

Greater Norwich Growth Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday 21 September 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)

South Norfolk Council:

Cllr John Fuller

In attendance:

Greater Norwich Projects Team

Officers:

Phil Kirby
Phil Courtier
James Dunne

Tim Horspole
Debbie Lorimer

Amy Broadhead
Ellen Goodwin
Angela Freeman

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received on behalf of Laura McGillivray, Cllr Alan Waters David Moorcroft, Graham Nelson, Sandra Dinneen, Cllr Cliff Jordan, Tracy Jessop, David Dukes, Chris Hey, Douglas Field and Chris Starkie.

The Chairman expressed disappointment at the number of apologies received, particularly at such short notice, adding that the Agenda had been distributed over seven days ago and therefore the items were well known.

The Chairman added that there appeared to be confusion amongst Board Members between the role of the Greater Norwich Growth Board (GNGB) and the Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP). The main role of the GNGB was to deliver the City Deal and the role of the GNDP was the development of the GN Local Plan.

However in light of the lack of participation at today's meeting, the Chairman proposed that each Agenda item should be considered, even though a decision could not be reached, in order to take a view from those that were present to feed back to the absent Board Members.

Cllr Fuller added that he did not understand the reasons for the absence of Board Members from Norwich City or Norfolk County Council when each had

signed up as a joint enterprise to deliver, and that if those authorities not represented today no longer wished to continue, then Broadland and South Norfolk should still do so.

All those present agreed to consider each item on the Agenda.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 2017 were not discussed as not all members were present.

4. GREATER NORWICH WORKING ARRANGEMENTS

At the meetings held on 23 March and 25 May the Board considered a package of recommendations designed to reinvigorate the partnership and shape its continued journey.

The paper set out those recommendations which the Board has agreed and seeks to offer a way forward with regard to those recommendations around which resolution could not previously be reached.

The Chairman confirmed that recommendations 1. (i) to (ix) had already been accepted and he was therefore comfortable with the arrangements; this was agreed and supported by those present.

The Consultation Paper on housing supply calculation was issued last week and set the position for the future.

Cllr Fuller added that it was the Board's responsibility to deliver the plan as a joint enterprise with some sites already committed to. If there were concerns from some Board Members regarding continued participation with the agreed plan then this would have to be addressed. The general consensus was to focus on key strategic sites.

The latest Government consultation proposed that housing need would be based upon a single, comprehensive assessment of an entire area where authorities worked jointly on preparing a strategic plan. If this proposal was implemented it would mean housing need would be assessed across the whole Greater Norwich area rather than disaggregating the NPA and rural areas.

The Board Members present agreed to the recommendations detailed in:-

Section 1. (i) – (ix).

Section 2. (i) – (ii)

This position would be fed back to those absent and the Chairman expressed hope that this would be recognised as the right direction of travel.

5. APPOINTMENT OF GREATER NORWICH DIRECTOR FOR GROWTH

Further to the decisions of the Board at its meeting on 23 March 2017 the paper set out the proposed arrangements to appoint a Greater Norwich Director for Growth. The post was to be a shared post between the partners reporting directly to the Board. The Board was recommended to agree the proposal and proceed with the recruitment process.

Phil Kirby confirmed that consensus had been reached by the Norfolk Chief Executive's Group on the recommendations.

It was agreed by those present that acceptance of the recommendations was conditional of this as a joint enterprise to be taken forward.

The Board Members present agreed to the recommendations detailed in (i) to (vii) and in relation to (iii) that the position should be on a permanent basis as a demonstration of commitment to joint delivery. This would be fed back to those absent.

6. VISION AND OBJECTIVES UPDATE

The Board Members present noted the report and acknowledged that it set out the context of being ambitious in its vision for growth and global recognition, with emphasis on being more proactive with lobbying and completing deals.

Those present agreed with the recommendations detailed in (i) and (ii) and to feed back this view to those who were absent.

7. GREATER NORWICH AT MIPIM UK 2017

James Dunne advised that work was ongoing in preparation for the event with a strong focus on better engagement and networking. The stand design would be similar to that of 2016. There would also be greater emphasis on social media promotion. The strapline would be 'Now is the time to invest in Greater Norwich' and would be a more co-ordinated approach. Attendance from Birketts (Jeanette Wheeler) and the Norwich BID (Stefan Gurney) has also been confirmed who will provide support in hosting a networking promotional event on 18 October.

The main focus will be on the ten identified sites – what we had to offer, what investment was available and selling the area for investment.

There was continued commitment from the Local Enterprise Partnership.

Those present welcomed the update and noted the progress made.

8. GREATER NORWICH LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND

This report updated the Board on the status of each of the projects which the Board has previously approved for Local Infrastructure Fund loans. It also updated the Board on progress made since its resolution in May 2017 to approach SME developers with an offer of a smaller scale facility over the next 2-3 years.

Cllr Fuller raised concerns around cashflow and suggested the need to over-allocate to ensure the maximum investment was achieved, with penal terms if not completed on time.

Phil Courtier confirmed the willingness to over commit, but that there had not been any issues with the proposals to date.

The Board Members present agreed to the recommendations in (i) to (iv) and requested details of those projects currently approved to be presented at the next board meeting.

9. GREATER NORWICH GROWTH BOARD FORWARD PLAN

The report set out the Forward Plan for the Greater Norwich Growth Board.

The Forward Plan was a key document for the Board to use to shape future meeting agendas and items for consideration.

The Board Members present noted the recommendations in the Forward Plan.

10. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was none.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

26 October 2017, 10.00am

The meeting closed at 10.37 am.