

## Report for Resolution

**Report to** Cabinet  
21 September 2011

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**Report of** Director of regeneration and development  
**Subject** Arrangements for sub-regional co-operation on planning matters

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### Purpose

To seek approval for the council to work in partnership on development issues with Broadland District Council, South Norfolk District Council and Norfolk County Council and agreement to the formation of a Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP) Board.

### Recommendation

To participate in the Greater Norwich Development Partnership Board with objectives and governance arrangements as set out in Appendix 1;

### Financial consequences

Financial consequences of participating in the partnership board can be met from existing budgets although will need to be kept under review. Through continuing joint working opportunities for generating external revenues and for future savings through sharing costs are likely to be maximised. Introduction of a Community Infrastructure Levy may offer the potential to cover some of the costs associated with the GNDP.

### Risk assessment

Failure to agree to partnership arrangements would create reputational risks and raise issues about the co-ordination of sub-regional planning policies and development infrastructure.

### Strategic priority and outcome/service priorities

The report helps to meet the strategic priority “Strong and prosperous city – working to improve quality of life for residents, visitors and those who work in the city now and in the future” and the service plan priority that key infrastructure requirements for meeting the needs of a growing city and an agreed programme is put in place to secure their delivery.

**Cabinet member:** Councillor Arthur

**Ward:** all

### Contact officers

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### Background documents

None

## **Report**

### **Arrangements for sub-regional co-operation**

#### **Background**

1. Since 2006 Norwich City Council has been working in partnership with Broadland District Council, Norfolk County Council, South Norfolk Council and the Broads Authority through the Greater Norwich Development Partnership. The informal partnership was established to manage the Growth Point funding in recognition of the Growth Point status awarded to the area in 2006 and to prepare the Joint Core Strategy and Economic Development Strategy in order to provide a framework for the future growth of the area.
2. With the impending adoption of the Joint Core Strategy and ending of the growth point status funding, the GNDP Policy Group, at its meeting on 17 March 2011 resolved to:
  - (1) agree, in principle, to disband the current GNDP governance structure at a time to be determined by agreement of the Leaders;
  - (2) agree that leaders and portfolio holders will take responsibility for any interim decisions required in relation to the GNDP including the development of the Community Infrastructure Levy; and
  - (3) delegate responsibility to leaders and portfolio holders to meet (following the local elections in May) to discuss a new/revised governance structure that can be recommended to individual authorities for approval so that the June meeting could be conducted under the new arrangements.
3. The leaders met following the elections in May and agreed that there was considerable merit in continuing to work together in the form of a partnership to provide a forum for discussion on matters of common interest to the partners in implementing the strategies that had previously been developed by the partnership. In addition it was acknowledged that working together on a sub-regional basis would strengthen the areas response to the changing landscape for encouraging economic growth, with the creation of the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership; the new duty 'to co-operate' proposed in the Localism Bill and the requirement to implement a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Officers were tasked with bringing forward proposals for a streamlined forum, with new terms of reference in recognition of these factors.

#### **Proposed Governance Structure and Objectives**

4. The key objectives and governance arrangements for the proposed GNDP Board are attached as Appendix 1.
5. Following the adoption of the Joint Core Strategy the Objectives of the Board are concerned more with strategy delivery rather than with policy formulation. The main focus of the Board will be around infrastructure planning and delivery

(including the bringing forward of proposals for a Community Infrastructure Levy) and advocacy in pursuit of external funding.

6. With regard to governance arrangements the intention is to build on the success of the previous GNDP Policy Group. It is proposed that each lead authority appoints three members. Council has already appointed two members (leader and deputy leader) to the GNDP and if cabinet agrees to this revised partnership the Head of law and governance will need to appoint the third member, which is suggested should be the portfolio holder for planning and transport, under his delegated powers.
7. The Broads Authority is expected to continue to nominate a representative to the Board and in recognition of the important role of the Local Enterprise Partnership and the Homes and Communities Agency in the delivery of homes and jobs it is proposed that each of these bodies be invited to nominate a representative.
8. Unlike the previous policy group, board meetings will be held in public and reports (unless specifically restricted) and minutes will be publicly available in accordance with normal practice. As the board is not a formally constituted committee it will not have delegated powers and therefore all recommendations it makes will require endorsement through individual authority's decision making processes.
9. It should be noted that it is expected that both the governance arrangements and the objectives will need to be kept under review. In particular, alongside the introduction of proposals to share a proportion of the Community Infrastructure Levy to fund strategic infrastructure priorities across the wider area, it is anticipated that a Memorandum of Understanding will be drawn up to provide a robust basis for partnership covering financial risks and liabilities. This MoU would also need to cover infrastructure prioritisation, approval mechanisms and conflict resolution and would need separate approval by Cabinet.
10. In the longer term the partnership could, if required, become legally constituted once the exact nature of such a partnership has been fully explored and implications assessed. Again this would require separate cabinet approval.

## **Appendix 1 - Key objectives and governance arrangements for the proposed GNDP board**

**Key objectives** for the GNDP Board (to be reviewed on a regular basis as the partnership evolves):

### **Infrastructure planning**

- To prepare and keep under review a Local Investment Plan and Programme (LIPP) setting short medium and long term infrastructure requirements and examining funding sources.
- To prepare a 5-year Investment Programme, reviewed annually for strategic pool of Community Infrastructure Levy and other funding.
- To monitor delivery and phasing of the investment programme and report on progress.

### **Delivery**

- To bring forward proposals for the introduction of a Community Infrastructure Levy across the area.
- To bring forward proposals for a shared strategic infrastructure fund (strategic pool) to be used to support the delivery of key strategic infrastructure capital projects identified in the LIPP.
- To monitor progress of capital projects included in the strategic pool.
- To pursue opportunities to maximise external funding in support of delivery objectives.

### **Monitor and review**

- To monitor and review the Greater Norwich Economic Strategy.

### **Spatial planning**

- To monitor the Joint Core Strategy and to make recommendations to Councils about the need for a full or partial review.
- Assist with the discharge of any duty imposed by the Localism Act for co-operation in relation to planning of sustainable development.

### **Advocacy**

- To work with the New Anglia LEP, HCA, other relevant bodies and private sector to prepare, promote and support bids to secure external funding to the benefit the area.

## **Governance structure**

This governance structure will require each individual Authority to take responsibility for managing the non-pooled portion of CIL delivering Local and Community infrastructure for their geographical area, consulting, liaising and procuring the infrastructure and spending/monitoring.

## **Membership**

- Three representatives from Broadland, Norwich, South Norfolk, Norfolk County Council, to be determined by each Authority.
- One representative from the Broads Authority.
- One representative from Local Enterprise Partnership.
- One representative from the Homes and Community Agency.

## **Supported by the GNDP officer group**

- One Chief Executive or nominated representative from each authority.
- GNDP Manager.
- Others to attend by invitation.

## **Supported by the GNDP team**

- The GNDP Implementation Team will support the GNDP Board and the GNDP Officer Group

## **Decision making**

- The meetings of the GNDP Board will be held in public, the meeting will not be opened up to allow public questions.
- As it is not a formally constituted Joint Committee the GNDP Board will not have delegated powers therefore all recommendations from the partnership will require endorsement by the individual authorities.

## **Meeting frequency**

- Meetings will be held 4-monthly, or more frequently if required. Local committee clerks will provide support and organisation as per previous arrangements.

