

Greater Norwich Growth Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 7 December 2017

Time: 10.00 am

Venue: Broadland District Council, Thorpe Lodge, 1 Yarmouth Road,
Norwich, NR7 0DU

Present:

Board Members:

Broadland District Council:

Cllr Andrew Proctor (Chair)

Norwich City Council:

Cllr Alan Waters

South Norfolk Council:

Cllr John Fuller

Norfolk County Council:

Cllr Cliff Jordan

New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership:

In attendance:

Amy Broadhead

Ellen Goodwin

Angela Freeman

Officers:

Phil Kirby
Phil Courtier
James Dunne

Laura McGillivray
Graham Nelson

Tim Horspole
Debbie Lorimer

Tracy Jessop

Chris Starkie

Greater Norwich Projects Team

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On behalf of the Board the Chairman thanked Ellen Goodwin and Tim Horspole, who were leaving to take up posts elsewhere, for their hard work in supporting the Greater Norwich Growth Board.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received on behalf of Douglas Field, David Moorcroft and Wendy Thomson.

2. MINUTES OF MEETINGS HELD ON 13 JULY AND 21 SEPTEMBER 2017

The Minutes of the Meetings held on 13 July 2017 were agreed as a correct record.

The Minutes of the inquorate meeting held on 21 September 2017 were noted.

3. GREATER NORWICH WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

The Chairman emphasised that the package of recommendations was designed to reinvigorate the partnership. He added that the Board had unanimously supported most of the recommendations already and that it was being asked to reaffirm those recommendations today.

Norwich City Council submitted the following amendments to the recommendations:

Introduction

The City Council is committed to the Greater Norwich City Deal and supports the growth and development of the Norwich Growth Area as contained within the three districts of Broadland, South Norfolk and Norwich within the Norfolk County Council area.

The Council has difficulty with the definition of the three Districts as 'Greater Norwich'. When the City Deal was signed, the Local Plan had a designated area called the Norwich Policy Area. This had been in place for some time and contained all the major growth sites. This area is what the Council recognises as Greater Norwich. The existence of a defined policy area clearly focused the majority of growth in and around the urban area leaving a degree of protection for the rural areas.

The Local Plan consultation includes the possibility of removing the formal designation of the Norwich Policy Area for planning purposes, as it is seen to inhibit the achievement of five year land supply. This would open up the possibility for more growth to be dispersed across the whole of the three district areas.

The City Council is therefore proposing that in order to give comfort and recognition that growth will be located close to the urban area that one of the following options is agreed, that:

- (a) The Norwich Policy Area is retained for the purpose of defining the target urban growth locations (not necessarily for planning purposes as this is part of the planning consultation). It could be renamed the 'Norwich Growth Area' or left as the Norwich Policy Area.
- (b) A growth area is identified with an indicative undefined boundary to be called the 'Norwich Growth Area'
- (c) The discussion is postponed until the Local Plan consultation is concluded.

The matter of the definition of Greater Norwich and the potential absence of a Norwich Policy Area or equivalent is a barrier to agreeing a number of items on the Agenda since the actions that would be taken rest on understanding the defined area of business.

The following amendments and proposals were therefore made:

Agenda items

(4) Greater Norwich Working arrangements

If proposal (a) or (b) above is accepted, then the following would be agreed:

- (i) *Agreed.*
- (ii) *Agreed subject to the recognition of a Norwich growth area as defined in proposal (a) or (b) above.*
- (iii) *Agreed.*
- (iv) *Agreed.*
- (v) *Agreed subject to the recognition of a Norwich growth area as defined in proposal a) or b) above.*
- (vi) *Agreed on all relevant communications.*
- (vii) *Agreed subject to the recognition of a Norwich growth area as defined in proposal (a) or (b) above.*
- (viii) *Agreed recognising that links may be necessary to other relevant websites such as the CNTC and subject to the recognition of a Norwich growth area as defined in proposal (a) or (b) above.*
- (ix) *Agreed subject to the recognition of a Norwich growth area as defined in proposal (a) or (b) above.*

(5) Vision and objectives update

Agreed.

(6) Appointment of Greater Norwich Director for Growth

Agreed subject to:

- (i) *The recognition of a Norwich growth area as defined in proposal (a) or (b) above*
- (ii) *Reference being made to this growth area into the summary and key responsibilities of the job description for the new director post (appendix 1 to paper 6).*
- (iii) *Supporting the County's proposal that references to managing the GNLP Team are omitted from this job description and the diagram in appendix 2 is changed accordingly.*

(7) Special Purpose Vehicle

Not agreed as premature.

(8) Five Year Infrastructure Investment Plan

Agreed, subject to amending recommendation (iv) so that the existing Infrastructure Investment Fund governance arrangements remove any restriction on the spend of the CIL on maintenance, and ask officer's to bring back a report on options for appropriate criteria to guide this use to a future meeting

(9) Greater Norwich at MIPIM

Agreed

(10) Greater Norwich Growth Board Forward Plan

Agreed.

The Chairman questioned why the definition of Greater Norwich and the status of the Norwich Policy Area was being raised at this late stage and where, if accepted, the new designations would go.

In response it was noted that the Greater Norwich Local Plan already had an urban concentration option that was related to the Norwich Policy Area and it was this that the City Council wanted to retain.

It was clarified that either option (a) or (b) would need to be agreed before the recommendations in the report could be agreed by Norwich City. It was also confirmed that Norwich would not want the Greater Norwich Director of Growth to manage the Greater Norwich Local Plan Team.

Cllr Fuller suggested that plan making should not be separated from delivery and that the City Deal was for the whole three districts that made up Greater Norwich and that a whole range of public bodies had signed up to support the City Deal Compact for Growth on this basis.

He noted that Norwich City already had 91 percent of the growth in Greater Norwich. It was emphasised that factors such as new and improved infrastructure was extending the influence of Norwich into rural areas and this should be recognised.

As no consensus on this matter could be reached it was:

RESOLVED

that further discussion be postponed until the Greater Norwich Local Plan consultation was concluded.

4. VISION AND OBJECTIVES UPDATE

The report outlined the vision and objectives of the Board, which was based on the significant opportunities available to build a thriving economy within Greater Norwich.

RESOLVED

to

- (i) agree the purpose, vision and objectives presented and instruct officers to develop an appropriate framework for measuring success to be presented at the next Board meeting; and
- (ii) instruct officers to develop a supporting strapline and narrative for the outward promotion of Greater Norwich.

5. APPOINTMENT OF GREATER NORWICH DIRECTOR OF GROWTH

Members were advised that the Norfolk Leaders Group had agreed to fund 50 percent of the post in the first year from the Norfolk Business Rates Pool. Acceptance of the offer was required by tomorrow.

The Chairman noted that a key aspect of the role would be the leadership and management of project teams.

The County Council confirmed that they could not support the proposal at this stage, as it was too closely linked to Greater Norwich Working Arrangements, which had yet to be agreed.

RESOLVED

to defer a decision on this item.

6. GREATER NORWICH SPECIAL PURPOSE VEHICLE

The report outlined several models for a Special Purpose Vehicle and requested that the Board gave a steer on which one they would like to see explored further.

Members confirmed that they would like to see a Special Purpose Vehicle developed, as it would be a means of delivering growth in an innovative and creative way, as well as a means of accessing additional funding through partnership working.

However, it was decided that no one model could be selected at this stage as it was important to identify the type of Special Purpose Vehicle that would be attractive to partners in the private sector. It was, therefore, decided to continue exploring options, so that the most effective and efficient vehicle could be identified.

RESOLVED

to continue to explore Special Purpose Vehicle model options to help deliver the ambitions of the Board.

7. GREATER NORWICH JOINT FIVE YEAR INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PLAN

The report presented the draft 2017 Five Year Infrastructure Plan for review ahead of the report being considered by each respective Council.

The development of an appropriate mechanism for the maintenance of schemes was raised and discussed.

The Chairman noted that this should be looked at in the round and all sources of funding should be incorporated into the Infrastructure Plan in order to identify the best means of providing maintenance.

RESOLVED

to

- (i) note the Draft 2017 Joint Five Year Infrastructure Investment Plan including provision for a maintenance pot of £50,000 in 2018/19;
- (ii) note the delivery impact of delayed agreement on the Growth Programme, recognising some projects will have already slipped;
- (iii) instruct officers to update the draft to reflect changes since its original preparation before consideration at Partner's Cabinets and Councils in January 2018 and the Greater Norwich Growth Board meeting at its meeting on 6 February 2018; and
- (iv) incorporate all sources of funding into the Infrastructure Plan in order to identify the best means of providing maintenance.

8. GREATER NORWICH AT MIPIM UK 2017

The report provided an update on the Greater Norwich attendance at MIPIM UK in London on 18 and 19 October 2017 and proposed approaches for future MIPIM events.

For the second year Greater Norwich had attended the event under the Local Enterprise Partnership banner of 'The East' with Suffolk.

The event had been successful with approximately 80 contacts made during the two days. Twitter activity had also indicated a high level of engagement.

It was recommended to attend the MIPIM UK 2018 under the same joint banner.

RESOLVED

to

- (i) note the contents of the report; and

- (ii) support the principle of continuing attendance at MIPIM UK and note the proposed approach to MIPIM UK 2018.

9. GREATER NORWICH GROWTH BOARD FORWARD PLAN RESOLVED

to note the Forward Plan.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 6 February 2018.

The meeting closed at 10.45 am.

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