

Norwich Town Deals Board

Monday 25 January 2021

10am, Via MS Teams

Notes

Chair:

Andrew Dernie Aviva

Attendees:

Chris Sargisson Norfolk Chamber Commerce
Ellen Tilney Norwich City Council
Chris Starkie New Anglia
Julie Schofield UEA
Kris Jones Tech Velocity
Linn Clabburn Cambridge Norwich Tech Corridor
Stefan Gurney Norwich Bid
Vince Muspratt Norfolk County Council
Graham Nelson Norwich City Council
Mary Scales DWP
Cllr Alan Waters Leader, Norwich City Council

Ref	Item	Action
1	Welcome, apologies, minutes AD will distribute minutes from previous meeting	AD
2	Accelerated project business cases: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• East Norwich• Digitech factory <p>Programme level profile and project level profiles are signed off The Halls has had an amendment to the match funding numbers ET will circulate the formatted versions of the project business cases</p> <p>Sign off process: Section 151 will need to do a technical sign off Following Cabinet the official sign off is delegate to GN in conjunction with the portfolio holders. Digitech factory and east Norwich cases need to be in place I the next couple of weeks so they can start in February to draw down funds.</p> <p>Feedback from Cabinet is very positive, there is a collective sense of ownership.</p> <p>The Accelerated funding is £1m in the current financial year – primarily for the digitech factory.</p> <p>The other is for East Norwich and is directed into the Master Plan. An agreement has been reached over the purchase price for Carrow House, we therefore need to be in a position to draw down monies in the</p>	

	<p>first quarter of the next financial year. It has been indicated we have agreement to accelerate these two projects.</p> <p>MHCLG have indicated they are interested in the revolving Fund project, this will impact on the drawdown ability for the other projects.</p> <p>In terms of risk, Norwich City Council are constantly reviewing and adapting our governance and risk process.</p> <p>Digitech Factory</p> <p>The sector is growing faster than any other sector and we need to ensure local and young people in the county are able to access the sector. This is about ensuring that young people have the relevant skills to access the sector to meet the needs of the business community.</p> <p>Build is underway on site.</p> <p>The business case was originally produced for the LEP. This has been updated since in terms of costs, it will also require updating in terms of output. ACTION: Signature and date need updating on the Business Plan</p> <p>The project is also important to highlight to the labour market the possibilities which are there – the physical presence is as important as encouraging people to join and engage with the sector.</p> <p>GN comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some work needs to be done on how the funding is presented at the beginning of the document • The case for how this meets the economic strategy for Norfolk and Suffolk, however the form fails to highlight other synergies within the towns deal – these benefits could be made stronger. • There is no reference to diversity within the sector, in terms of ethnicity and gender, some information around how this will be broadened within the sector through this project. This is likely to be obtainable through City College – ET reports there is a separate piece of work on this which could be included or referenced in the document <p>CJones comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In terms of diversity within the tech community there are challenges over obtaining and quantifying this – how would we go about this. • LC believed that there is some data around this and is held by TechNation. ACTION: LC to follow up <p>JS comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institute of productivity is now Productivity East • Need to make more of the links across the Towns Deal projects 	<p>ET</p> <p>LC</p>
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CSargisson comments:

- There are diversity and gender co-horts that would also benefit from use of the facility, outside of normal operating hrs

ADernie comments:

- Dates
- Numbers add up
- Highlight benefits and synergies within the Twon Deal
- How it helps with diversity, equality and social mobility challenged
- Reskilling members of the workforce
- How remote learning and working in the context of the pandemic fits
- Teaching posts – what are the criteria for the level of skills we're looking for? How do we recruit for this in terms of calibre and experience?

ACTION: ET will feed back all comments to Jerry White.

ET

East Norwich

GN overview:

There is still work to be done by Norwich City and therefore initial feedback is welcomed from the board and they are not being asked to sign off today.

Further work needs to be done on the meanwhile uses.

The site is one of the largest brownfield sites in the region.

Further highlighting that through the purchase of Carrow House we hope to assist with the regeneration of the wider site and give us some influence about how the rest of the site is developed. There was also a need to eliminate the potential of competition between private landowners/developers. The sites are strongly integrated with links between the two sites, which need to be carefully managed to promote strong pedestrian links across the site.

There are also important heritage, and social history aspects to the site which need protecting. These could be highlighted better within the bid.

The biggest risk is the occupancy rate for once the project is complete. Not all costs will be covered by the capital funding of the Towns Deal and that is the risk NCC will need to accept. With this in mind there needs to be a disposal strategy in place – this should be aided by the Master Plan exercise.

Within Norwich there is an issue with conversion to poor quality housing, while there is a requirement for office space.

GN is working to take this forward and will revert to the board in due

	<p>course.</p> <p>AW – in terms of influencing the Master Plan, Carrow House gives us a voice in terms of driving the regeneration forward. Local heritage organisations are keen to record the historical importance of the site.</p> <p>There is a public consultation which will help to shape and engage the community within the Master Plan.</p> <p>The significance of the purchase needs to be strengthened.</p> <p>GN – there needs to be careful management of the project and site, so it does not compete with the City centre, which is facing it's own significant challenges.</p> <p>CStarkie – the Revolving Fund is a good example of how we are supporting regeneration within the city centre and we can point to this to support our vision across the different areas of the city</p> <p>Next Steps:</p> <p>ET – the letter and profiles are shortly due to go to MHCLG, they are currently awaiting signatures.</p> <p>The next meeting is February – with this in mind an interim meeting is required mid February to update the Board. ACTION: ADunham to arrange and forward date</p>	<p>AD</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>KJones – Suggest setting up some project teams to help move specifics forward ACTION: KJ to discuss with ET</p>	<p>ET</p>

Forward meeting dates:

Mid February – tbc

22 February 2021, 10am-11.30am

29 March 2021, 10am-11.30am

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