7,583,515 of funding from round three of Government's Levelling Up Fund. This is to be matched by £850,000 which was committed to the project from the Greater Norwich Infrastructure Investment Fund in March 2023. The news of this funding has changed the status of the project as reported within the draft Five Year Infrastructure Investment Plan 24-29 (the Plan - reported as item 5). The project is now able to progress towards delivery and no longer wishes to withdraw from the Greater Norwich Growth Programme.

Recommendations

- i) ***GNGB confirm that GP89 Sloughbottom Park Regeneration Project is to remain within the Greater Norwich Growth Programme, with £850,000 committed to it from the Infrastructure Investment Fund.***
- ii) ***GNGB instruct the required changes be made to the draft Five Year Infrastructure Investment Plan 24-29 (the Plan - reported as item 5) reinstating GP89 Sloughbottom Park Regeneration Project within the programme, ahead of the Plan progressing to each District Cabinet and Council for a decision.***

Report

1 Introduction

- 1.1 On Monday 20th November the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities confirmed the list of projects which were being awarded funding in the next round of their Levelling Up Fund (LUF). The successful list was drawn up from bids which had been unsuccessful at round two. These were not able to be funded earlier in the year but were assessed as high-quality and ready-to-deliver and have now been progressed to secure funding in round three.
- 1.2 Norwich City Council is pleased to report that it has been provisionally awarded up to £7,583,515 to support delivery of its "Mile Cross health, wellbeing and economic activity project", which has been termed the "Sloughbottom Park Regeneration project" (project number GP89 within the Greater Norwich Growth Programme).

2 Background

- 2.1 The GNGB initially made a commitment to support the Sloughbottom Park Regeneration project at their meeting on 6th October 2022, when Norwich City Council was preparing their application to the LUF, round two. The GNGB agreed in principle to commit £850,000 to the project which was later confirmed by all Greater Norwich partners through the agreement of the joint Five Year Infrastructure Investment Plan 2023-28.
- 2.2 The £850,000 was allocated from the Infrastructure Investment Fund (IIF - pooled Community Infrastructure Levy), demonstrating a local contribution of match to support the City Council's application to LUF round 2. Unfortunately, news was received in January 2023 that the project had been unsuccessful with their initial LUF bid which was whilst the GNGB funding decision making was still underway. Despite this news, all partners agreed that the project should remain within the Greater Norwich Growth Programme and for the £850,000 allocated from the IIF to be used to help lever in the outstanding amount that was required. This was because the project was identified as having a strong strategic need that was set to deliver infrastructure that adheres to CIL legislation, meets the rules of the IIF and supports planned growth in Greater Norwich.

- 2.3 The GNGB have delegated authority to oversee the delivery of all projects within the Greater Norwich Growth programme, which they do in accordance with the agreed and established governance process and IIF fund rules. Any deviations from project budget and programme as agreed in the Plan, need to follow the established project change request process. Due to the size of this project, it was agreed that any changes would be considered by the GNGB at a public meeting and a unanimous agreement by all partners would be required.
- 2.4 It was also agreed that a rescoped budget and programme would need to be evidenced and agreed prior to any drawdown from the IIF fund.

3 GP89 Sloughbottom Park Regeneration Project

- 3.1 This project will support more Norwich residents to live active, engaged and healthy lifestyles, especially in the relatively deprived ward of Mile Cross, where social mobility is low, outcomes for children are poor, rates of violent crime are high and economic activity rates are suppressed. Supporting more people to live healthier and more active lifestyles, particularly from a young age, will increase health and wellbeing, promote social mobility and economic activity, facilitate community inclusion for young people, raise aspirations for a better life and contribute to a tangible sense of Norwich as a place which is levelling up.
- 3.2 Investment will deliver new, improved and joined-up **community and sporting facilities**, rehabilitated **green spaces** linking Sloughbottom Park and Sweetbriar Marshes, a continuous 49-hectare area of green space near Norwich's city centre in the deprived ward of Mile Cross and upgraded **cycle paths** to link Mile Cross residents to city centre employment. More specifically the project will deliver:
- A new 3G football pitch which can be used year-round.
 - League-standard changing facilities, including an administration office.
 - Adapting the existing pavilion as a multi-purpose community facility.
 - Play Park upgraded with more inclusive playground equipment and improved surfacing.
 - Upgrading the BMX track.
 - Upgraded modular storage facilities at the BMX track.
 - Car park, paths, signage and lighting will be upgraded to improve safety and accessibility.
 - Upgrade to the Dolphin Path which offers cycling and walking connections between the Mile Cross area and the city via National Cycle Route 1 (Marriott's Way)
- 3.2 The specific elements within the project that are to be funded through the IIF include the 3G pitch and changing rooms plus the upgrade to Dolphin Path.

4 The draft Five Year Infrastructure Investment Plan 24-29 (the Plan - reported as item 5)

- 4.1 At the time of preparing the Plan, the recent news regarding LUF round three was not known. The project reported that it had not secured any additional funding, it was not able to demonstrate deliverability and therefore it was decided that the project should withdraw from the Greater Norwich Growth programme, releasing the £850,000 back into the IIF.
- 4.2 The confirmation of £7,583,515 funding has dramatically changed the project's status and GP89 Sloughbottom Park Regeneration project is now able to progress towards delivery and can remain within the Greater Norwich Growth programme.

5 The impact on the Plan

- 5.1 The financial modelling within the draft Plan does not currently include the £850,000 funding for Sloughbottom Park Regeneration project. This amount needs to be added back into the Plan and any resulting amendments reflected throughout.
- 5.2 The impact of adding this project back into the Greater Norwich Growth programme will mostly be communicated through amendments made to table 1 within the Plan (page 59 of this agenda pack). The draft version of the Plan is currently reporting that just over £8m of noncommitted funds will remain within the fund at the end of 24/25. This amount will reduce by £850,000, being closer to £7m.
- 5.3 The draft Plan is tabled for collective review by the GNGB ahead of it being considered by individual partnership Cabinets and Councils in Dec/Jan. This means there is an opportunity to make the required amendments to reinstate Sloughbottom Park Regeneration project back into the Greater Norwich Growth programme in advance of the decision making.

6 Next Steps for the project

- 6.1 Norwich City Council is still confirming the funding arrangements with government and will need time to remobilise having only just found out that they have secured the funding for delivery.
- 6.2 The Greater Norwich Infrastructure Delivery Board has delegated authority from the GNGB to oversee the management of the Greater Norwich Growth programme, in accordance with agreed processes and partnership governance arrangements. As previously agreed for this project, a rescoped budget and programme would need to be evidenced and agreed prior to any drawdown from the fund.
- 6.3 Any deviations from project budget and programme as initially agreed, will need to follow the established project change request process. Due to the size of this project, changes will be brought to the GNGB for consideration at a public meeting and a unanimous agreement by all partners would be required before delivery can proceed.

7 Recommendations

Having considered the details within this supplementary item. The GNGB are recommended to:

- i) ***confirm that GP89 Sloughbottom Park Regeneration Project is to remain within the Greater Norwich Growth Programme, with £850,000 committed to it from the Infrastructure Investment Fund.***
- ii) ***instruct the required changes be made to the draft Five Year Infrastructure Investment Plan 24-29 (the Plan - reported as item 5) reinstating GP89 Sloughbottom Park Regeneration Project within the programme, ahead of the Plan progressing to each District Cabinet and Council for a decision.***

8 Issues and Risks

8.1 Resource Implications

The staff resource to amend the draft Five Year Infrastructure Investment Plan 2024-29 will be undertaken within the existing resource of the Greater Norwich Project Team

Resource for the delivery of the project will remain the responsibility for the individual project manager and sponsor.

8.2 Legal Implications

- The IIF pooling arrangements and the designation of an Accountable Body are set out in the Joint Working Agreement which was signed on 21 October 2015 and is supported by the Infrastructure Investment Fund Programme Governance. Which is agreed by all partners.
- No new legal risks are identified.

8.3 Human Rights Implications

- The risks related to human rights implications remain with the project manager and sponsor.

8.4 Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

- The responsibility to undertake an equality impact assessment remains with the project manager and sponsor.

8.5 Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA)

- Not applicable

8.6 Health and Safety Implications

- Not applicable

8.7 Sustainability Implications

- The risks related to sustainability remain with the project manager and sponsor.

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper please get in touch with:

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