

# Greater Norwich Growth Board

Minutes

14:00 to 14:25

7 September 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)

#### Broadland District Council

Councillor Shaun Vincent

#### South Norfolk Council

Councillor John Fuller

#### Norfolk County Council

Councillor Andrew Proctor

### Officers

David Moorcroft  
Graham Nelson

Phil Courtier

Debbie Lorimer

Wendy Thomson  
Vince Muspratt  
Phil Morris

## In attendance:

Joe Ballard, Greater Norwich Project Team  
Grace Burke, Greater Norwich Project Team

## Apologies:

Douglas Field, New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership  
Sandra Dinneen, South Norfolk Council  
Phil Kirby, Broadland District Council  
Laura McGillivray, Norwich City Council  
Chris Starkie, New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership



**NORWICH**  
City Council



**Norfolk** County Council

**NEWANGLIA**  
Local Enterprise Partnership  
for Norfolk and Suffolk

## 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 25 June 2018.

## 3. IFF Project Showcase – GP24: Bowthorpe to Colney River Crossing

(Ben Webster, Design, conservation and landscape manager, Norwich City Council, attended the meeting for this item.)

Ben Webster, gave a presentation on the project to connect Bowthorpe with the Norwich Research Park and the University of East Anglia, by reinstating a bridge over the River Yare to provide a direct pedestrian route between Bowthorpe and Colney. The project had been identified in the Open Space Investment Plan in 2013. The pathway could also be used for leisure purposes and provided a link to a circular walk along the Yare Valley. The project cost £187,000, comprising £170,000 from pooled community infrastructure funding and the remainder from the city council. This was an exemplary project for the Greater Norwich Growth Board. Construction of the bridge was nearing completion and the ownership and responsibility would be passed to the county council.

Commenting on the project, Ben Webster pointed out that there had been some opposition from residents of Colney who were concerned that the direct link to new development would impact on the secluded environment that they were used to. He also pointed out that the project could have benefited from more feasibility work being undertaken before commencement. He pointed out that the design, conservation and landscape team would be happy to work with partner authorities on future projects.

**RESOLVED** to thank Ben Webster for the presentation.

## 4. Greater Norwich Growth Board Forward Plan

Joe Ballard, project manager, presented the report. He explained the rationale for amending the schedule of meetings.

**RESOLVED** to amend the current schedule of meetings as follows:

- (1) not to convene meetings on Monday, 15 October 2018 and Monday, 7 January 2019 ;

- (2) to hold meetings as scheduled on Monday, 26 November 2018 (subsequently amended to 10:00 on Tuesday, 27 November) and Monday, 4 February 2019.

## **5. Date of Next Meeting**

Councillor Proctor requested that the meeting scheduled for 26 November 2018 be rescheduled to the following day.

**RESOLVED** to consider holding the next meeting at 10:00 on Tuesday, 27 November 2018 subject to confirmation of attendance from board members.

## **6. Exclusion of the public**

**RESOLVED** to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of items \*7 (below) on the grounds contained in the relevant paragraphs of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).

### **\*7. Greater Norwich Local Infrastructure Fund (LIF) (paragraph 3)**

Phil Courtier, head of planning, Broadland District Council, presented the report. The chair commented on the proposal that Greater Norwich project team proactively promoted the LIF loan facility to encourage more expressions from SMEs (small or medium sized enterprises) to secure more affordable housing. The chair spoke in support of this proposal and the need for a robust policy to ensure affordable housing.

During discussion, members considered the delivery of projects. Both the chair and Phil Courtier confirmed that there were no cash flow issues and commitments to large projects, which were delayed in coming forward, did not impede short or medium term funding for other developments. In answer to a member's question, Phil Courtier said that one of the criteria for LIF funding was whether the applicant had explored other sources of funding.

Discussion ensued in which Graham Nelson, head of planning services, Norwich City Council, confirmed that he was in regular dialogue with the developer of one of the larger sites and that discussions on the development of the site would continue into the autumn.

**RESOLVED** to:

- (1) recommend a LIF loan to Cripps Development Ltd to support development at Horsford (as set out in the report);
- (2) note the imminent completion of a new LIF loan for the Cripps Development Ltd development in Thurlton, previously agreed in principle;
- (3) note the progress of the previously approved LIF loans;

- (4) note the funds currently available to be allocated as LIF loans as set out in Appendix D;
- (5) recommend that the Greater Norwich Project Team actively promotes the LIF loan facility to encourage more expressions of interest from SMEs with a focus on affordable housing, whilst continuing to manage the cash flow forecast for the total LIF loan commitment.

**RESOLVED** to

CHAIR