

Greater Norwich Growth Board

Minutes

Time: 14:00 to 15:45

Date: 12 March 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 – following appointment)

Broadland District Council

Councillor Andrew Proctor (chair to start of item 3)

South Norfolk Council

Councillor John Fuller

Norfolk County Council

Councillor Cliff Jordan

Officers

Laura McGillivray
David Moorcroft
Graham Nelson

Phil Courtier

Debbie Lorimer

Wendy Thomson
Tracy Jessop
Harvey Bullen
Phil Morris
Vince Muspratt
Jeremy Wiggin

In attendance:

Joe Ballard, Greater Norwich Project Team
Angela Freeman, Greater Norwich Project Team
Mike Burrell, Greater Norwich Local Plan Team

Apologies:

Douglas Field, New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership
Chris Starkie, New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership
Phil Kirby, Broadland District Council
Sandra Dinneen, South Norfolk Council
Sebastian Gasse, Norfolk County Council



NORWICH
City Council



Norfolk County Council



(Councillor Proctor in the chair)

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 6 February 2018.

3. Chair Handover

Councillor Proctor as the outgoing chair addressed the board.

Councillor Waters thanked Councillor Proctor for his contribution to the work of the Greater Norwich Growth Board as chair.

RESOLVED to appoint Councillor Waters, leader of Norwich City Council, as chair of the board.

(Councillor Waters in the chair.)

4. Greater Norwich Growth Programme for 2018-19

David Moorcroft (director of regeneration and development, Norwich City Council) presented the report which sought members' approval of the Growth Programmes for 2018 to 2019.

In response to a question from the chair, David Moorcroft confirmed that there was no funding against the East Norwich Gateway project. Consideration was being given for a wider strategy for this area following the announcement of the closure of Unilever/Britvic and the announcement that the government had not granted Housing Infrastructure Funding for the Deal Ground. The specific detail would not be available until the outcome of the consultation.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) note the current financial standing of the Infrastructure Investment Fund including the borrowing drawdown to date;
- (2) note progress on the Growth Programmes approved to date, including the project delivery re-profiling approved under delegated decision making by the Infrastructure Delivery Board;
- (3) approve the 2018-19 Growth Programme;

- (4) continue to delegate responsibility to the Greater Norwich Infrastructure Delivery Board to manage the delivery of the Growth Programme, including the development of the 2019-20 Growth Programme, working with Section 151 officers.

5. NATS Review

Jeremy Wiggin (NATS/city agency manager) presented the report attached to the agenda papers and said that this summarised the current delivery against the Norwich Area Transport Strategy (NATS). He then gave a verbal update on the review of the NATS and said that it underpinned the growth agenda. "Transport for Norwich" would be the brand used for delivery of projects on the ground and was more familiar to most people.

Members were advised that over 1,000 responses had been received during the consultation period (15 January to 22 March 2018) and that these would all be analysed and considered. The strategy, which dated back to 2004, had last been fully reviewed in 2010 with a high level review held in 2014. The survey had been held in tandem with the consultation on the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) as it was important to consider transport infrastructure and growth together.

The key emerging issues included access into the city centre; provision of cycling infrastructure; rail and trams; provision for pedestrians; and bus travel information (particularly where services were disrupted). The strategy had contributed to Norwich going against national trends. First Eastern Counties had invested £500,000 in extra buses which demonstrated confidence in the bus priority measures. Bus passenger numbers in Norwich had increased by 75 per cent. The implementation of cycle provision had resulted in an increase of 40 per cent in Norwich. The ofo cycle share company had its most successful launch in the UK in Norwich. Footfall in the city centre had increased year on year and the closure of Westlegate had been a significant factor in the 3 per cent increase last year and at Castle Mall a 5 per cent increase. Data was being collated on the use of the inner ring road and this would be the focus of the next tranche of schemes. Consultation responses on the proposal to make Prince of Wales Road a bus lane in 2009-10 raised a number of issues. The current proposal has been amended to ensure that traffic continued to flow smoothly and the bus only scheme was no longer included. This scheme would create a gateway into the city and had the support of the Norwich BID. The review would look at what had been delivered in the past, what worked well and would incorporate future trends, such as an increase in the use of electric cars.

During discussion members and officers congratulated the county council highways officers for their implementation of the strategy and that the improvements, such as the closure of Westlegate, and encouragement of walking, cycling and use of public transport had benefited the city. It was noted that the Northern Distributer Road (NDR) which was due to

open shortly would remove traffic from the city centre and that the communications strategy would encourage people to take the alternative routes.

A member said that he was concerned that it only took a burst water main or accident for traffic to back up in the city centre and that there needed to be “safety valves” to alleviate congestion and keep traffic moving. During discussion it was noted that the difficulty was the geography of the city and its medieval street pattern.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) note the progress of the NATS review;
- (2) thank Jeremy Wiggin for his presentation and to commend the work of the officers working on The Transport for Norwich schemes.

6. Greater Norwich Local Infrastructure Fund (LIF)

Phil Courtier (head of planning services, Broadland District Council) presented the report.

A member suggested that funding which had been allocated to sites that were not progressing quickly could be made available to other schemes. Phil Courtier said that the member had made a valid point and that if it were the case that developers were asking for infrastructure, schemes that were not progressing could be pushed back to allow others to come forward.

Phil Courtier said that there had been some progress on the Beeston Park scheme and an application was expected soon.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) approve the LIF loan for the Rockland development which had received approval in principle;
- (2) note the progress of the previously approved LIF loans including the start of repayments for Little Plumstead.

7. Options for the Funding for On-Going Maintenance of Capital Infrastructure Investment

(The chair agreed to take this item as extra business.)

Graham Nelson (head of planning services, Norwich City Council) had prepared a draft options paper on the funding for the maintenance of the Capital Infrastructure Investment which would be circulated to members and officers for comment.

RESOLVED to note that the options paper will be circulated to each authority for comment.

8. Date of Next Meeting

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

Councillor Fuller requested that an options paper on the issues and options on the review of CIL be considered at the next meeting.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) confirm that the next meeting will be on Tuesday, 15 May, 2018 at 14:00 in the Mancroft room, City Hall, Norwich:
- (2) note the request to include an options paper on CIL on the agenda for the next meeting.

CHAIR