

Greater Norwich Growth Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 15 December 2022

Time: 2.00pm

Venue: County Hall, Council Chamber / Virtual Meeting

Present:

Board Members:	Organisation
Cllr John Fuller (Chairman)	South Norfolk Council
Cllr Shaun Vincent	Broadland District Council
Cllr Alan Waters	Norwich City Council
Cllr Andrew Proctor (Vice Chairman)	Norfolk County Council

Officers	Organisation
Phil Courtier	Broadland and South Norfolk Councils
Carolyn Reid	Norfolk County Council
Graham Nelson	Norwich City Council

Also in attendance:

Officers	Organisation
Grace Burke	Greater Norwich Project Team Leader
Ruth Oyeniya	Greater Norwich Senior Project Officer
Thomas Cushan	Greater Norwich Project Officer
Susan Moore	Parks and Open Spaces Manager, Norwich City Council

Officers	Organisation
Claire White	Democratic Services Manager, Broadland and South Norfolk Councils
Herbie Wilson-Daze	Digital Requirements and Skills Officer

Item No	Minutes
1.	<p>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</p> <p>Apologies for absence were received from CJ Green and C Starkie.</p>
2.	<p>MINUTES</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 6 October 2022, were agreed as a correct record.</p>
3.	<p>INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT FUND PROJECT SHOWCASE: NORWICH PARK TENNIS</p> <p>The Board received a presentation from Susan Moore, the Parks and Open Spaces Manager at Norwich City Council on the expansion of Norwich Parks Tennis, which had been part funded by the Greater Norwich Growth Board.</p> <p>It was explained that improvements to tennis facilities in the city had first been initiated in 2011 at Eaton Park and then later at Waterloo Park, Harford Park, Heigham Park and Lakenham Recreation.</p> <p>The project had been developed by Norwich City Council with the aim of delivering affordable, quality tennis for new and existing players on a sustainable basis. The service had been contracted to the National Tennis Association (NTA), which made a contribution to the Council on an annual basis for the maintenance of the facilities and was, therefore, cost neutral for the Council.</p> <p>Through Norwich Parks Tennis the NTA had built a flagship project, which had received national recognition, as one of the most successful community tennis programmes in the country.</p> <p>The scheme was aimed at making tennis affordable for families. Annual membership was £35 per household for one site, or £65 per household to access all sites. Lighting for courts was available for £2.50 per 30 minutes.</p> <p>The total cost of the expansion project had been £438,025, of which the Greater Norwich Growth Board had contributed £103,453.</p>

By 2020 there were 810 household memberships and court hours had increased to 22,709 hours per annum.

It was intended that during 2023 the programme would cover 22 courts, 14 of which would be floodlit, across seven sites,

Alan Waters emphasised the importance of the contribution to the project by the Greater Norwich Growth Board, which had enabled the scheme to be expanded to further sites across the city. He added that it was one of the great achievements of the partnership that it had funded a whole range of schemes across Greater Norwich, which gave people the opportunity to take part in activities that improved their health and wellbeing and he was delighted to commend this very successful and continually expanding project.

The Chairman noted that the project had delivered very well so far and would initiate wider infrastructure improvements, as the scheme was extended in the future.

4. DRAFT FIVE-YEAR INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT PLAN 2023-28

Phil Courtier the Director of Place at Broadland and South Norfolk Councils presented the report, which set out the Draft Greater Norwich Joint Five-Year Infrastructure Investment Plan 2023-28, for collective review ahead of the Plan being considered by individual partnership Cabinets and Councils in Feb/March 2023, before returning to this Board on 30 March 2023.

The proposed 2023/24 Annual Growth Programme was appended to the report, which had identified nine projects requiring £10,632,000 in Community Infrastructure Levy funding. These would in turn attract significant funding from elsewhere.

The report also recommended the introduction of two new categories to the Infrastructure Investment Fund. The first was to earmark funds for strategically important major infrastructure projects, in order to provide certainty and seed funding to smooth the delivery and funding process. The second category was for the ring fencing of match funding for projects that were applying to central Government funds (recommendation i).

The report also sought agreement to use the educational portion from the Community Infrastructure Levy pot to repay Norfolk County Council's borrowing to support the delivery of the Schools Capital Programme.

Finally, the report asked for the signing of a Deed of Variation for a minor amendment to be made to the original 2015 Board agreement, to enable a draw down on the City Deal borrowing to support the delivery of the Long Stratton Bypass.

The Chairman advised the meeting that the change in approach to match funding would allow the GNGB to take advantage of opportunities much quicker than it would have otherwise been able to do. He also noted that the education funding allocations from the Infrastructure Investment Fund had been increased.

In summary, the Chairman noted that the £10,632,000 in Community Infrastructure Levy funding in the current programme for this year would support the delivery of schemes worth a total of £26,865,324. He also noted that there was a good mix of projects coming forward; in particular, the infrastructure at Hethel, which would generate 900 jobs, the investment at Venta Icenorum to allow people to enjoy natural environment, as well as the important regeneration project that was taking place at Guildhall and Exchange Street.

Phil Courtier reminded members that the Greater Norwich Project Team did a huge amount of work in support of the GNGB to ensure that the funding was managed to bring forward these infrastructure projects and that the Board continued to enjoy a healthy income from the Community Infrastructure Levy to support growth in Greater Norwich.

RESOLVED

To recommend to each District Cabinet and Full Council:

- i. the introduction of two new categories to the Infrastructure Investment Fund, Match Funding and Major Infrastructure Projects. (Annex A)
- ii. that Education funding allocations from the Infrastructure Investment Fund be used in whole or in part to repay Norfolk County Council's borrowing, on condition that it is used to support the delivery of a Schools Capital Programme that is ringfenced to the Greater Norwich area, and that annual programme delivery and budget updates are reported to the GNGB. (Annex A)
- iii. to agree to the signing of a deed of variation to the agreement entitled, Partner Draw down and Borrowing Authorisations, that was originally signed by all partners on 21st October 2015. (Annex A).

Subject to agreement of (i)-(iii)

- iv. the approval of the Draft Five Year Infrastructure Investment Plan 2023-28 which includes the proposed 2023/24 Annual Growth Programme. (Annex B)

5. The meeting closed at 2.22 pm.