



**Sustainable development panel**

**09:30 to 10:00**

**17 January 2018**

Present: Councillors Stonard (chair), Thomas (Va) (vice chair), Davis, Grahame, Jackson, Maguire and Malik

Apologies: Councillor Lubbock

**1. Membership of the Panel**

Members noted that Councillor Brociek-Coulton had stepped down from the panel. Councillor Maguire had been appointed to the vacancy.

**2. Declarations of interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Minutes**

**RESOLVED** to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2017.

**4. Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework**

The chair introduced the report and explained that the process for the approval of the Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework by all the constituent parties. This was an opportunity to present the framework to the panel before it was considered at cabinet on 7 February 2018.

The head of planning services presented the report and answered members' questions. The framework had been amended following public consultation and as a result of other matters, including the government consultation on Planning for the Right Homes in the Right Places, the New Anglia LEP Economic Strategy and Norfolk County Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan. There needed to be a reference in the framework to the Planning for the Right Homes in the Right Places, which was in itself a draft, but the emerging policy contained a requirement for local planning authorities with shared planning objectives to make a Statement of Common Ground. The framework would be reviewed over the next year in the light of the emerging situation. In addition, officers were awaiting further guidance on the government's revision of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) which was expected in March 2018. It would appear that the government was seeking to strengthen the duty to cooperate under the Localism Act, 2011, to force local

planning authorities to cooperate over wider housing areas. There was potential tension in that the city's wider housing market would include the three Greater Norwich authorities (Norwich City Council, Broadland District and South Norfolk Council) and two other district councils, Breckland and North Norfolk. It was necessary to demonstrate that the council was adequately working with its neighbours.

During discussion Councillor Jackson said that he was disappointed that the majority of infrastructure projects were for road improvements, with fewer projects for improvements to rail links or bus routes. The head of planning services referred to members to page 62 of the framework (page 72 of the agenda pages) and the table which set out the key shared priority schemes for transportation improvements. He pointed out that under these schemes, which were considered to be strategically important, were smaller "localised improvements" which would deliver the modal shift for alternative transport measures, such as the Pedalway projects considered by the Norwich Highways Agency committee.

The head of planning services explained the process that each of the Greater Norwich Local Plan authorities would undertake to sign off the framework over the next couple of months.

Councillor Grahame said that she considered it was more important to have a direct rail link to Norwich Research Park than to shave off ten minutes off journey times on the Norwich to London route. The head of planning services said that he was not aware of a proposal to provide a rail link to Norwich Research Park but acknowledged that a number of schemes to improve public transport links were being considered, including improving current bus routes. The chair said that it was important that there were transport links with Norwich Research Park and Cambridge, but it was also important to ensure that priority was given infrastructure schemes that could be achieved within the timescale of the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) rather than aspirational projects.

**RESOLVED** to recommend to cabinet that it agrees the Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework (as set out in the appendix to the report).

CHAIR