

# Norwich Town Deals Board

## 10am Monday 31 January 2022

### Minutes:

### Attendees:

Andrew Dernie (CHAIR) (AD) – Aviva  
Vince Muspratt (VM) – Norfolk County Council  
Chris Sargisson (CS) – Norfolk Chamber of Commerce  
Jerry White (JW) – City College Norwich  
Sarah Collins (SC) – Norwich City Council  
Chris Starkie (CSt) – New Anglia LEP  
Cllr Alan Waters (AW) – Norwich City Council  
Julie Schofield (JS) – UEA  
Sarah Blackledge (SB) – Job Centre Plus  
Lara Hall and Zoe Tebbitt – Norwich City Council (public realm update)  
George Denton (GD) – South Norfolk & Broadland District Councils  
Graham Nelson (GN) – Norwich City Council  
Roisin Buckley (RB) – office of Chloe Smith MP  
Ellen Tilney (minutes) – Norwich City Council

### Apologies:

Tim Bishop, Kris Jones, Juliana Meyer, Stefan Gurney, Helen Lewis, Clive Lewis MP, Sarah Steed, Stephen Evans, Cllr Mike Stonard, Shan Lloyd.

Ref	Item	ACTION
1	<p><b>Welcome, apologies, minutes</b></p> <p>AD gave a summary of the last meetings minutes including Actions. Minutes were approved.</p> <p>VM, CSt and AW raised the importance of looking forward to potential new funding announcements from Government, including those which may be contained in the Levelling Up White Paper which is expected imminently. It is important for Norwich to develop a pipeline of potential projects (both capital and revenue) for the next 2-5 years. This is something that should also be covered and considered at the Vision event later today.</p> <p>This could possibly require a specific event/meeting with Board Members and other key stakeholders in the next few months.</p> <p>AD thanked all Board Members for the work that they are doing to support individual projects in their delivery phase.</p>	ALL

Ref	Item	ACTION
2	<p><b>Project Advisory Sponsor Update</b></p> <p>Sponsor matrix needs amendment – TB will have a strong focus on the Cultural Compact work and will not therefore be able to act as sponsor for the Public Realm project.</p>	Admin
3	<p><b>Public Realm Project Update</b></p> <p>Upper St Giles Street project is underway in partnership with Norfolk County Council.</p> <p>LH explained the historical context of Hay Hill and the various different designs for the space over the last century. The current design dates from the late 1990s with the addition of a number of small sculptures to reflect the life and work of Thomas Brown having been added in 2007.</p> <p>Redesign of the space presents a significant opportunity to improve accessibility, address/design out aspects of anti-social behaviour, improve the levels and permeability of pedestrian routes and create a more welcoming, usable public space for events etc.</p> <p>Exploring potential for a water feature, lighting, statue relocation or removal, retention or reduction of trees, other green landscaping and street furniture/seating.</p> <p>Existing artworks/statue will need to be removed and stored during works.</p> <p>There is existing infrastructure under the site to potentially support reintroduction of a water feature but investigation is required to ensure that the maintenance of this would be affordable/sustainable.</p> <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public and stakeholder consultation on two outline designs (4 weeks)</li> <li>• Review and report back on consultation feedback</li> <li>• Produce detailed design</li> <li>• Procurement</li> <li>• Anticipated to be on site in August 2022 with works completed by February 2023.</li> </ul>	

Ref	Item	ACTION
	<p>GN and AD both highlighted the opportunity to create a really dynamic and attractive public space in a key area of the city, the redesign proposals should be ambitious given the level of expenditure and should go beyond repositioning steps and statues. Many opportunities to improve the accessibility of the space and its connection to key areas like The Forum, Chantry Place and Gentleman’s Walk.</p> <p>Action to formally evaluate all potential Norwich sites for re-locating the statues to achieve Hay Hill objectives</p> <p>Action to assess option of removing one mature tree Assess work required with freehold/lease partners to develop William Booth Street as a connection route into Hay Hill from Chantry Place/Theatre Street and alternative solutions for waste collection</p>	LN
4	<p><b>Project Status Reports/Update</b></p> <p><b>ACE</b> some revisions to specifications for the refurbishment to ensure that the project remains within budget. Works are anticipated to start in May and be completed by September 2022. The additional teaching space within the newly opened Digitech Factory has been helpful in managing the loss of space while the refurbishment work is underway.</p> <p><b>DIGITECH FACTORY</b> financial drawdown of Towns’ Fund monies has concluded and the final touches of finish and equipment are being applied – the college wanted the building to be “lived in” by students and staff in order to inform the final touches. The building is now well used and further course planning is underway to further expand the digital offer within the building – it has already made a significant difference.</p> <p><b>BRANDING</b> work is on track with The Click consultancy shortly expected to present their work to the BID Board with anticipated launch in June 2022.</p> <p><b>DIGITAL HUB</b> CS is project sponsor and is now keen to move forwards to support design of the space, offer and management arrangements for the building bringing together other digital stakeholders to support the vision and its delivery. The most powerful aspect to the project is what the building delivers for Norwich and the partnership of organisation who will engage with the project to deliver the vision.</p>	CS/SC

Ref	Item	ACTION
	<p>CSt suggested that in line with the earlier discussion in the meeting it was important to look at the support offer and revenue requirements to deliver as part of the project pipeline for future funding – in line with this it is also important to consider the existing ecosystem of support and how the Digital Hub can augment the offer.</p> <p><b>CARROW HOUSE</b> Mitie works on new Carrow House continue, there are the usual construction issues but the works are still broadly on programme and are within budget. Tender specifications are being finalised in early February for works on Old Carrow House – some of these are time critical due to weather dependent external work.</p> <p><b>EAST NORWICH MASTERPLAN</b> this work should conclude by end April 2022. There is continued good engagement and support for the project from Homes England, particularly in supporting additional work on underpass modelling and detailed flood risk work. A session is planned shortly with the Broads Authority to discuss navigation issues such as new bridges and impact upon navigation.</p> <p><b>THE HALLS</b> Heritage Statement and Access Audit completed. Scoping Consultants appointed to report on what the Halls can deliver for Norwich – report expected by end February 2022 which will enable design works to move forward.</p> <p>Arts Council England application was not successful – alternative funding to be identified to support Phase 2 of the business case – possibly another “pipeline” project in the wider development of key projects for Norwich.</p> <p>JS suggested that the recently published Heritage Lottery Fund report on digital heritage and culture maybe helpful – JS will forward this report to the programme team.</p> <p><b>REVOLVING FUND</b> Avison Young have been appointed to provide consultancy and analysis of possible sites and their viability. There will be an all member briefing next week to encourage members to identify potential sites for the fund. It will be important to identify some quick wins that will allow us to complete transactions to demonstrate progress and ensure that the funding is “recycled” as quickly as possible. Consultants are also providing advice on disposal routes for sites once they have been acquired.</p>	<p>JS/CS</p>

<b>Ref</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
5	<b>AOB</b> SC suggested alternating the Board Meeting Times between 10am and 2pm on Mondays to support those with a regular meeting clash at 10am. Agreed.	CS

**Forward meeting dates:**

Monday 28 February, 2pm

Monday 28 March, 10am

Monday 25 April, 2pm

Monday 23 May, 10am

Monday 27 June, 2pm

Monday 25 July, 10am