

Norwich City Council

SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

ITEM 6

REPORT for meeting to be held on 24 November 2016

Greater Norwich Growth Board (GNGB) and New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (NALEP) update

Summary:

This report provides an update on the current activities of the Greater Norwich Growth Board and the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (NALEP). The main items covered in the report include:-

- Greater Norwich Growth Board
- GNGB Governance
- Community Infrastructure Levy
- Funding agreement for the Northern Distributor Road
- Key achievements
- Current progress on the Greater Norwich Local plan
- New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership

Conclusions:

The report summarises the background to this topic and work currently being progressed to provide committee with a briefing on the current workstreams and activities of the Greater Norwich Growth Board and the New Anglia Local enterprise partnership as they relate to Norwich

Recommendation: Members note the details outlined in this briefing report

Contact Officer David Moorcroft- Director of regeneration and development 01603 212225

Greater Norwich Growth Board (GNGB)

Background

1. In November 2013, cabinet approved the dissolution of the Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP) and the establishment of a growth board for the Greater Norwich area.
2. Cabinet agreed the Greater Norwich Growth Board governance and to recommend to council to pool Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in March 2014.
3. The joint working through the Greater Norwich Development Partnership provided the policy framework (the Joint core strategy) which sets out the commitment to deliver 37,000 new homes and 27,000 new jobs over the period 2008 - 2026 and this is now in place. Alongside this the Norwich Area Transportation (NATS) strategy (now Transport for Norwich) provides a coordinated approach to transportation across the whole area. The work across Greater Norwich is now in delivery phase, for which the Greater Norwich Growth Board is responsible. The growth board enables continued collaborative working across greater Norwich in the context of the approved City Deal arrangements.

Governance

4. Principles of constitution are that meetings are in public and a consensus is required to make decisions which are approved by individual local authorities.
5. The governance of the growth board is based on the following principles:
 - (a) The board will be led by local authority and LEP representatives and will have the scope to include other key partners (either as voting or non-voting members).
 - (b) The board membership (with substitutes) will be the leaders/cabinet members (or equivalent) of each of the four councils together with business representative from the New Anglia LEP Board.
 - (c) Meetings of the board will be held in public and administrative arrangements for meetings will be the same as those of the local authority undertaking this task.
 - (d) The work of the growth board will be the subject of scrutiny by the individual authorities.
 - (e) Decision making will be by a consensus of all voting members of the board.
 - (f) An annual business plan, to be agreed by the constituent local authorities, will provide the framework for the work of the board.
 - (g) On financial matters, the scope of decision making will be determined by the business plan.
6. The board will have the following broad remit. It will:

- (a) provide a co-ordinated approach to the delivery of jobs, homes and infrastructure across the area
- (b) provide a link to the LEP wide work on skills and business support through representation on LEP wide boards responsible for skills and business support
- (c) Provide a delivery body for the LEP at a local level
- (d) be responsible for the delivery of the business plan (the annual programme of delivery)
- (e) have primary responsibility for coordinating the delivery of strategic infrastructure (greater Norwich Growth Board Investment Fund) and oversee the management of the local infrastructure fund
- (f) Provide project management of investment programmes and monitor progress of delivery and spend including reviewing the programme risks and risk mitigation measures
- (g) Secure the co-operation of the parties
- (h) Identify, lobby for, secure and coordinate funds.
- (i) In future this may also include the formulation of future planning documents and the discharge for the duty to co-operate on planning matters

Local infrastructure fund

- 7. £20M borrowing was approved through the City Deal at reduced public works loan board rates. This is to establish a local infrastructure fund to be made available to developers of sites which have infrastructure constraints. The intention is to bring forward sites for development more quickly.

Greater Norwich Growth Board Investment Fund

- 8. The purpose of the Infrastructure Investment Fund is to deliver the capital programme of projects identified in the Joint core strategy (JCS) and the Local Investment Plan and Programme (LIPP). These include but are not restricted to:
 - (a) Norwich Area Transportation Strategy (NATS), including the Northern Distributer Road (NDR)
 - (b) Long Stratton Bypass
 - (c) Schools
 - (d) Green Infrastructure
 - (e) Community Space

(f) Libraries

(g) Sports Provision

9. Broadland, Norwich City, South Norfolk and Norfolk County Councils, and New Anglia LEP will produce a joint business plan that will include the infrastructure requirements across the three districts and will prioritise the projects to be delivered. The business plan will require prior approval by the council and will be revisited on an annual basis.
10. The GNGB has previously identified funding from a variety of sources including planning obligations under s.106 of the Town and Country Planning Act, Government departments and agencies and the CIL. Apart from CIL the other sources of funding can be aligned with specific projects. The funding will remain fluid as new sources will undoubtedly come on stream in future.
11. Current forecasts indicate that for the period to 2025/26 a total of £25.213M CIL income will be generated from development in Norwich.

CIL Business Planning

12. CIL business plans are approved by cabinet/council on an annual basis.
13. In July 2015 cabinet and council considered the draft Norwich Business plan for 2016-7 (setting out infrastructure projects for Norwich to be funded from the pooled Infrastructure Investment Fund) and recommended that it be presented to GNGB for inclusion in the greater Norwich growth programme.

2016-7 Annual Growth Programme

14. The proposed Annual Growth Programme is formed from project information provided in the three Annual Business Plans. The draft Growth Programme has been developed so that projects put forward for inclusion:
 - (a) benefit the growing community and/or the wider economy of the Greater Norwich area;
 - (b) have investigated and secured appropriate match funding (where available);
 - (c) are deliverable (either in whole or in part) during 2016/17; and
 - (d) have been identified as strategic priorities by the relevant working groups and governance structures.
15. Tables 2 and 3 list the projects promoted in the Annual Business Plans and detail those recommended to be endorsed for inclusion in the proposed 2016/17 Growth Programme and those recommended to be endorsed in-principle for subsequent years. Table 4 shows projects recommended to be endorsed for inclusion in the 2016/17 Growth Programme, however these projects do not require funding from the Infrastructure Investment Fund in 2016/17.

Table 2: Projects proposed for inclusion/funding in 2016/17	
<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>
Diamond Centre – £1m loan funding	Endorse for inclusion in 16/17 Growth Programme – subject to exploration and finalisation of borrowing terms etc.
St Faiths to Airport Industrial Estate link road - £500k (16/17) and £500k (17/18)	Endorse for inclusion in 16/17 and 17/18 Growth Programme – subject to outcome of current feasibility work.
Chartwell Road/Denton Road to School Lane Toucan Crossing £120k	Endorse for inclusion in 16/17 Programme
Golden Ball St – (up to) £500k	Endorse for inclusion in 16/17 Growth Programme – subject to detailed costings work and exploration of private sector funding opportunities.
Heathgate Pink Pedalway- £150k	Endorse for inclusion in 16/17 Growth Programme.
Carrow Bridge to Deal Ground cycle path - £100k	Endorse for inclusion in 16/17 Growth Programme.
Colney River Crossing - £150k	Endorse for inclusion in 16/17 Growth Programme.

Table 3: Endorsed in-principle, subject to further work	
<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>
Long Stratton Sports Hub - £500k	Endorse in-principle for inclusion in 17/18 Growth Programme – subject to additional funding

	becoming available and further site planning
Castle Gardens - £150k	Endorse in-principle for inclusion in 17/18 Growth Programme – subject to securing additional funding
Wensum Strategy Phase 1 - £200k	Endorse in-principle for inclusion in 17/18 and 18/19 – subject to further scheme development via the Wensum Strategy.
Marriott's Way Phase 3 - £365k	Endorse in-principle for inclusion in 17/18 and 18/19 – subject to further scheme development via the Marriott's Way Strategy

Table 4: Strategic projects supported by borrowing	
<i>Scheme</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>
Northern Distributor Road - £40m	Endorse for inclusion in 16/17 Growth Programme. First call on pooled CIL Infrastructure Investment Fund anticipated 2017/18.
Long Stratton Bypass - £10m	Endorse for inclusion in 16/17 Growth Programme. Reaffirm commitment to use borrowing powers to ensure timely delivery. Further work on phasing and timing to be undertaken
The GNGB has access to a further £10m of borrowing via the City Deal. These funds may be used for a range of infrastructure projects, including transportation infrastructure in the city centre.	

Northern Distributor Road Funding Agreement (NDR)

16. The Northern Distributor Road funding agreement was approved by council on 29 September 2015. This gave authorisation to use future CIL revenues to fund costs associated with the delivery of the Norwich (NDR).
17. The NDR will improve connectivity and accessibility across both the northern part of the Norwich urban area and areas of the county in an arc from the northwest to the east of this main urban area. Such improvement will ease the relative disadvantage of the peripheral location of these areas and provide the basis of the transport infrastructure required to address existing and future problems, and to achieve the growth objectives which have been identified for Norwich and its surrounding area.
18. The NDR is an essential piece of transport infrastructure that releases an estimated £1bn of economic benefits for Norwich and Norfolk by reducing congestion and offering new access to key strategic employment and growth locations.

Achievements

19. In 2014/15 and 2015/16 the council has received a total of £410,203.59 of funding from pooled CIL for projects in Norwich. Projects include- Danby Wood, Marston Marsh, Riverside Walk (Oasis), Marriott's Way, Earlham Millennium Green. In addition the LEP are providing £11.076M of Local Growth Fund towards Transport for Norwich for the 4 years 15/16 to 18/19. It is being used on a wide variety of projects including the Golden Ball Street project, part of the blue pedalway and the Sweetbriar Roundabout improvement.

Greater Norwich Local Plan

20. Norwich City Council, Broadland District Council, and South Norfolk Council, working with Norfolk County Council, have agreed to work together to prepare the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP). The GNLP will build on the long-established joint working arrangements for Greater Norwich, which have delivered the current Joint Core Strategy for the area.
21. A number of factors will play an important role in developing the GNLP. The GNLP will need to plan positively for jobs, homes, prosperity and environmental improvements. The existing pattern of development and planned growth in existing local plans will have a major influence. Nationally, there is a much stronger emphasis on ensuring delivery, and in particular the need to increase housing development. Locally, since preparation of the JCS, significant investment in transport infrastructure has been delivered or committed, including 'Norwich in 90', the NDR, A11 and A47 improvements, and cycling and public transport infrastructure. Monitoring suggests that jobs have grown strongly since a low point in 2011 and a number of initiatives are being pursued to grow the local economy.
22. The JCS plans for the housing and jobs needs of the area to 2026 and the GNLP will ensure these needs continue to be met to 2036. The Central Norfolk Strategic Housing Market Assessment, which was published in January 2016, concludes that approximately 12,000 new houses, over and above existing planned growth, will need to be delivered in the Greater Norwich area over the period to 2036. The GNLP is a new plan which will eventually replace the JCS and the districts' site specific documents; as part of this process a new set of plan objectives need to be established. These objectives will assist in developing the vision for the plan in due course, and will also contribute to policy making and form the basis for monitoring the plan.
23. A Call for Sites was undertaken between 16 May and 8 July 2016. Approximately 500 sites have been submitted. Whilst the call was for sites across the full range of uses, including 'Local Green Spaces', the submissions have predominantly been for additional housing or housing-led development. Additional employment land has been put forward in key locations, including further land at Norwich Research Park, and the majority of larger-scale proposals have suggested mixed uses (i.e. housing and employment with supporting infrastructure and open space).

24. Whilst the submitted sites are widely distributed across the Greater Norwich area, very few new sites have come forward within the Norwich City Council area itself, reflecting the fact that a large number of brownfield sites within the city are already permitted or allocated for redevelopment and very limited greenfield opportunities remain. Unsurprisingly the Norwich sites are being promoted for a range of housing, employment and commercial uses. However it is noticeable that the few significant housing proposals in Norwich are already committed sites, some of which are being proposed higher densities.

GNLP Governance

25. To oversee the preparation of the new Local Plan the authorities involved have re-established their joint working arrangements under the Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP). The chair of the GNDP board is Councillor Shaun Vincent, Portfolio Holder for Planning, Broadland District Council and the vice chair is Cllr Alan Waters, Leader of Norwich City Council.
26. The GNDP will exercise political leadership for the planning activities carried out jointly by the Greater Norwich Local Planning Authorities. This group is made up of three members from Broadland district council, Norwich city council, South Norfolk Council, Norfolk County council and a member from the Broads authority. The group is supported in its role by the Director level representation from each Local authority and a series of advisors who will be seconded into the group when necessary. Meetings of the GNDP will be held in public.

New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (NALEP)

Background and Governance

27. New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership was established by Government in 2010 as a business-led collaboration between the private, public and education sectors across Norfolk and Suffolk to deliver economic growth. The New Anglia LEP area covers a population of around 1.6 million people and 55,000 businesses.
28. Established as a company limited by guarantee in 2011, the New Anglia LEP's published Articles of Association explain its purpose, duties and responsibilities. Governed by a board of directors and supported by an executive team, the LEP publishes information about governance, finances and decisions on its website including minutes from board meetings, year-end accounts and a register of directors' interests to aid transparency.
29. The LEP is also required by government to develop an annual Assurance Framework; this sets out governance and arrangements for the delivery of programmes and projects as well as relationships with partners, other LEPs and all local authorities.
30. New Anglia Board (Norwich members highlighted in bold text)

Chair: Mark Pendlington, a Group Director at Anglian Water.
Doug Field, Joint Chief Executive, East of England Co-op
Mark Goodall, Area Manager, Aker Solutions (energy sector)

Jeanette Wheeler, Partner, Birketts LLP

Steve Oliver, Chairman, MLM Group

Lindsey Rix, Managing Director, Personal Lines, Aviva

Davina Tanner, Chief Executive and Founder of Britannia Enterprises

Dr Tim Whitley, Managing Director, Research and Innovation, BT

Cllr David Ellesmere, Leader, Ipswich Borough Council

Cllr Andrew Proctor, Leader, Broadland District Council

Cllr John Griffiths, Leader, St Edmundsbury Borough Council

Cllr Cliff Jordan, Leader, Norfolk County Council

Cllr Colin Noble, Leader, Suffolk County Council

Cllr Alan Waters, Leader, Norwich City Council

Dr Nikos Savvas. Principal, West Suffolk College

Professor David Richardson, Vice-Chancellor, University of East Anglia

Key priorities for the LEP

31. The LEP publishes a Strategic Economic Plan which sets out how its target of creating 95,000 more jobs, 10,000 new businesses and 117,000 more homes by 2026 will be achieved. Key areas of activity are:
32. Transport - major projects delivered through the New Anglia Local Transport Body, made up of transport stakeholders across the region including the Department for Transport, Abellio Greater Anglia, Port of Felixstowe and Norwich International Airport as well as the counties, local authorities and Chambers of Commerce.
33. Probably the most notable successes in terms of transport are the Great Eastern Rail Campaign for investment on the Norwich to London main line, funding to support the Norwich Distributor Road and the dualling of the A11 at Elveden.
34. Skills - creating jobs is a priority for LEPs and central to this is the need to have a highly skilled workforce. Through the New Anglia Skills Board, brings together business, education, sector specialists and policymakers to help steer the skills agenda in Norfolk and Suffolk and build on the good work being undertaken by all partners. A Skills Manifesto was launched in 2013 (revised 2016) to detail how skills support will be delivered.
35. Business Support - New Anglia offers funding, advice and support across a range of funding programmes to support business growth from SMEs to start-ups. Funding also supports major infrastructure projects from flood defences to digital incubation hubs.
36. The LEP's flagship Growth Hub delivers free business advice and a range of grant schemes designed to support expansion and jobs growth. Grants are available between £1,000 and £500,000.
37. New Anglia LEP business support activity in Norwich includes:
 - (a) 533 Norwich businesses supported by the New Anglia Growth Hub

- (b) £405,467 Small Grants Scheme funding delivered to Norwich businesses, creating 98.5 jobs and £1.8m private sector leverage.
- (c) £1.22million Growing Business Fund monies allocated to Norwich businesses, creating 175 jobs and £7.2million in private sector leverage.
- (d) Norwich Area Transportation Strategy package of £7million improvements to roads in the city centre.
- (e) Norwich Aviation Academy £3m investment with the building on schedule to open in late 2016/17.
- (f) £1.6m loan to Pasta Foods to support expansion.
- (g) £80k loan to Norwich Airport for an in-depth feasibility study into further development opportunities.
- (h) £150k grant to Norwich Writers' Centre to support the development of Dragon Hall.
- (i) £250k grant to support UEA Enterprise Centre – 257 new jobs and 50 jobs by 2019
- (j) £200k grant to NUA to support 108 new businesses and 195 jobs by 2020
- (k) New Anglia Capital - £500k of the £1.26m invested to date has been invested in Norwich businesses:
- (l) £200k Ablatus Therapeutics is the first commercial spin-out from the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital, which has a stake in the company, and builds on research which identified a more efficient way to treat growths and tumours in patients.
- (m) £250k EnLight (Signplay Ltd) provides a future-proof communications platform that is scalable and flexible enough to be used for a multitude of other intelligent city and Internet-of-Things applications.
- (n) £18k Rainbird
- (o) £25k Supapass