

# Greater Norwich Growth Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** Wednesday 27 September 2023

**Time:** 3pm

**Venue:** Council Chamber, County Hall, Norwich, Martineau Lane, NR1 2DH

## Present

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Role</b>
Phil Courtier	South Norfolk Council & Broadland District Council	Officer
Cllr Daniel Elmer	South Norfolk Council	Board Member
Cllr Sue Holland	Broadland District Council	Vice Chair
Cllr Kay Mason Billig	Norfolk County Council	Chair
Graham Nelson	Norwich City Council	Officer
Chris Starkie	Norfolk County Council	Officer
Cllr Mike Stonard	Norwich City Council	Board Member

## In Attendance

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Job Title</b>
Hollie Adams	Norfolk County Council	Committee Officer
Grace Burke	Norfolk County Council	Project Team Leader
Thomas Cushan	Norfolk County Council	Greater Norwich Project Officer
Piers Herrmann	Yare Boat Club	Club Captain
Francis Kemp	Yare Boat Club	Fundraising Manager
Ellie Leeper	Norfolk County Council	Greater Norwich Project Officer
Matt Tracey	Norfolk County Council	Sustainability, Infrastructure & Development Group Manager

## Minutes

Item	Minute
<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies for absence</b>
1.1	Apologies were received on behalf of Cllr John Fuller (Cllr Daniel Elmer substituting).
<b>2.</b>	<b>Declarations of interest</b>
2.1	No interests were declared.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Minutes</b>
3.1	The minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2023 were agreed as an accurate record.
<b>4.</b>	<b>Project Showcase: Yare Boat Club</b>
4.1	<p>Piers Herrmann and Francis Kemp gave a presentation about the recent development of a boat house at Yare Boat Club using funding provided by Greater Norwich Growth Board (see appendix A of these minutes).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Two boat clubs had merged to form Yare Boat Club which meant more members and boats; the boats had to be stored outside which could cause decay.</li><li>• To build a new boathouse would cost the Club £130,000. Some of this was raised by the Club, and £80,000 of this was requested from a grant from Greater Norwich Growth Board.</li><li>• Club members carried out the work building the boathouse due to the increasing cost of construction at the time.</li><li>• A third of the project's budget was used for specialist screw piles being installed by a specialist company. Twenty-three tonnes of wood were delivered by hand across the river by boats and a pontoon.</li><li>• The structure was a 10m wide, 30m long and 30m high timber frame. The constructed boathouse could now house around 60 boats and club members had given positive feedback.</li><li>• The club wanted to further their reach to members of disadvantaged backgrounds and through discussions with the Leaving Care Team at Norfolk County Council had held taster sessions and learn to row course for 6 care leavers. At least three of them intended to join the group following these sessions. A reduced 18-24 rate had been introduced following discussion with the care leavers who would join the development squad on the club.</li><li>• The feedback given by care leavers was shown in the presentation; it was intended for such sessions to be delivered annually.</li></ul>

4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The existing brick and block boathouse would be upgraded to provide better facilities for club members and a training area and fundraising was currently underway.</li> </ul> <p>The following points were discussed and noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cllr Stonard was impressed with the work of the club members in building the boathouse.</li> <li>The Chair noted the achievement and hard work in achieving this project. She was also pleased that this had been opened up to include disadvantaged young people.</li> </ul>
4.3	The Board noted the presentation.
5.	<b>Establishment of the Greater Norwich City Deal Loans Fund</b>
5.1	The board received the report setting out the proposed processes and templates to support the implementation of the City Deal Borrowing Loans fund, which will be repaid to form the Strategic Investment Fund.
5.2	<p>Chris Starkie introduced the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The element being discussed in this report was £20m previously allocated for the Local Infrastructure Fund.</li> <li>Greater Norwich Growth Board had agreed to restructure this facility, to provide up front loan funding to provide key infrastructure to establish a key cyclical fund.</li> <li>The draft terms of reference were agreed in 2022 and Greater Norwich Growth Board were authorised to manage the fund in 2022.</li> <li>The team had been working on developing the fund and allowing applications. The loan application process was shown on page 10 of the report.</li> <li>Figure 2 in the report showed the steps which would be taken once a loan was approved by Greater Norwich Growth Board. Norfolk County Council as the accountable body would draw down money from the Public Work Loans Board and Greater Norwich Growth Board would loan the money to the authority. Risk was transferred to the lead authority.</li> <li>Loans through this mechanism would stop when the total of £20m was reached or if repayments were not affordable.</li> <li>Strategic Infrastructure Fund would continue on a cyclical basis, relending money repaid into it.</li> </ul>
5.3	<p>The following points were discussed and noted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cllr Stonard was in support of the proposal.</li> <li>Cllr Elmer felt the proposal set out in the report was clear.</li> </ul>
5.4	<p>Greater Norwich Growth Board unanimously <b>RESOLVED</b> to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approve the proposed processes for the City Deal Borrowing Loans Fund</li> </ol>

	(ii) Grant delegated authority to the Greater Norwich Infrastructure Delivery Board to oversee the continued management and development of City Deal Borrowing processes and documents as detailed in section 4.
<b>6.</b>	<b>Application to City Deal Borrowing Loans Fund</b>
6.1	The Board received the report setting out details of the application by South Norfolk District Council to borrow £4.5m from the City Deal Borrowing Loans Fund and providing a summary of the potential cost of this loan to Greater Norwich.
6.2	Phil Courtier introduced the report: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Long Stratton Bypass had received planning permission and final arrangements were being made for the final funding package including the Department for Transport funding package.</li> <li>• A 4.5m loan to forward fund the developer contribution to the scheme with mechanisms for South Norfolk District Council to receive repayments through land sales or other methods.</li> <li>• Once the funding had been loaned the risk would sit with South Norfolk District Council.</li> <li>• Precise figures cannot be shown as it would depend on interest rates at the time of repayment.</li> </ul>
6.3	The following points were discussed and noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cllr Stonard was happy to support this proposal and spoke in support of the Long Stratton Bypass scheme.</li> <li>• Cllr Elmer noted that this proposal marked another step towards delivery of the Long Stratton Bypass and would help deliver infrastructure and homes in South Norfolk and Greater Norwich.</li> <li>• Cllr Holland endorsed the proposal.</li> <li>• The Chair felt the Long Stratton Bypass was long overdue, referencing the traffic and pollution issues experienced in Long Stratton.</li> </ul>
6.4	Greater Norwich Growth Board unanimously <b>RESOLVED</b> to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) Approve £4.5m to be drawn down by Norfolk County Council through the City Deal agreement and loaned to South Norfolk Council to support the delivery of Long Stratton Bypass.</li> <li>(ii) Instruct the Infrastructure Delivery Board to progress the loan draw down of £4.5m to support the delivery of Long Stratton Bypass. This will be dependent on the signing of a legal agreement: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. A £4.5m loan schedule to be legally signed by all partners and added as an addendum to the existing legal agreement entitled ‘GNGB partner draw-down and borrowing authorisations’ which was signed by all partners in Oct 2015. This will secure the capital and interest repayments to be made to the Public Works Loan Board against the Infrastructure Investment Fund (IIF – Pooled Community Infrastructure Levy). In addition, the capital and interest to be paid by South Norfolk Council (the Lead Local Authority), will be secured with a backstop date ensuring the</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

	<p>latest date the full repayment will be received by Norfolk County Council (as the Greater Norwich Growths Boards accountable Body).</p>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Proposed new funding source for the Greater Norwich Project Team</b>
7.1	The Board received the report setting out a proposed change to the way the Greater Norwich Project team are funded and confirming the route of decision making for these changes to be progressed and implemented.
7.2	<p>Chris Starkie introduced the report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Infrastructure Delivery Board had undertaken a review against the team’s resource, and it was no longer able to undertake all the work. It was therefore proposed to change the way the team was funded by using income received through developer contributions.</li> <li>• Greater Norwich Delivery Board reviewed a plan for the change in March 2023. It was proposed that the project team continue to be funded by partner contributions with additional funding required coming from the Infrastructure Investment Fund (IIF – pooled Community Infrastrutre Levy).</li> <li>• The proposal was not recommending to use the 5% administration fee receipted by each district charging authority.</li> <li>• The decision to use IIF needed to progress in the next iteration of the Five Year infrastructure Investment Plan and could not progress before April 2024. The amount to be allocated would be around £115,000.</li> <li>• Since no changes could be implemented until 2024 a secondment role had been put in place to cover until this time.</li> </ul>
7.3	<p>Greater Norwich Growth Board unanimously <b>RESOLVED</b> to:</p> <p>(i) Agree that a new programme management fee should be allocated from the Infrastructure Investment Fund, as a contribution towards funding the work of the Greater Norwich Project Team</p> <p>(ii) Agree to pre-commit in the region of £115,000 for the cost of programme management in 24/25, within the Greater Norwich Five Year Infrastructure Investment Plan 2024-29, and to recommend its approval to the three partner district cabinets in Jan/Feb 2024.</p>
<b>8</b>	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>30 November, 11am, Council Chamber</p> <p>Meeting ended: 15:36</p>

# IIF Project Showcase



## Yare Boat Club - new boatshed

Delivered with the support of Broadland District Council and the Greater Norwich Growth Board

**Greater Norwich  
Growth Board**

# Project description

- Provision of a new lightweight boatshed
- At Yare Boat Club on Thorpe Island
- Phase 1 of plan to significantly improve physical facilities
- Outreach programme
- Total cost of boatshed £130,000
- IFF award £80,000
- Significant physical help from club members





# How it happened



The piling .... the timber .... the framework ....the cladding .... getting there ....



# Progress to date

- Boatshed completed within timescale and within budget
- All boats relocated from outside and older boatshed to create a light, modern, clean environment in which to store the fleet
- In use from February 2023
- To be formally opened by Alan Campbell, 2012 Olympic single scull bronze medallist
- Boatshed in use by combinations of crews and by individual scullers nearly every day of the week in daylight hours



# Feedback from users – “amazing”



New and longer time members have said

- “Really bright, practical space giving easy access to the equipment”
- “I have boated from many clubs in over 50 years and our new boathouse is without doubt the best I have known “
- “Such an impressive team effort. So satisfying to have played even a tiny part in its construction”
- “The new boathouse proves that this is a forward thinking club encouraging sport for all”





# Increasing diversity

- For young adults leaving care
- 7 sessions for 6 people starting by taking a rowing machine to the young care leavers at one of their sessions.
- Taster session at the club enabling young people to make an informed decision if they wanted to join a Learn to row course.
- Learn to row course - 2 full-day sessions and 3 three-hours sessions in crew boats and singles and on the rowing machines
- Offer to join the club at a new 18-24 year-old rate of £10 per month



# Outreach feedback



*“ I enjoyed everything so much - everyone was so friendly and supportive “*

*“ I have now overcome my fears and will never give up on it “*

*“Really loved doing the course and want to continue to do more rowing “*

*“ It was amazing to have this experience first-hand with people explaining everything by breaking things down and not piling it all at once “*

*“The whole experience has been so enjoyable and so valuable for me and given me a great sense of achievement “*

*“ The club members have been so patient and the coach was so supportive and patient “*

*“ It was so much fun and the location was so peaceful and beautiful - have never experienced anything like this“*





# Next steps

- Build on successful outreach programme to integrate new 18-24 year-olds into the club and run learn to row course again next year
- Conversion of brick and block built boathouse to include new changing rooms with shower and WC in each and third WC, kitchenette area and multi-purpose area for indoor training and socialising
- £24,000 of £48,000 raised so far





# Thank you – please come and visit

