

Greater Norwich Growth Board

Date: 27 June 2023

Time: 2:00pm

Venue: County Hall, Council Chamber

Name	Organisation	Role
Cllr Kay Mason Billig (incoming Chair)	Norfolk County Council	Board Member
Tom McCabe	Norfolk County Council	Officer
Vince Muspratt	Norfolk County Council	Officer
Cllr Susan Holland (incoming Vice Chair)	Broadland District Council	Board Member
Trevor Holden	South Norfolk Council & Broadland District Council	Officer
Phil Courtier	South Norfolk Council & Broadland District Council	Officer
Cllr Mike Stonard	Norwich City Council	Board Member
Louise Rawsthorne	Norwich City Council	Officer
Graham Nelson	Norwich City Council	Officer
Cllr John Fuller	South Norfolk Council	Board Member
CJ Green	New Anglia LEP	Board Member
Chris Starkie	New Anglia LEP	Officer

AGENDA

Item	Minute	
1.	Handover of chair	
2.	Apologies	
3.	Declarations of Interest	
4.	Minutes of meeting held on 30 March 2023	Page 4
5.	Project Showcase: Ormiston Victory Academy <i>Isabel Horner, Capital Sufficiency Delivery Manager, Norfolk County Council</i>	
6.	Recommended financial option to support the work of Norfolk Environmental Credits Ltd <i>Graham Nelson, Executive Director of Development and City Services, Norwich City Council</i>	Page 11
7.	Greater Norwich Infrastructure Plan 2023 <i>Phil Courtier, Director of Place, Broadland and South Norfolk District Councils</i>	Page 18
8.	Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Strategy – Progress update <i>John Jones, Head of Environment, Culture & Heritage, Norfolk County Council</i>	Page 26
9.	Date of Next Meeting <i>27 September 2023 at 3:00pm</i> <i>County Hall, Council Chamber</i>	

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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Access



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Greater Norwich Growth Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday 30 March 2023

Time: 2.00pm

Venue: County Hall, Council Chamber

Present:

Board Members:

Cllr John Fuller (Chairman)

Cllr Shaun Vincent

Cllr Alan Waters

Cllr Graham Plant

Organisation

South Norfolk Council

Broadland District Council

Norwich City Council

Norfolk County Council

Officers

Phil Courtier

Broadland and South Norfolk
Councils

David Cumming

Norfolk County Council

Trevor Holden

Broadland and South Norfolk
Councils

Helen Terry

Norfolk County Council

Graham Nelson

Norwich City Council

Also in attendance:

Grace Burke

Greater Norwich Project Team
Leader

Ruth Oyeniyi

Greater Norwich Senior Project
Officer

Thomas Cushan

Greater Norwich Project Officer

James Overy

Broadland and South Norfolk
Councils – clerk to the meeting

Matt Haywood

Norfolk County Council

**Item Minutes
no**

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from CJ Green, T McCabe, V Muspratt, A Proctor, L Rawsthorne and C Starkie.

The Chairman noted that Cllr Proctor had stepped down as Leader of Norfolk County Council and he wished him a full and speedy recovery.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Phil Courtier declared an interest in respect of item 7 (How Greater Norwich is taking action to ensure future development is Nutrient Neutral), as he had been appointed a director of Norfolk Environmental Credits Limited.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 December 2023, were agreed as a correct record.

4. PROJECT SHOWCASE: KETTS COUNTRY LONG DISTANCE TRAIL

The Board received a presentation from Helen Terry, Team Leader - Greenways, Norfolk County Council on the Ketts Country Park Long Distance Trail.

The trail had been inspired by Kett's Rebellion, an uprising that started in Wymondham in 1549 in response to land enclosures and a push for a fairer society. The trail was not the actual route taken by Kett into Norwich but was instead an inspiring journey across a historic landscape.

The trail was an 18-mile route connecting Wymondham to Norwich on Rights of Way that had been enhanced by the project. There were five waymarked circular walks along the route at; Wymondham, Wrenningham, Mulbarton, Swardeston and Cringleford.

The trail, which had been fully funded by £98,000 provided through the Greater Norwich Growth Board, was officially launched on 25 March 2022 and provided additional green infrastructure in areas of significant growth where there was an increased demand for access to green spaces.

The work on the trail had involved reviving old public Rights of Way with the installation of new signage, removing obstacles, cutting back vegetation, and installing new bridges, handrails, gates and boardwalks to improve access. A promotional map had also been produced, as well as a webpage on the County Council website. Carved sculptures had also been installed at the start and end of the trail.

In terms of strategic fit, the trail allowed connectivity from local areas of development into the local countryside and the wider areas of the Norfolk countryside. The trail would also help connect people with the environment to improve their health and wellbeing and bring more people closer to a Norfolk trail within growth areas.

The trail had been a successful public engagement project, with the public voting on their preferred circular walks and useful local feedback being provided by parish councils. Similarly, local experts had provided additional information about the history, wildlife and landscape along the trail.

The walk was being promoted as a rich experience that could encompass heritage and nature, as well as community and family events and was more than 'just going for a walk'.

The trail also aimed to give local businesses the opportunity to share local knowledge and add value and create experience to visitors' trips.

An annual 'Rebellion Run' in July had been established and had proved very successful.

More details about the trail were available on the County Council's website.

Members thanked Helen for her presentation and commended the project.

5. GREATER NORWICH GROWTH BOARD WEBSITE UPDATE

The Board received a presentation from Tom Cushan, the Greater Norwich Project Officer, on the completion of the first phase of a project to revise the Greater Norwich Growth Board website.

The aim of the update was to improve the way that the work of the Board was communicated to the public and to make the experience of navigating the website easier.

A major change was the introduction of a project showcase section on the website. This included detailed case study information about projects, including which district it was in, what type of project it was and the amount of Community Infrastructure Levy funding it had received. Each case study would include an image gallery, video, and interactive map and a link was also provided to other similar projects delivered by the Board which might be of interest.

Six of the 91 projects that had been delivered by the Board were currently featured in the showcase section; more would be added as the website was developed.

The Chairman noted that there was a lot of ongoing work to be done to show a comprehensive catalogue of the work that had been achieved by the Board.

Cllr Waters noted that the revisions to the website showed how effectively the Greater Norwich Growth Board had been in delivering projects that had brought real benefits to the communities that it served, and he commended the work that officers and members had put into bringing this about.

The Chairman suggested that some additional hyperlinks might improve the user experience even further.

Cllr Plant noted that this was a work in progress, but that it was a significant improvement on the original website, and he commended officers for their hard work on bringing it to this stage.

6. GREATER NORWICH ANNUAL GROWTH PROGRAMME 2023/24

Phil Courtier, the Director of Place at Broadland and South Norfolk District Councils introduced the report, which confirmed the Greater Norwich Annual Growth Programme.

The report set out the new projects which had been prioritised for delivery in 2023/24 and were to be funded either wholly or in part by the Infrastructure Investment Fund. Each District Cabinet had now agreed the recommendations within the Draft 5YIIP.

There were nine new projects in the Annual Growth Programme, which demonstrated good use of the pooled Community Infrastructure Levy across the three authorities, which remained a national exemplar for cooperation at this level.

Grace Burke, the Greater Norwich Project Team Leader, advised the meeting that the digital version of this report would be embedded in the new website and included links to all of the projects. This demonstrated the direction that the Growth Board was moving in the way it would be reporting in future.

Members were shown an interactive map on the website that showed the location of the projects coming forward, a description of the works to be undertaken and illustrations to show how they were progressing. Similarly, there was a fully interactive map that showed the projects that had been completed, with their full details.

The Chairman noted that the projects were well spread across the three local authority areas.

RESOLVED

To accept the Greater Norwich Annual Growth Programme 2023/24,

committing £10,632,243 from the Infrastructure Investment Plan to nine new projects.

7. HOW GREATER NORWICH IS TAKING ACTION TO ENSURE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT IS NUTRIENT NEUTRAL

Graham Nelson, the Executive Director of Development and City Services at Norwich City Council, introduced the report, which confirmed that the Greater Norwich authorities were at the forefront of developing a strategic approach to securing nutrient neutral development, thereby enabling the delivery of planned growth in their partnership area.

The report outlined the progress so far and sought the Board's commitment to further explore how they could use their joint skills, influence, and resource to support the delivery of a programme of mitigation through the establishment of a joint venture.

The Board were reminded that guidance from Natural England had highlighted the biological health of key waterways, which had placed immediate constraints on local planning authorities issuing legal sound planning consent on most types of residential development. The consequence of this action had had a severe effect on the development industry, as well as the ongoing ability of the Board to deliver growth across Greater Norwich.

The report confirmed that new development generated a very small percentage of the total nutrient load compared to other existing uses, such as agricultural, existing housing stock and industrial processes, the impact of the guidance was disproportionate to the effect it was having on development across Norfolk. This would have serious implications for housing need, investment, infrastructure delivery and the long-term health of the Norfolk economy.

The Norfolk authorities had commissioned a calculator to assess the mitigation needed and work was ongoing on setting out the full range of mitigation for water quality that needed to be planned and the timescales for them.

Within the recent Budget, it was announced that the Government would provide funding to support 'innovative local solutions' for the delivery of 'nutrient neutral' sites.

The issues above had led to all five of the affected Norfolk local authorities to agree to develop proposals for a joint venture company to be established jointly with Anglian Water to address nutrient neutrality.

The joint venture, to be called Norfolk Environmental Credits Limited (NECL), would develop a mixed programme of measures, that could be converted into credits and sold to developers thereby unblocking the constraints on housing delivery.

The report considered the role of the Greater Norwich Growth Board in relation to the joint venture and proposed that the Board should consider opening new streams of funding to support mitigation to be brought forward via the Infrastructure Investment Fund, as well as via the borrowing capacity that the Board had through the City Deal and the Cyclical Loans Fund that was established to support local infrastructure projects.

The Board were asked to support the work on the joint venture whilst noting that there were several financial and legal risks that would need to be considered in detail as the model was developed along with other sources of external funding that might become available and that further agreement on these matters would be brought back to the Board for determination in due course.

The Chairman noted that the directive from Natural England was having a devastating effect on the development industry despite only 0.2 percent of additional nutrient load being generated by new dwellings. He also urged caution in respect of paying too much for mitigation, as he considered that the market would find its own level for this, which would be significantly less than the figures that were currently being suggested.

RESOLVED

- i. GNGB to do what it can to respond to the need to protect the two Special Areas of Conservation: the River Wensum and the Broads, from rising nutrient levels
- ii. Confirm GNGB's commitment to using their joint skills, influence, and resource to help ensure that all participants in the market, especially SMEs, are able to mitigate the direct effects of additional environmental load resulting from their activities.
- iii. GNGB to agree to explore commercial, operational and regulatory risk factors and, where justified, develop the financing options or market interventions to support the work of Norfolk Environmental Credits Limited.

8. LONG STRATTON BYPASS

The Chairman noted that need for a bypass in Long Stratton had been first identified in 1937, and since that time there had been 23 steps that had finally brought the project to the stage when construction would begin next year.

He emphasised that this had been achieved by a great deal of work across the partnership and was a significant achievement.

The Board noted the report.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Forthcoming retirement of Cllr Waters.

The Chairman advised the meeting that Alan Waters contribution to the Greater Norwich Growth Board had been superb.

He noted that the pooling of the Community Infrastructure Levy between the three local authorities remained unique and that this had called for a mature approach to growth across the districts without consideration of the boundaries between them and that Alan had played a significant role in this. He had also Chaired the Board twice.

Cllr Vincent thanked Alan for his contribution to the Board and that even when there had been disagreements they had often led to other ways forward that as a group had made them stronger working together. He thanked Alan for his participation on the Board, which had been very much appreciated.

Cllr Plant emphasised that the ability of the Board to work across party and boundary had been outstanding and he was confident that it would continue to do so.

Alan Waters noted that the great thing about the Greater Norwich Growth Board was the veto, which meant that members had to listen to one another and to take account of different perspectives.

He noted that the GNGB was unique and was recognised as a great success. He wished to record his thanks to Grace Burke, Ruth Oyeniyi Thomas Cushan and the rest of Greater Norwich Project Team, who had really helped the Board punch above its weight.

He wished the partnership well and that it should continue to be as successful, forward looking, and ambitious in the future, as it had been in the past.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 6 June 2023 at 2:00pm in the Council Chamber, County Hall.

The meeting closed at 2.58 pm.

Recommended financial option to support the work of Norfolk Environmental Credits Ltd

Graham Nelson, Executive Director of Development and City Services, Norwich City Council

Summary

This report provides an overview of Nutrient Neutrality (the requirement for applicants seeking planning permission to evidence that development will be nutrient neutral) and gives an update regarding the actions taken by different bodies to support applicants to meet this requirement.

As previously directed by the Greater Norwich Growth Board (GNGB), the Greater Norwich Infrastructure Delivery Board (IDB) have reviewed the financing options that are available to the partners and are returning to recommend a mechanism for providing potential financial loan support to Norfolk Environmental Credits Ltd (NECL), a joint venture whose work will ultimately provide evidence of nutrient mitigation and therefore enable planning decisions to proceed again.

Recommendations

Having considered the commercial, operational and regulatory risk factors with senior financial officers and nplaw, the IDB advise that that the most suitable financial option that could potentially provide loan support to Norfolk Environmental Credits Ltd would be to harness the City Deal reduced cost borrowing.

- (i) The GNGB are asked to commit to accelerating the development of the City Deal Borrowing loan fund.
- (ii) The GNGB are recommended to welcome an application to this new fund on behalf of Norfolk Environmental Credits Limited. This will be subject to due diligence, consideration of a full business case and a formal unanimous agreement by the GNGB at a future meeting.

Report

1. Introduction

- 1.1 At the GNGB meeting on 30 March 2023 a report was considered which summarised the action taken within Greater Norwich to ensure future development is nutrient neutral. In response to this report, the board agreed to respond to the need to protect the River Wensum and the Broads from rising nutrient levels; Commit to using their joint skills, influence, and resource to help ensure that all participants in the market, especially SMEs, are able to mitigate the direct effects of additional environmental load resulting from their activities; Agreed to explore commercial, operational and regulatory risk factors and, where justified, develop the financing options or market interventions to support the work of Norfolk Environmental Credits Limited (NECL).
- 1.2 The Greater Norwich Infrastructure Delivery Board (IDB) are returning to the GNGB having reviewed the financial options that are available to the partners and are recommending a way forward to support the work of NECL, a joint venture whose work is intended to provide evidence of nutrient mitigation, operate a mitigations credit scheme between developers and those delivering NN mitigations and therefore allow planning decisions to proceed.

2. Background

- 2.2 On the 16 March 2022, Natural England wrote to seventy-four local authorities and advised them, as the Competent Authority under the Habitats Regulations, to carefully consider the nutrients impacts of any new plans and policies (including new development proposals). In Norfolk, the two Special

Areas of Conservation (SACs) that need to be protected from rising nutrient levels are the River Wensum and the Broads.

- 2.3 Nutrient pollution is the process where excess nutrients, mainly nitrogen and phosphorus, are added to bodies of water causing adverse consequences to the environment in specially designated Special Areas of Conservation, a special designation.
- 2.4 To ensure that this imbalance is not further exacerbated by new development of overnight accommodation, applicants seeking planning permission must demonstrate that any residual nutrients discharged within foul water is offset by other measures which reduce nutrients entering the watercourse, upstream of the point at which it is discharged into the river. Achieving this is referred to as nutrient neutrality and it is a means of ensuring that a development plan or project does not add to existing nutrient pollution within water catchment areas.
- 2.5 Norwich City, Broadland and South Norfolk District Council are all Competent Authorities for planning decisions; however, the habitats legislation requires that sites that are in the catchments of the Wensum SAC and Broads SAC only be granted planning permission when there is certainty that the associated levels of nutrient enrichment are offset by corresponding mitigation.
- 2.6 The need to demonstrate nutrient neutrality is a new requirement and the development sector is still coming to terms with it. Many of the developers in Norfolk are small and medium sized organisations and they do not have capacity to secure their own nutrient neutrality solutions. Many will have already purchased land or have options on sites. There is a significant risk that many of these small and medium sized enterprises will go out of business if the granting of new planning permissions in these catchments does not get moving soon. Work by local councils to address this market failure should support the construction sector in the economy, the second largest industrial sector in Norfolk.
- 2.7 The broader impact of the nutrient neutrality requirements has been significant for all three Greater Norwich authority areas, as well as for neighbouring Breckland Council and North Norfolk District Councils. All the authorities have growth aspirations which are predicated on providing housing as part of their place shaping agenda. This may affect the delivery of transport infrastructure and affordable housing in particular. It is estimated that between 1,750 and 2,200 homes per year are currently on hold across Norfolk due to the nutrient neutrality constraints. In addition, there is a significant backlog of applications that were halted on the 16 March 2022 which is estimated to equate to 16,000 homes in the planning system which are impacted by nutrient neutrality.
- 2.8 The development of nutrient pollution mitigation is being developed by a growing number of parties, authorities, and national bodies. It's an area of work that is progressing at pace and is continuing to evolve as new information comes to the fore. In principle, nutrient pollution can be mitigated in a variety of ways. Solutions include enhancements to water infrastructure, the conversion of septic tanks to private package treatment plants, retrofitting flow reduction measures in existing housing stock, the creation of wetlands/reedbeds and the planting of trees to form buffer strips alongside rivers. These solutions are considered to be in their relative infancy and further development is underway.
- 2.9 Natural England is working to provide a way to identify nutrient mitigation schemes and are approaching landowners in a targeted way, inviting them to offer their land as potential sites, but this work is still at an early stage of development. Once they identify a mitigation scheme, the amount of nutrient mitigation it will provide will be calculated and converted into what is called 'credits'. These credits will be available for purchase by developers. Developers can then use these 'credits' as evidence to the Local Planning Authorities, demonstrating their development is being offset and therefore is nutrient neutral. Unfortunately, any mitigation schemes currently identified in Norfolk are still at the feasibility stage which means there are no credits available for developers in Greater Norwich to buy.

- 2.10 The five affected Norfolk planning authorities have been working together since March 2022 to look at the nutrient mitigation requirement and considering potential solutions. Royal Haskoning were commissioned to support this work. A calculator to assess the mitigation need was published in autumn 2022. Work is continuing, to identify the potential solutions and how they could be best delivered.
- 2.11 Alongside the technical work the local authorities have also been considering their role in developing a scheme in which they could offer credits to offset the constraints on nutrient neutrality. There is a strong case for taking such action as there are no signs that the emerging Natural England Scheme or market solutions will be available within an acceptable timescale. Without swift action to mitigate nutrient neutrality there is a considerable risk to Norfolk's development industry and delivery of our shared growth agenda.
- 2.12 This has led the authorities to develop proposals for a joint venture company called Norfolk Environmental Credits Ltd (NECL) which will comprise membership of the three Greater Norwich District authorities together with Breckland Council, North Norfolk District Council and Anglian Water. Anglian Water is also affected by nutrient neutrality and the government has indicated that the performance of the larger wastewater treatment plants must also improve by 2030 and it will be a key partner in securing long term, largescale mitigation schemes.
- 2.13 NECL will not directly own or deliver the mitigation projects itself, instead it will seek out and develop a mixed programme of measures, convert the amount of mitigation into credits and act as an official body for developers to buy nutrient credits from. Furthermore, in due course NECL may explore future options for other mitigation activities and the associated trading of credits, including biodiversity net gain.
- 2.14 The immediate level of benefit to the housing market will be determined by the level of mitigation that can be identified and secured. It is anticipated that it will take some time to secure the mitigation required to address all the backlog and future planned developments. Currently it is anticipated that NECL will provide mitigation for approximately 40% of the entire catchment's growth proposals and many of the larger, strategic sites in the Greater Norwich area will develop their own mitigation solutions for nutrient neutrality.
- 2.15 NECL has secured initial seed loan funding from its member authorities to cover the operating costs of the Joint Venture. Additionally, NECL is seeking substantial capital loan investment to accelerate the mitigation programme in the short term, bridging the gap until ample credit payments can be received.
- 2.16 On 15th March 2023, it was announced that the Department for Levelling Up and Communities will open a call for evidence from local authorities in England for locally led nutrient neutrality credit schemes. Where high quality proposals are identified, the government will provide funding to support clearer routes for housing developers to deliver 'nutrient neutral' sites, in line with their environmental obligations. The Greater Norwich authorities are well placed to feed directly into this process because they already have a reputation as a well-established partnership and are amongst the small group of authorities who are at the forefront of developing this work. South Norfolk and Broadland District Council are dedicating resource to complete an expression of interest form on behalf of the Norfolk catchment authorities, for the maximum value of £10m grant funding. This grant would help set up initial mitigation schemes. The expression of interest is due at the end of May, with a response likely to be received at the end of the summer. NECL has confirmed that additional funding continues to be required to forward fund other mitigation programmes, even if the expression of interest is successful.

2.17 The Board is advised that to mitigate the total number of homes currently backlogged plus the future homes allocated in the Greater Norwich Local Plan which will be impacted by nutrient neutrality, will cost tens of millions. However, the actual end cost remains unknown due to the many variables such as wide-ranging costs in the delivery of different mitigation projects. Furthermore, the mitigation programme could commence in due course without the GNGB loan as long as Government funding is secured. However, if a greater amount of seed funding can be agreed then this means the mitigation programme can be accelerated and the housing currently held up can be granted the relevant planning consents.

3. The Greater Norwich Growth Board's financial options

3.1 The GNGB was established in 2014 to accelerate the delivery of infrastructure that supports the planned growth. Their unique partnership arrangement has enabled them to bring forward a pipeline of nearly 100 infrastructure projects across their joint Greater Norwich area. During this time, they have developed an exemplar model of working and are known for designing creative solutions to overcome the barriers of bringing forward delivery. There are two financial models that are available: City Deal Borrowing and the Infrastructure Investment Fund.

3.2 **City Deal Borrowing** - As part of the Greater Norwich City Deal agreement the partners signed with government in 2013, the GNGB were afforded the opportunity to access lower-cost loan funding from the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB). A total of £80m borrowing was allocated to them:

- £60m for identified strategic infrastructure projects - £40m of this borrowing potential has been drawn down for strategic infrastructure projects, with a further draw down planned in relation to the Long Stratton Bypass.
- £20m provided to establish a cyclical loans fund to support local infrastructure projects – none of this has been drawn.

3.3 In 2021 the GNGB agreed in principle to seek to repurpose the £20m borrowing capacity to create a new cyclical loans fund called the Strategic Infrastructure Fund. Work progressed during 2022, draft terms of reference were agreed and the GNGB was granted delegated authority to manage the allocation of the City Deal loan money. The City Deal loan fund is currently being developed under the direction of the Greater Norwich Infrastructure Delivery Board, but until the processes supporting the borrowing have been fully developed and agreed, it is not possible for any specific allocation to be made by the GNGB.

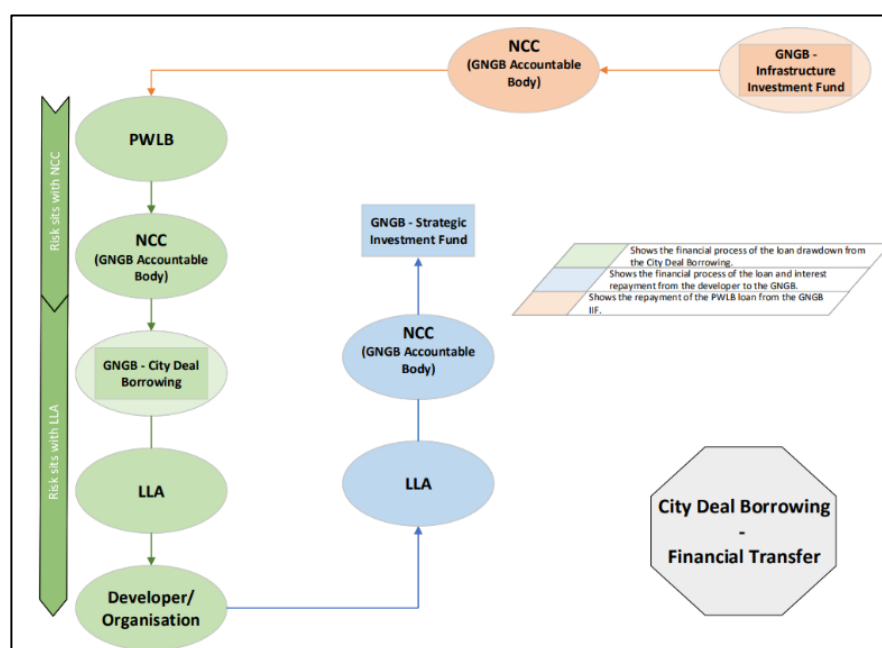
3.4 **Infrastructure Investment Fund** - the GNGB have an established Infrastructure Investment Fund (IIF). Income received from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is pooled within the IIF and allocated to infrastructure projects through a competitive application process. The allocations that are made from this fund adhere to nationally set regulation and locally agreed fund rules. To date the GNGB has allocated £40m to deliver infrastructure projects within the Greater Norwich area.

4. The recommended financial option

4.1 The Infrastructure Delivery Board have reviewed the financial options available to the Greater Norwich partners alongside their senior financial officers and nplaw. Having considered the commercial, operational and regulatory risk factors, together they recommend progressing the City Deal Borrowing loans fund as a mechanism for providing potential loan support to NECL. The

GNGB agreed to establish the new loans fund at their meeting on 16 March 2022. A summary of the way the loans fund will work is provided below:

One or more of the partners, acting as the Lead Local Authority (LLA), will be able to apply for a loan from the GNGB, which if approved, will be drawn down from the initial £20m City Deal Borrowing, from the Public Works Loan Board (PWLB). This loan will then be reloaned from the LLA to an organisation or developer to forward fund key infrastructure, to accelerate the delivery of growth in Greater Norwich. The organisation/developer who benefitted from the loan will repay it with interest at agreed points throughout the project to the LLA, and these repayments will be directed back to the GNGB into a new Strategic Investment Fund (SIF). Once the full £20m City Deal Borrowing has been drawn down and money recouped back into the SIF, the Greater Norwich authorities will use the SIF as an ongoing cyclical loans fund, making further loans available to the LLA's directly from the SIF.



4.2 The establishment of this new fund was also agreed by each partners Cabinet in July 2022, which authorised

Norfolk County Council, as the Greater Norwich Growth Boards accountable body, to draw down up to £20m from the Public Work Loans Board to create a cyclical fund to support local infrastructure projects as agreed in the Greater Norwich City Deal

and

Upon each staged draw down totalling no more than £20m, the Greater Norwich Growth Board to be granted delegated authority to sign the legal agreement together with their s151 officers, under the direction of Norfolk County Council as the Accountable Body and in accordance with their signed Joint Working Agreement

4.3 Any loan granted from this new fund would be subject to the development of a business case, an appraisal process, the undertaking of due diligence and a formal agreement by the GNGB.

- 4.4 The GNGB are asked to note that the successful progression of this option will lead to the drawdown of a portion of the £20m City Deal borrowing which is currently not being utilised. Progressing a loan on behalf of NECL is an opportunity for the GNGB to harness the first portion of this City Deal reduced cost borrowing, which if not used by March 2026 will be lost.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 Having considered the commercial, operational and regulatory risk factors with senior financial officers and nplaw, the IDB advise that that the most suitable financial option that could potentially provide loan support to Norfolk Environmental Credits Ltd would be to harness the City Deal reduced cost borrowing.
- (i) The GNGB are asked to commit to accelerating the development of the City Deal Borrowing loan fund.
 - (ii) The GNGB are recommended to welcome an application to this new fund on behalf of Norfolk Environmental Credits Limited. This will be subject to due diligence, consideration of a full business case and a formal unanimous agreement by the GNGB at a future meeting.

6. Issues and Risks

Resource Implications

Work to accelerate the development of the City Deal Borrowing loan fund will be undertaken by the existing resource of the Infrastructure Delivery Board and Greater Norwich Projects Team working alongside specialist financial and legal resources provided by the constituent local authorities

Legal Implications

The £20m City Deal borrowing will be drawn from the Public Works Loan Board by NCC as the GNGBs Accountable Body.

The drawing down of up to £20m City Deal borrowing is dependent upon a legal borrowing agreement being signed by all four partner authorities to agree that the interest and loan repayments will be made from the IIF for the full term of the loan. A draft version of this agreement was agreed by all partner Cabinets in July 2022. Upon each staged draw down totalling no more than £20m, the Greater Norwich Growth Board has been granted delegated authority to sign the final legal agreement together with their s151 officers, under the direction of Norfolk County Council as the Accountable Body and in accordance with their signed Joint Working Agreement.

The Greater Norwich Growth Boards Joint Working Agreement was signed and sealed by all partners on 26 September 2016. This agreement requires all recommendations and decisions of the board to be unanimous.

Risks

This report is recommending the favoured financial option and seeking permission to develop this further. No decision is being requested to allocate any loan funding at this stage.

The financial model being proposed will protect the Greater Norwich Growth Board from the risk of third-party loans because loans can only be granted to one of the partners, acting as Lead Local Authority. A long stop date will be agreed securing the final date for the repayment of the loan. It will

be the Lead Local Authority who on-loans the money to third parties such as NECL. The Lead Local Authority will be taking the risk of the loan.

There are potentially large risks involved in providing financial support to NECL. It will be the responsibility of the Lead Local Authority to fully explore these risks and evidence of this will be assessed at the point of developing their business case with the GNGB.

This report does not predetermine the acceptance of a loan on behalf of NECL. Any loan will be subject to eligibility and require the completion of a full application process, due diligence, formal unanimous agreement by the GNGB. The details of this full processes are yet to be confirmed.

Equality

No specific issues arising from the acceleration of this work.

Environmental implications

This report confirms that the GNGB is committed to protecting the River Wensum and the Broads, from rising nutrient levels.

Data Protection Impact Assessment

Not applicable

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper please get in touch with:

Name	Telephone Number	Email address
Grace Burke	01603 222727	grace.burke@norfolk.gov.uk
Ellie Leeper	01603 223169	ellie.leeper@norfolk.gov.uk

Report Greater Norwich Infrastructure Plan 2023

Phil Courtier, Director of Place, Broadland and South Norfolk District Councils

Summary

This report introduces the Draft Greater Norwich Infrastructure Plan (GNIP) 2023. This year's version of the GNIP is published as a PDF and also on a digital platform to create a more engaging and user-friendly experience

Recommendations

- (i) The board are recommended to accept the Draft GNIP 2022. (Appendix A)
 - (ii) The board are asked to note that by accepting the GNIP this will initiate the opening of the 'call for projects' for the Infrastructure Investment Fund (IIF-strategic pooled CIL).
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1. Introduction

1.1. The Greater Norwich Infrastructure Plan (GNIP- the Plan) provides a high-level summary of the infrastructure that is required to support the planned growth within the Greater Norwich area

1.2. The GNIP helps co- ordinate and manage the delivery of strategic infrastructure but does not seek to prioritise the projects within it. Instead, this plan aims to refresh the overall strategic programme, keeping it up to date and ensuring that it is fit for purpose.

1.3. The Plan feeds into the Greater Norwich Growth Board's (GNGB) decision making to allocate funding to projects from their Infrastructure Investment Fund (IIF). The IIF is income that the partners receive from housing developers called the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

1.4. Four infrastructure types are eligible to apply to the IIF for funding: transport, education, green infrastructure, and community facilities. These are referred to as thematic groups in the Plan and were prioritised when CIL was first introduced, and the charging policy adopted. To aid the GNGB's decision making for the allocation of IIF, there is more information within the Plan about these four infrastructure thematic groups and a comprehensive list of projects reported by the groups is appended.

2. Development of the Draft GNIP 2023

2.1. The GNIP has been updated on an annual basis since the adoption of the Joint Core Strategy in 2014. The format of this year's version has been changed to improve understanding and accessibility whilst aligning with the emerging Greater Norwich Local Plan. It is the intention to continue to develop the way this Plan is reported so that it offers a more visual and digitised format in future years.

2.2. This version supersedes the GNIP published in June 2022. It has been informed by:

- New and emerging government policy.
- An updated programme of green infrastructure projects developed by the Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Programme Team.
- An updated transport programme.
- An updated capital programme for education.
- An updated programme of community projects, developed by the Greater Norwich Sports and Physical Activity Working Group
- Infrastructure requirements identified in adopted Neighbourhood Plans.
- Information supplied by a broad range of infrastructure delivery teams both internally and externally.
- Strategic priorities for the four thematic groups eligible to apply to the IIF, which projects will later be measured against.
- The emerging Greater Norwich Local Plan.

3. Draft GNIP 2023

3.1. The content of the GNIP has been reviewed and updated in collaboration with over 50 Officers across the partnership working in different areas of infrastructure delivery, in addition to external organisations.

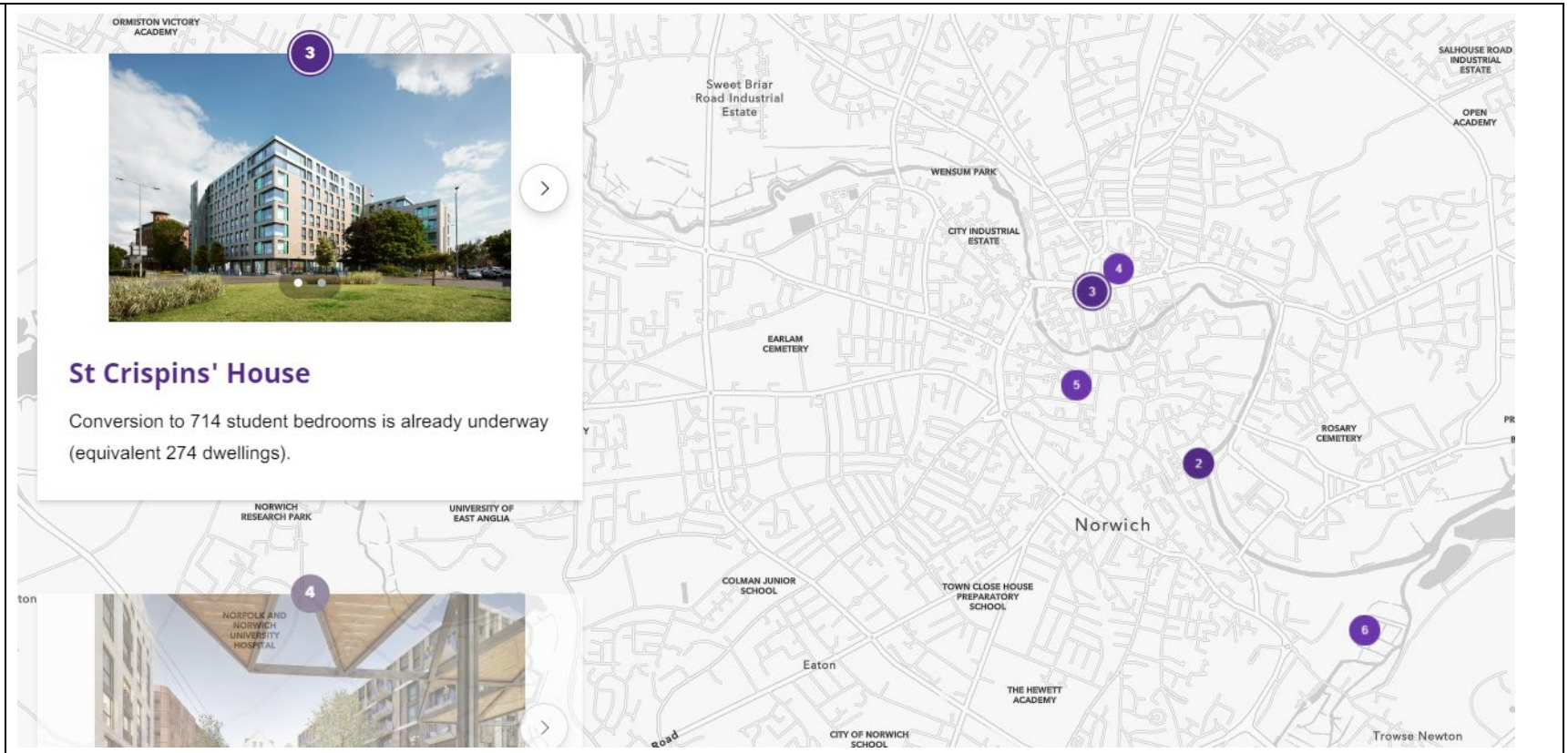
3.2. The GNIP provides a high-level overview of the infrastructure needed to support growth across a range of themes. In addition to the GNIP, the Greater Norwich Project Team will also develop the 5 Year Infrastructure Investment Plan (5YIIP) in Autumn 2023. Whilst the GNIP provides a big picture summary, including work outside the GNGBs control, the 5YIIP will report the projects which are being specifically funded by the GNGB. This year, several elements of the 5YIIP have been brought over to the GNIP in order to improve the clarity of purpose for both documents. The information removed from the 5YIIP and added to the GNIP includes:

- Information around Greater Norwich's Long Term Strategic Planning
- Updates on economic development and regeneration schemes
- Data on Neighbourhood CIL allocations.

3.3. In addition to publishing as a PDF, the GNIP has also been published on a digital platform here: [DRAFT Greater Norwich Infrastructure Plan 2023 \(arcgis.com\)](#)

3.4. The move to publishing on a digital platform, as well as being best practice, provides a more engaging, user friendly, and accessible experience. The digital format includes the following new features:

[A map tour of developments at key strategic sites across Greater Norwich](#)



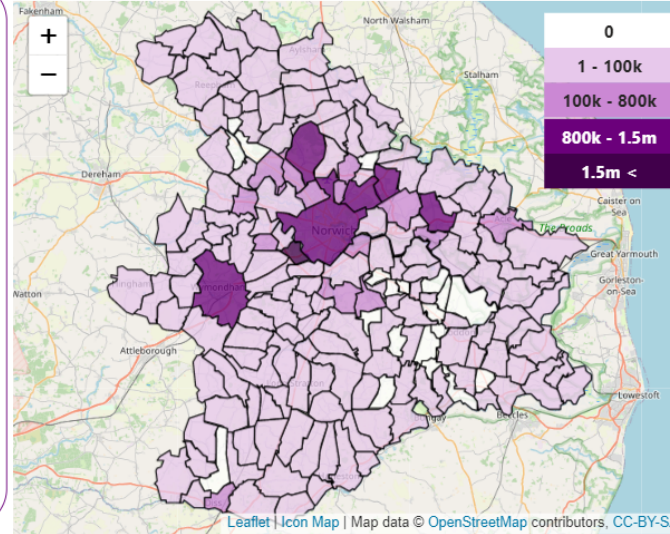
An interactive [Data Dashboard of CIL income and Neighbourhood CIL allocations](#)

Community Infrastructure Levy Income & Neighbourhood CIL Allocation

Hover over a Parish on the map to see the amount of Neighbourhood CIL allocated to date.

Use the slicers on the right hand side of the page to filter the visuals.

Financial Year	Total CIL Income	Neighbourhood CIL Allocation
April 2015 - March 2016	£3,152,020.91	£433,503.97
April 2016 - March 2017	£4,044,675.56	£648,862.38
April 2017 - March 2018	£4,264,237.01	£712,337.01
April 2018 - March 2019	£7,309,049.21	£1,207,395.02
April 2019 - March 2020	£9,087,255.39	£1,747,822.76
April 2020 - March 2021	£15,908,057.57	£3,054,951.06
April 2021 - March 2022	£19,825,442.48	£3,986,335.18
April 2022 - March 2023	£16,218,097.02	£3,660,570.96
Total	£80,830,533.95	£15,608,271.02



Greater Norwich Growth Board

District:

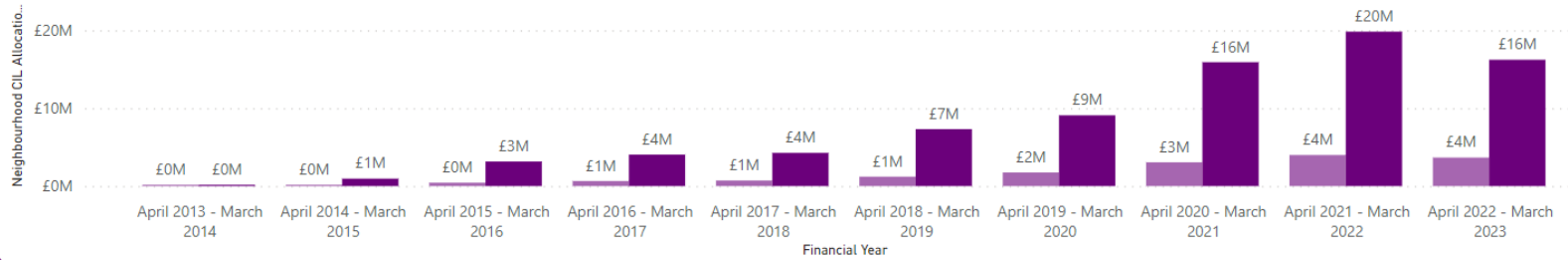
Parish:

Financial Year:

Clear Filters

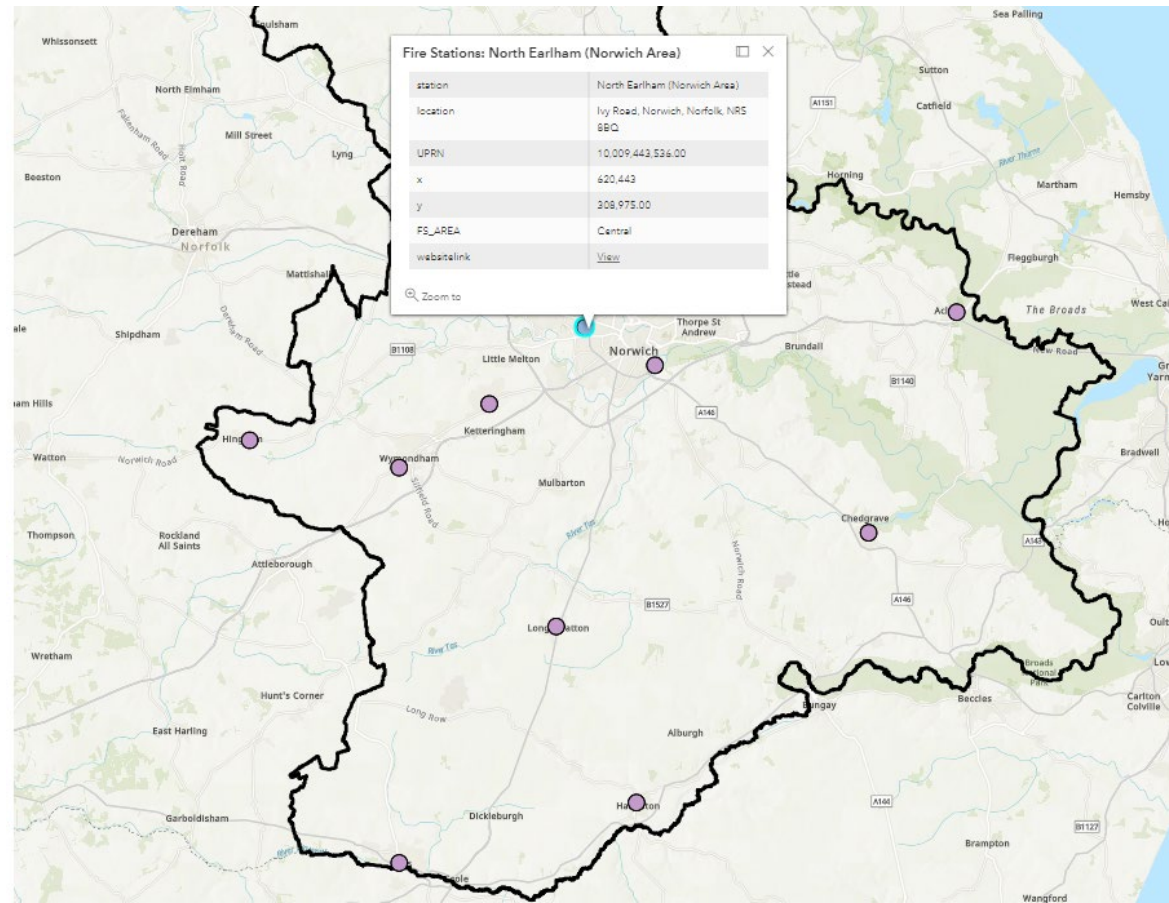
Neighbourhood CIL Allocation and Total CIL Income by Financial Year

● Neighbourhood CIL Allocation ● Total CIL Income



[A range of interactive maps in the “Additional Infrastructure” section,](#) across the following infrastructure themes

- Fire and Rescue
- Flooding
- Telecoms and Broadband
- Waste and Recycling
- Water Nutrient Neutrality



[An interactive, digital version of the long list of projects in the Appendices.](#)

Greater Norwich - Projects programmed for delivery

The table below details the pipeline of infrastructure projects in Greater Norwich across four themes; Green Infrastructure, Transport, Education and Communities. Use the buttons to filter the table.

Greater Norwich Growth Board

Greater Norwich

Norwich

Broadland

South Norfolk

Not Yet Programmed

Community

Education

GI

Libraries

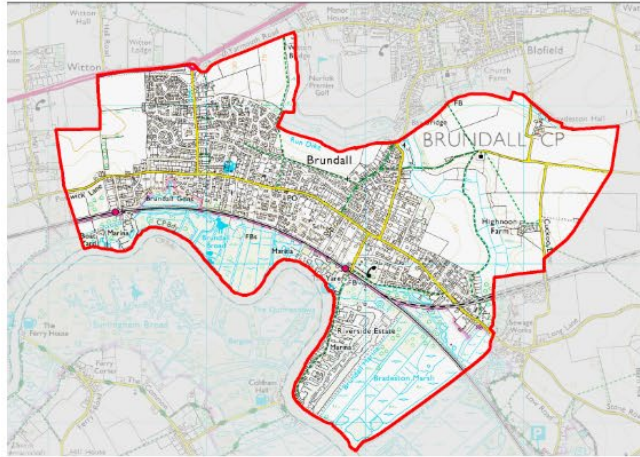
Sport

Transport

Clear Filters

Project Name	Project Description	Contact	Project Status	Status - Notes	Total Estimated Project Cost	Funding Secured	Estimated Delivery Year
Yarmouth Road Improvements	Removal of parking at pinch points. Seek to relocate / remove existing on street parking at pinch point locations along Yarmouth Road.	transportfor Norwich@norfolk.gov.uk	In Feasibility	Included in the Bus Service Improvement Plan - feasibility design underway	50000	50000	2026/27
Yarmouth Road / Thunder Lane.	Identify options to provide priority to the main traffic flow on Yarmouth Road.	transportfor Norwich@norfolk.gov.uk	In Feasibility	Included in the Bus Service Improvement Plan - feasibility design underway	100000	100000	2026/27
Yarmouth Road / Pound Lane.	Provide eastbound bus lane on approach and seek to reduce delays and improve capacity through the junction.	transportfor Norwich@norfolk.gov.uk	In Feasibility	Included in the Bus Service Improvement Plan - feasibility design underway	1000000	1000000	2026/27
Yare Valley Walk: Neatmarket to Cooper Lane	Creation of a path connection for walking	laraHall@norwich.gov.uk	In Feasibility	Outline feasibility undertaken, S106 contribution secured, further feasibility required prior to funding application.	600000	100000	2025/26
Yare and Wensum Valleys Link (Norwich, Broadland and SNDC)	Tree planting, traffic calming, path improvements on route of purple pedal way	matthew.hayward2@norfolk.gov.uk	Under construction	Some sub projects completed, others under development	199000	199000	2023/24
Wymondham train station mobility hub.	Provide step-free access to the Cambridge-bound platform. Provide facilities for buses and coaches to adequately serve Wymondham station forecourt. Introduce mobility hub facilities.	transportfor Norwich@norfolk.gov.uk	In Feasibility	Funding secured through Transforming Cities. Scheme ref 19 in Norwich LCWIP.	800000	800000	2023/24
Wymondham Town Centre	Streetscaping	tanva.nelson@southn	In Feasibility	Funding and scope of project is currently	1200000	250000	2023/24

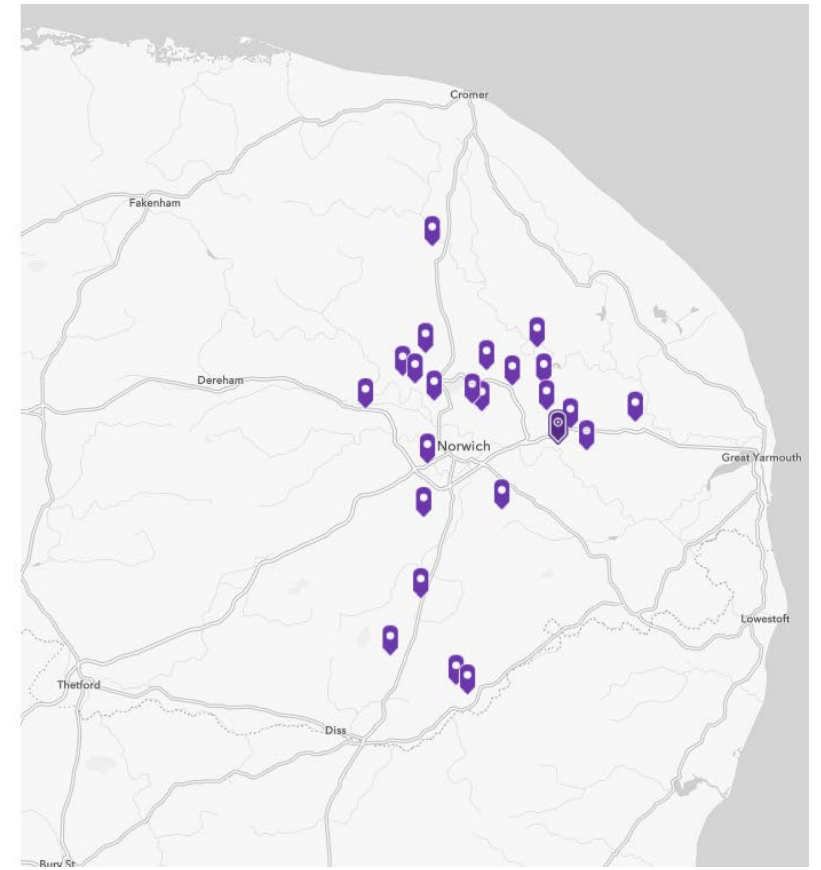
A map tour of parishes with Neighbourhood plans, and the infrastructure projects identified within them



Brundall

Brundall's Plan was fully adopted by Broadland District Council and the Broads Authority on 13 May 2016 following a 92% Yes vote by Brundall residents. The plan covers the period up to 2026 and now forms part of the development plan for the district and is one of the main considerations in determining any future planning applications submitted in Brundall. The Brundall Neighbourhood Plan identifies the following projects and schemes:

- Public Realm Improvements at Local Centres and Gateways
- Footway and Cycleway Improvement



4. Acceptance of the Draft GNIP

- 4.1. The GNIP informs the development of the Greater Norwich Five Year Infrastructure Investment Plan and in turn the allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy through the Infrastructure Investment Fund (IIF-strategic pooled CIL).
- 4.2. Once the Draft GNIP 2023 is accepted by the GNGB, this will initiate the opening of the 'call for projects' and the Greater Norwich partner authorities are welcomed to submit an application for CIL funding through the IIF.
- 4.3. The Draft GNIP 2023 is attached at Appendix A

Recommendations

- (i) The board are recommended to accept the Draft Greater Norwich Infrastructure Plan 2023.
- (ii) The board are asked to note that by accepting the GNIP this will initiate the opening of the 'call for projects' for the Infrastructure Investment Fund.

Issues and Risks

Other resource implications (staff, property)

The opening of the 'call for projects' will be managed by the existing resource within the Greater Norwich Project Team.

Legal implications

None identified

Risks

None identified

Equality

None identified

Environmental implications

Any project environmental impact analysis will be undertaken by individual project sponsors as required and is not considered within the GNIP.

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper, please get in touch with:

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Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Strategy
Progress update
John Jones, Head of Environment, Norfolk County Council

Summary

This report provides an update on the delivery of the Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Strategy, which was approved by the GNGB at their meeting on 2nd December 2021, with delegated authority granted to the Greater Norwich Infrastructure Delivery Board. The strategy commenced in August 2022 and is due to be completed by June 2024.

1. Introduction

At their meeting on 2nd December 2021, the GNGB agreed that the Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure Strategy (the strategy) should be delivered.

This new strategy stems from the 2007 Greater Norwich Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy, and its development is driven by an array of changes in policy at national level and other strategies and plans, at a more local level. The most prominent policy and legislation is the **Environment Act 2021**. The Act has introduced a legal requirement through the planning process to not only stop decline but also require new development to provide **biodiversity net gain** (BNG). BNG can be delivered through on-site and off-site mitigation, including through the provision of Green Infrastructure. The Act has also introduced a new set of spatial strategies to be produced at a County footprint called the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, which will inform the strategic placement of off-site BNG mitigation and to identify key opportunity sites for nature recovery.

The purpose of the strategy is to help manage and improve existing assets; increase the level of provision to address identified deficiencies or needs; and to develop a network of multi-functional spaces which will deliver biodiversity net gain, and other natural assets.

The strategy must also align with relevant local strategies and plans including but not limited to:

- The Greater Norwich Local Plan
- Greater Norwich Physical Activity and Sports Strategy (PASS)
- Norfolk Green Infrastructure and Recreational impact Avoidance and Mitigation Strategy (GIRAMS)
- Local Biodiversity and Environmental strategies

This report provides detail of how the strategy is being developed against a backdrop of new and emerging guidance and legislation, whilst ensuring the final strategy is fit for purpose. Greater Norwich is at the forefront of aligning with these changes.

2. Context

A scoping document supported by a gaps analysis undertaken by UEA in August 2021, was presented to the GNGB at the December 2021 meeting. This set out the parameters required to update the 2007 strategy.

The GNGB agreed delivery of the Strategy and Delivery Plan and gave delegated authority to the Greater Norwich Infrastructure Delivery Board to manage its programme, with commencement subject to confirmation of match funding from all partners.

A budget of £90,000 plus VAT was agreed, with Norfolk County Council committing £45,000 and each district authority contributing £15,000.

The initial intent was to procure the services of an external consultant to progress the strategy. But on review and after a workshop with Natural England to help shape delivery, it became apparent that the County Council's newly established Natural Norfolk team were best placed with the skills to deliver this strategy. It was decided that working with the Natural Norfolk team would provide far greater benefits for developing, implementing, and monitoring the strategy, than an external consultant would provide. In addition to its work on the strategy, the Natural Norfolk team are also delivering the region-wide Local Nature Recovery Strategy, and the district level Biodiversity Strategies and evidence studies. Significant overlap between these areas of work offers the potential to enhance the strategy and create synergy between the projects.

In August 2022, the IDB approved a request to commission the Natural Norfolk team to develop the strategy.

3. Purpose and Objectives of the strategy

The **purpose** of the strategy is to help manage and improve existing assets, increase the level of provision where deficiencies or needs are identified, and to develop a network of multi-functional spaces, which will deliver biodiversity net gain, and other natural assets.

The **objectives** are to:

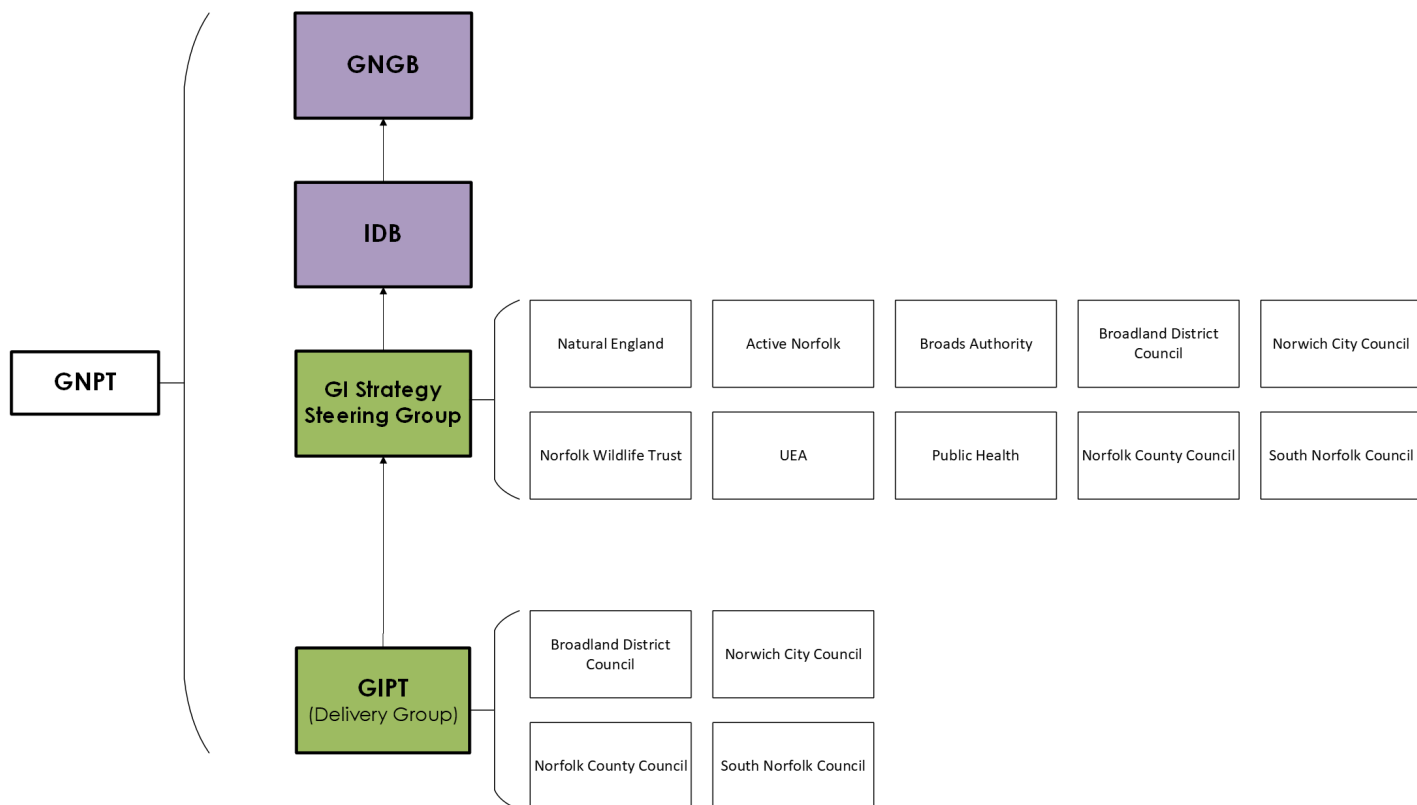
- **Create a clear, coherent and accessible strategy** that will provide evidence to assist with the implementation of current and emerging plans, as well as future local plan production and implementation.
- Identify **future opportunities** for GI, to enable clear and swift decision making.
- Assist in consideration of planning applications and their GI requirements.
- Develop and agree a **GI action plan** with clear justification of project prioritisation which will be used as evidence to inform decision making regarding the allocation of resource and funding.
- Ensure that identification and provision of GI in Greater Norwich **meets current and emerging legislative requirements**.
- **Provide clarity** on the monitoring of the strategy and its delivery.

In addition, it will provide the following outputs:

- A **measurable baseline** of GI provision across Greater Norwich.
- A **delivery plan**, identifying how the recommendations of the high-level GI study can be implemented through practical projects and interventions.
- **Evidence** for future local plan production and implementation. It will make best use of existing available evidence and identify **new evidence** to inform the strategy and create an interactive online map.

4. Governance

Development of the strategy is overseen by the GI Steering Group, convened to provide guidance and oversight and help inform the production of a delivery plan for future implementation. This group includes colleagues from Natural England, the UEA, Active Norfolk, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Public Health and senior Officers from County and the partner district authorities. A delivery group, made up of the GI thematic sub-group, the Natural Norfolk team and the Greater Norwich Project Team, undertake the day-to-day strategy development work.



5. Approach

The Natural Norfolk approach to developing this strategy has been led by two guiding principles following different rationales:

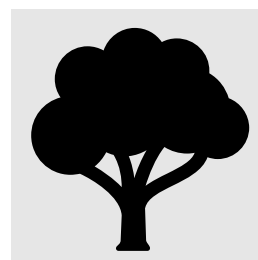
1. Assembling a baseline of Green Infrastructure to a **high level of detail**. The main reasons being:
 - ▶ Consistency: Use the same information to inform strategic direction and site level action
 - ▶ Accuracy: Make informed decisions across the Greater Norwich Area based on the most accurate data available
 - ▶ Usability: Create a dataset that can be used and updated throughout the implementation of the strategy, e.g. by local authority planners
2. Creating a strategy that relates to existing policy and best practice, with the following rationale:
 - ▶ Methods and principles align with (and build on) Natural England's Green Infrastructure Framework
 - ▶ Alignment with the development of Norfolk's Local Nature Recovery Strategy
 - ▶ Linkages to district Biodiversity evidence studies and strategies

6. Methodology

The term 'Green Infrastructure' refers to all forms of green spaces such as sports and recreation grounds, allotments, parks, and natural open spaces. It also includes Blue Infrastructure such as rivers, canals, ponds, wetlands, and floodplains. For this strategy, GI is split into two categories:



Active Places: green spaces that interact with residents and visitors and provide recreational opportunities, supporting people's mental and physical health and encouraging active travel



Natural Places: green spaces that interact with the natural environment and provide many ecosystem services, such as water quality, carbon storage, biodiversity benefits, flood defence, etc

Active places and natural places are not mutually exclusive and contribute jointly to a multi-functional GI network.

On 31 January 2023, Natural England launched the [National Green Infrastructure Framework](#) (GIF) and the [Environment Improvement Plan](#) (EIP). The framework provides principles and standards for quality and quantity for green spaces, as well as national baselining data. The EIP sets out steps to restore nature, tackle environment pollution and regenerate communities. The Natural Norfolk (NN) team's work is aligned with Natural England's GIF and Natural England have been a consultee on the development of the GI strategy as well as sitting on the steering group. This has ensured that the NN team have anticipated the new changes and ensures this national framework is considered as part of setting the Greater Norwich GI agenda.

The methodology to produce the GI Strategy for Greater Norwich has at its core the Natural England (NE)'s Accessible Natural Green Space Standards (ANGSt). ANGSt sets a range of accessibility standards for natural sites and areas and considers what areas are within easy reach of people's homes.

ANGSt is widely acknowledged and used by local authorities and other key stakeholders to assess the existing provision of green space at different scales. It is used not only to map the accessible green space but also to identify potential spaces where the provision could be improved to meet the standards. As such it has been integrated in many GI strategies to define the satisfactory provision of green space and will remain a key component of the future new Green Infrastructure Framework. ANGSt was also used to assess deficiencies in the Norfolk Green Infrastructure and Recreational Impact Avoidance and Mitigation (GIRAM) Strategy. However, the standards as applied nationally have known limitations; for instance, it does not express the quantities and quality of different types of spaces and depicts accessibility with no regard to the local network of access, only "as the crow flies".

Through this strategy, the NN Team has developed NE's dataset a step further. This new, innovative approach will produce more accurate population estimates and map their proximity to green spaces, therefore enhancing the ANGSt Profiles for any given location. For this strategy, this enhanced method is referred to as the ANGSt+ methodology (Fig 1). This is done by considering the actual routes which people can take to access a site (referred to as the multi-modal network for access) rather than an "as the crow flies" buffer approach. In addition, the access points to sites have been determined, allowing for a more accurate evaluation of who has easy access to each site.

Finally, the methodology will assess the level of inclusive access of green spaces, by observing mobility, safety, and socio-economic variables among local demographics, in a measure being developed by the NN team and known as Inclusive Accessibility. This measure will provide a better understanding of access to green spaces, utilising available spatial data to enhance the national definition of accessibility to include physical and social barriers to access.

The results from the analysis of baseline GI provision using the ANGSt+ methodology will then be used to develop the strategy document and delivery plans, along with information on types and functions of active and natural places.

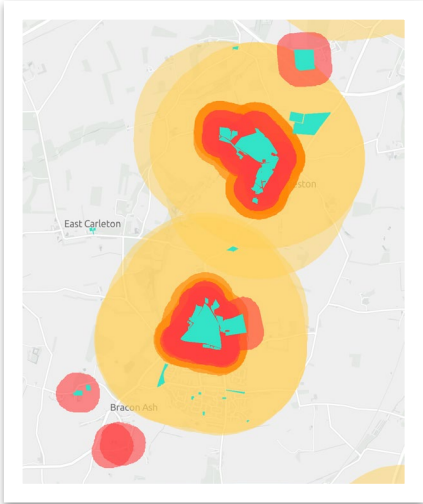
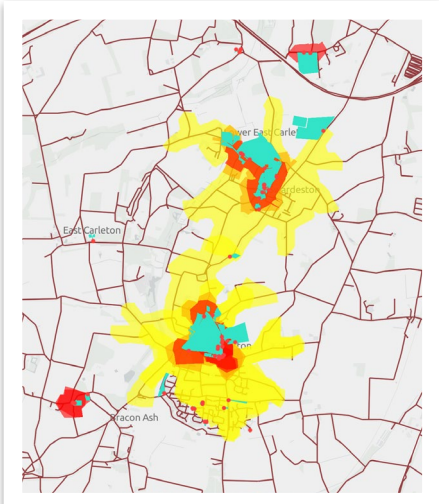
ANGSt (as set out by Natural England) GI sites buffered “as the crow flies”	ANGSt+ (methodology developed for Greater Norwich) Access modelled from access points along pathway networks
	
1224 people within Doorstep Standard	607 people within Doorstep Standard

Figure 1. Illustration of ANGSt and ANGSt+ modelled

7. Development of the Strategy

The Strategy will follow the NE’s Principles for Green Infrastructure (Fig 2). These are intended to provide guidance to create good green infrastructure, and cover the “Why”, “What” and “How” to develop stronger green infrastructure policy and delivery.

In addition to an extensive data gathering exercise across the partnership, the strategy will be informed by a public consultation and a series of workshops. Further detail is provided below in section 8.

The strategy will include an analysis of the information gathered in the baseline stage of this project, highlight opportunities for the creation of additional GI, as well as maintenance, improvement and connecting existing GI assets, set out a new monitoring framework to monitor the strategy and its delivery, accompanied by a suite of maps to visually demonstrate these outputs.



Figure 1. Green Infrastructure Principles Wheel (source: Natural England, 2022)

8. Project phases and outputs

The project has been divided into six phases, with each phase aligned with a specific output of the project. The first two phases have been completed. Fig 3 shows the six phases of the project, and the key outputs within each phase

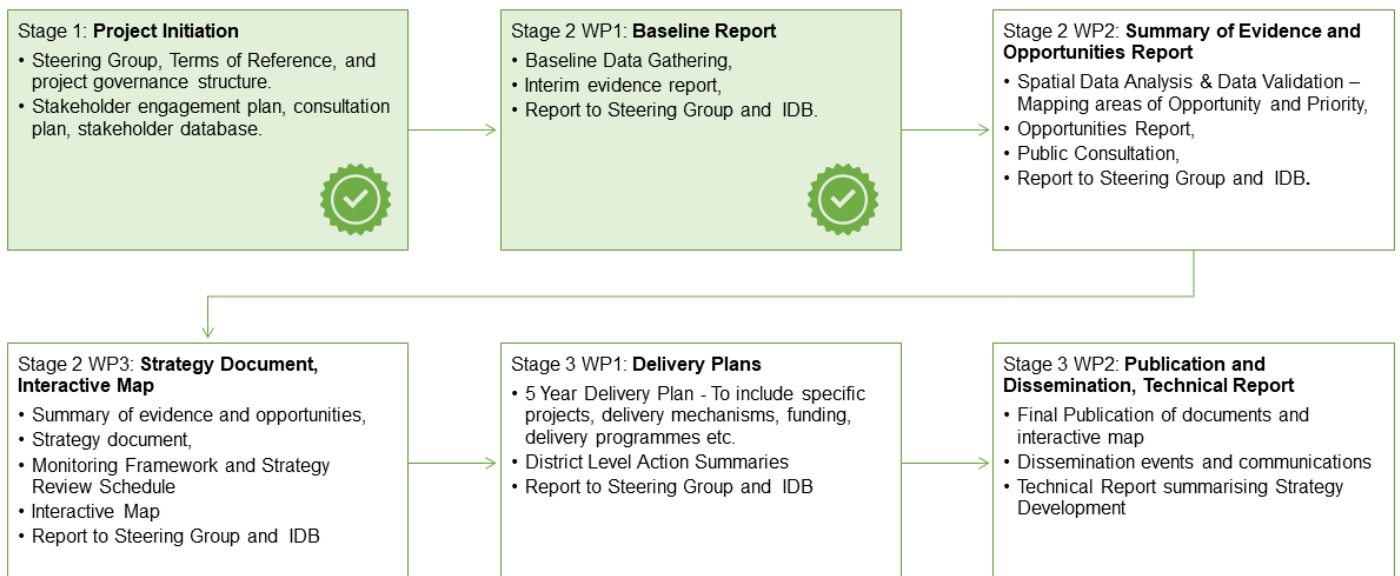


Figure 3 Project phases

9. Progress to date

Baseline Report:

The baseline report is the first main output of the GN GI Strategy and was signed off by the IDB in March 2023. It provides a summary of all the information currently available about GI provision in Greater Norwich and is based on the most robust evidence base to date. Whilst the report has produced some estimates on accessibility, final figures are subject to change as the validation process continues. The report describes headline indicators on the provision of GI in Greater Norwich and identifies who has access to green space, taking into account demographic data. Some of the key findings are summarised below:

- More than **1 in 3 people live within 200m** of a doorstep greenspace of at least 0.5 hectares. These figures are better than the average for England of 1 in 3 people.
- Greater Norwich has **higher than average tree cover** for the East of England.
- There is an even spread of GI sites and access across Greater Norwich social demographic groups with a fair proximity by most demographic groups including those in the lower income brackets.
- Residents in suburban areas in Broadland and South Norfolk have better access than in Norwich.
- In Broadland, residents in prestige positions have better access to green space at the doorstep than in Norwich and South Norfolk.
- Levels of inactivity by those of lower income groups in Norwich remains higher than those in the most affluent groups, despite access to green space being better.
- Access among deprived groups is on average moderately good, there are still some areas of deficiency of green space when looking in greater detail.

Mapping and Validation:

The Natural Norfolk team have worked with key officers at Norwich, South Norfolk and Broadland district councils to map and validate paths and access point locations. This validation increases confidence in the outputs of the ANGSt+ methodology which is being rolled out across the area.

Progress has been made with producing a detailed habitat map of the Greater Norwich area to understand the types of GI spaces in the area. This mapping exercise is being jointly progressed by work on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, ensuring consistency in approach between strategies.

Further work to validate the data will include;

- A public survey to understand residents use and views of GI (currently underway)
- Workshops to engage with key stakeholders including developers, to identify how future development can provide GI
- Engagement with specific needs user groups to assess what constitutes good practice in the provision of green spaces. This will help to further develop the accessibility index
- Further data analysis to identify: Opportunities and easy wins, at risk areas, and areas threatened with future risk
- Aligning with Natural England's Green Infrastructure Framework.

Public Survey

A public survey hosted on Citizen Space consultation platform, launched in May 2023 for a duration six weeks. Its aim is to help obtain insights into current levels of engagement with green spaces and to identify places where people feel improvements are needed.

It will help to identify:

- reasons for visiting greenspaces
- the quality of their local greenspaces,
- access to private greenspace and
- disability focussed feedback on accessibility.

Survey results, along with mapped outputs including ANGSt+ and habitat mapping will be presented in the next report titled ‘Summary of Evidence and Opportunities’, due to be submitted to the IDB in September 2023.

Case Study applications

Thought has been given to the implementation stage of the strategy life cycle, and case studies are being developed to explore the practicality of applying the evidence assembled in this study.

Case studies will be refined during the Strategy Development phase.

An example will be presented to the GNGB within the meeting to illustrate the impact of mapping methods developed in this strategy.

10. Next Steps

<i>Date</i>	<i>Key Deliverable</i>
<i>Apr – Sept 23</i>	Development of Summary of Evidence and Opportunities report (incl. Public Consultation and stakeholder workshops)
<i>Sept 23</i>	Summary of Evidence and Opportunities Report to IDB
<i>Nov 23</i>	Summary of Evidence and Opportunities – update to GNGB
<i>Sept – Jan 24</i>	Development of Strategy document and Interactive map
<i>Jan 24</i>	Draft Strategy to IDB
<i>Jan – Mar 24</i>	Development of Delivery plans
<i>Mar 24</i>	Strategy and Delivery plans to GNGB
<i>May – Jun 24</i>	Strategy publication and Dissemination (incl. Launch event), Technical Report
<i>Jun 24</i>	Project close

11. Issues and Risks

Other resource implications (staff, property)

Development of the strategy and its ongoing future monitoring will be supported by existing officer staff resource within the Greater Norwich governance structure.

Identification of resource for the implementation of the delivery plans is not within the scope of the strategy and will be determined.

12. Legal implications

The information within the GI Strategy is to be used as an evidence base only. It is not a legal document.

13. Risks

The risk of increased cost has been managed by agreeing a fixed price for the strategy work. The cross-authority Greater Norwich governance arrangements will safeguard against delivery risks by allowing them to be identified early therefore enabling corrective action to be taken.

14. Equality

The strategy and its supporting documents will be compliant with digital accessibility legislation, specifically: Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018

The public consultation is currently underway to inform the strategy. Residents with protected characteristics are well represented within this consultation.

An Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) has been conducted and the Equality team at NCC have been consulted.

In order to implement any actions drawn from this strategy, individual partner authorities may need to conduct their own EQIA's based on their organisation's policies.

15. Environmental implications

The strategy by its very nature will be considering the environmental implications of growth within the Greater Norwich area. The delivery of any projects as a result of the strategy will be the responsibility of the project sponsor to consider their specific impact.

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper, please get in touch with:

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