

Norwich Town Deals Board

24 February 2020

Attendees

Linn Clabburn, Cambridge Norwich Tech Corridor
Phil Courtier, South Norfolk/Broadland District Council
Andrew Dornie, Aviva
Stephen Evans, Norwich City Council
Stefan Gurney, Norwich Business Improvement District
Shan Lloyd, Cities & Local Growth Unit
Helen Lewis, UEA
Vince Muspratt, Norfolk County Council
Graham Nelson, Norwich City Council
Nikki Rotsos, Norwich City Council
Chris Sargisson, Norfolk Chamber of Commerce
Chris Starkie, New Anglia LEP
Ellen Tilney, Norwich City Council
Cllr Alan Waters, Norwich 2040 Vision
Mary Scales, Jobcentre Plus (on behalf of Julia Nix)

Apologies

Clive Lewis MP
Minnie Moll, Jarrold
Chloe Smith MP
Sarah Steed, NUA
Julia Nix, Jobcentre Plus
Cllr Mike Stonard

Notes of Meeting

1. Welcome, minutes and actions from previous meeting

Action	Lead
Minutes of Meeting 27 January 2020	Complete
Circulate Norwich Town Deals area as defined by ONS for information.	Complete
Town Deals Board to have oversight of Capacity Funding spend	Ellen Tilney
Briefing for both local MPs on progress to date.	Complete
Chair to meet with council officers before next Board Meeting to agree resources required and a forward plan to develop key interventions for the Investment Plan.	Complete
Council officers to meet with Julia Nix to gather information on existing Skills and Employment initiatives as a part of the mapping work.	Complete
Mapping of proposed Town Deals key interventions against Norwich 2040, Economic Strategy and existing delivery for next meeting.	Complete

2. Revised Terms of Reference

Amended to reflect geographical area of Norwich Town Deal and option for the Board to co-opt additional expertise as required. Terms of Reference approved.

3. Strategic Fit of Town Deal Interventions

As illustrated by the mapping work, through the 2040 Vision, the Greater Norwich Growth Board and key strategic documents such as the Local Industrial Strategy there is a consistent and robust understanding of the city's needs and appropriate partnerships in place to pull together the Town Investment Plan. The TIP will need to be endorsed by both the Town Deals Board and Norwich City Council's Cabinet (as the lead council) with a target for submission of the plan in June 2020.

The outcome of Norwich's Transforming Cities bid will be known in March and it is recognised that this is likely to deliver transformative investment in issues of physical movement around the city. For this reason there are no proposals listed under the Connectivity strand of the Town's Fund proposals at present although it was felt that something around either accelerating the rollout of 5G or superfast broadband in the city centre. It is possible that this could be picked up as a part of the digital hub project.

4. Project Development

Looking at Diagram A of the Towns Fund mapping it was agreed that the central column (shaded red) represented a skeleton narrative for the Town Investment Plan. The central theme would be the Skills & Enterprise Infrastructure elements of Digital Hub to attract new jobs and businesses and leveraging the attraction of learning and cultural events to address long-term economic drag factors. Digital Hub being the catalyst for this with the second thematic area of Urban Regeneration (Master planning in East Norwich, improving public realm and a fund to stimulate the delivery of stalled brownfield sites) representing the projects which looked to shape the city for future growth.

In terms of developing the Investment Plan, it is important to look at what can be delivered in a five-year funding window and what can be partially delivered or started as the next phase of a longer-term investment plan for the city. Focus must be on deliverable projects and those that will be the catalyst for future economic growth. Carrow Works is undoubtedly a game-changer that can also unlock other sites that are otherwise constrained; the narrative needs to be clear on what can be delivered and what will be unlocked. Public realm improvements offer the opportunity to show people in Norwich that delivery is happening, the focus should be upon city centre vitality and selecting public realm improvements aligned closely with the BID's retail strategy.

It is important to understand and clearly express what the Digital Hub is, what it will deliver, specification, operating model, cost, site and the likely funding mix to deliver it including its capacity to leverage other investment. The focus is on grow-on and scale-up rather than incubation and on the potential to be a locus for lifelong learning. It was agreed that capacity funding could be used to inform this work.

Defining what the Brownfield Sites Revolving Fund has the capacity to deliver within the funding window should include an appraisal of the potential sites to be targeted (ideally a shortlist) and what outputs/outcomes could be achieved. Releasing long-stalled sites for development will also add to business confidence and support retention of businesses that are currently struggling to identify appropriate space to meet their growth plans. It suggests a pipeline of development beyond a single building and that Norwich is a place to grow and invest.

5. Next Steps

A high-level plan is required for the next meeting to show the resources and actions required to bring forward each of the projects/work packages into a coherent Town Investment Plan.

6. Any Other Business

Following the meeting to update Chloe Smith MP on Friday 21 February, it was agreed to change one of the future meeting dates from Monday to Friday. Chloe Smith's office to confirm the best date.

Summary of Agreed Actions:

Action	Lead
Amend one of the forward meeting dates to allow a better fit with MP's schedules.	Ellen Tilney
High level plan of resources and actions required to bring forward each project into a fully developed part of the Town Investment Plan	Graham Nelson
Shortlist/summary of potential areas for public realm improvement	Ellen Tilney
Account of capacity funding and spend for each Board meeting	Ellen Tilney

7. Future meeting dates:

Monday 27 April, 10-11.30am, TBC

Tuesday 26 May, 10-11.30am, TBC