NORWICH TOWN DEALS BOARD MONDAY 25 April, 2PM

Via MS Teams

Attendees:

Andrew Dernie (CHAIR) (AD) – Aviva
Chris Sargisson (CS) – Norfolk Chamber of Commerce
Roisin Buckley (RB) – Office of Chloe Smith MP
Jerry White (JW) – City College Norwich
Ellen Tilney (ET) – Norwich City Council
Sarah Collins (SC) – Norwich City Council
Graham Nelson (GN) – Norwich City Council
Gill Mason (GM) – Jobcentre Plus
Vince Muspratt (VM) – Norfolk County Council
Sarah Steed (SS)- NUA
Julie Schofield (JN) – UEA
Tim Bishop (TB) – The Forum
Nathan Wallwork – Metro Dynamics
Kevin Fenning – Metro Dynamics
Anoush Darabi – Metro Dynamics

Apologies:

Stefan Gurney – Norwich BID
Cllr Alan Waters – Norwich City Council
Clive Lewis MP
Phil Courtier – South Norfolk and Broadland District Councils
Stephen Evans – Norwich City Council
Shan Lloyd – DLUHC
Kris Jones – Techvelocity
Juliana Meyer – Supapass
Chris Starkie – New Anglia LEP
Cllr Mike Stonard – Norwich City Council

Ref	Item	ACTION
1	Welcome, Actions, Apologies, Minutes	
	AD gave a summary of the 28 th March meeting minutes and actions. The minutes were approved.	
2	Levelling Up/Norfolk Investment Framework Update and Shared Prosperity Fund	
	The Board reviewed the summary paper on Levelling Up Funding opportunity than Ellen Tilney had prepared. Deadlines are tight and	

submissions must be made by 6th July. Norwich is now a level 2 priority, so competition will be intense.

Metro Dynamics presented their analysis of the long-listed projects against fit with the LUF criteria and connectivity/emerging narrative between the projects. A combined bid for Norwich North + Norwich South would limit the ceiling to £20m across a maximum of three projects (not six with two separate £20m bids). Some of the long-listed projects are able to be packaged together to form a strong narrative for the city centre/heritage, another round active travel and a third focussed upon public/community assets.

ET

Further work is required to more fully assess deliverability, viability and level of match funding secured (which must be a minimum of 10%).

ET

AD suggested an interim meeting on 9th May to allow Board Members to look at these projects in more detail and work with Metro Dynamics to shape the overarching narrative. ET to arrange.

Shared Prosperity Funding announcements and allocations were recently confirmed – the first three years of this funding will be led at district level. All districts have received a three-year allocation of SPF (Norwich has been allocated £1,586,556 in total), the East of England area's allocation was lower than expected, actually the second lowest per capita allocation in the UK. Norfolk County Council has received an allocation of £4,669,568 for delivery of the UK adult numeracy "Multiply" programme.

Norfolk County Council are leading discussions with stakeholders and district colleagues to evaluate a wide range of programmes that are currently running on a county or LEP-wide basis. Is there a common approach in collaboration with districts to continuing some business support or skills programmes and could other funding be leveraged to add value?

Each district is now required to produce a three-year investment plan for SPF to indicate how funding will be drawn down and prioritised against the core funding objectives. Submission date is August 2022.

In Norwich this process is likely to be led via the Vision Group which has a well-established group of members drawn from a diverse range of local communities, groups and key stakeholders.

3 Projects Updates

Programme Management

SC advised that there have been some staffing changes in April, Rosemary Hood has resigned as programme administrator and Steve Holtz has resigned as project manager for Carrow House - recruitment is proceeding for both roles.

<u>ACE</u>

JW – The project is now moving forward at pace. Letter of intent sent out to main contractor and the building has been vacated ahead of commencement of works – the additional space and capacity provided by the completed Digitech building has enabled this. Key project risks are price inflation and supply of materials, but nothing is of concern in this respect at the present time. Expected completion December 2022.

Branding

Fully on track for completion by end June 2022.

<u>Halls</u>

The cultural sub-committee is now looking at Phase 2 of this project – what the Halls can deliver to the cultural sector. Phase 1 is now moving towards tender for works.

Carrow House

There have been some issues identified with Asbestos exposed by contractors and concern about the adequacy of the fire assessment carried out earlier this year. A new fire strategy has been commissioned and the Asbestos risk has been resolved.

Public Realm

Hay Hill – After the successful Public Consultation, the team are reviewing the design to include key comments, such as the public wanting the area to be 'calm' and a place of 'well-being'. Comments also included the support for a water feature, however the type preferred would again be one that enhances well-being.

The re-design will be brought back to the TD Board in June for comment.

The team are reviewing the scheme costs in light of the changes and the national increase in construction costs.

St Giles – Norfolk County Council are progressing the scheme. Norwich City Council PM has requested a scheme cost review, in light of the changes and the national increase in construction costs.

Revolving Fund

The property consultant has progressed their report identifying the key sites suitable to be included within the revolving fund, and their recommendations for acquiring and disposing of the sites. The report is due to be completed by the end of April.

Landowners of first 4 sites in phase 1 have been contacted, and we await their responses.

Lara Hall

ENMP

The public/private partnership is moving forward to agree Stage 2 of the masterplan.

An infrastructure delivery plan is being produced, as this is key to the successful delivery of the masterplan.

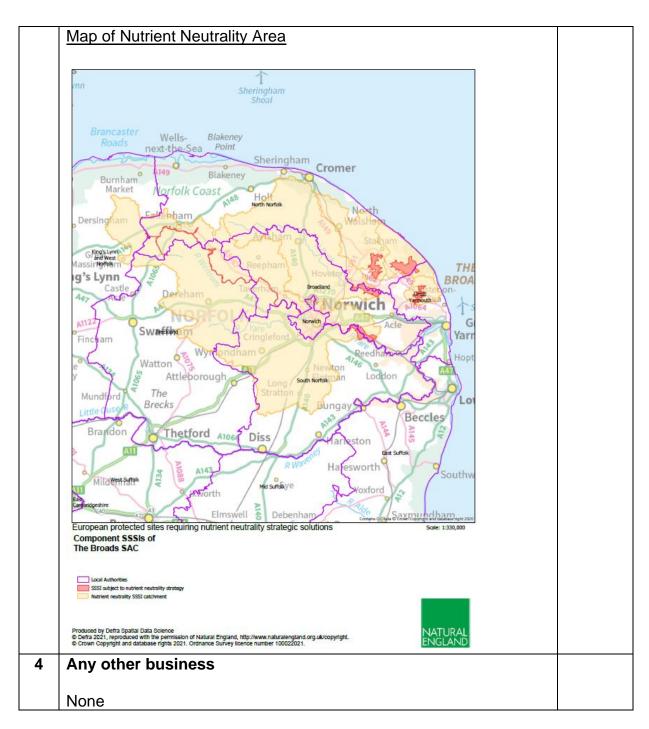
A public subsidy will be required, however the ENMP regeneration will significantly improve the amount of affordable housing in the City and the improved infrastructure significantly improves the movement around the City for current residents.

Stage 2 of the masterplan is due to go to Cabinet on 8th June 2022.

3 Nutrient Neutrality

GN gave a presentation to explain the recent issues that have be raised by Natural England. Nutrient Neutrality concerns effect many Councils across the UK. In Norwich we have been made aware of higher rates of nitrates in the waterways, including an area of the River Wensum within the City.

This unexpected information from Natural England has had the consequence of pausing planning applications. The focus is to resolve short-term solutions by August 2022, however some applications will be moved forward sooner than this due to their limited impact on the nutrient neutrality issues. There is an expectation that Town Deal Projects will not be significantly affected.



Next Meetings

Monday 9 May – 11am Monday 23 May – 10am Monday 27 June – 2pm Monday 25 July – 10am