

Norwich Town Deals Board

27 January 2020

Attendees

Linn Clabburn, Cambridge Norwich Tech Corridor
Phil Courtier, South Norfolk/Broadland District Council
Andrew Dernie, 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
Julia Nix, Jobcentre Plus
Nikki Rotsos, Norwich City Council
Chris Sargisson, Norfolk Chamber of Commerce
Chris Starkie (Chair), New Anglia LEP
Sarah Steed, Norwich University of the Arts
Ellen Tilney, Norwich City Council
Cllr Alan Waters, Norwich 2040 Vision

Apologies

Clive Lewis MP
Minnie Moll, Jarrold
Chloe Smith MP
Cllr Mike Stonard, Norwich City Council

Notes of Meeting

1. Welcome and Introductions

Cllr Waters welcomed everyone to the meeting. It was agreed that it would be really helpful to ensure that local MPs are actively engaged with the Town Deal Board and development of the Town Investment Plan. Local briefing to be arranged to bring both MPs up to speed.

2. What are Town Deals?

£3.6bn announced in November 2019, 101 eligible towns which have been selected on the basis of population, levels of deprivation etc. Each town is able to bid for up to £25million (capital and revenue funding available but ratio/split yet to be confirmed) to deliver transformative projects against three key areas:

- Urban Regeneration, planning and land use;
- Skills and Enterprise
- Connectivity

A Town Deal Board must be convened with a private sector chair. Bids will take the form of a Town Investment Plan to be submitted by summer 2020 (or earlier); this should be a list of prioritised projects supported by a clear evidence base and strategic fit. Funding available from 2020/21 to 2026/27. Town Investment Plans present the opportunity to lever in other sources of funding, both public and private sector.

Further details are expected shortly on bidding criteria, format etc. Minister responsible for Town Deals is Jake Berry MP.

Capacity funding of £173,029 has been received by the City Council which is designed to support the development of the Towns Investment Plan. Town Deals Board to have oversight of spend.

3. 2040 Vision

The 2040 Vision for Norwich is not something that any one organisation can achieve alone and the Vision Board has a track record of collaborative approaches to collective 'wicked issues' in the city (such as rough sleeping) as well as progressing shared strategic ambitions (such as place marketing) makes it the key partnership around which to build our Town Deals Board:

The Norwich 2040 City Vision has five themes:

- Connected city
- Creative city
- Dynamic city
- Fair city
- Liveable city

The work to develop the five themes began with conversations (including focus groups, surveys, conferences and interviews) with the public, and representatives from businesses, organisations and community groups. These conversations were designed to capture a diversity of voices and perspectives of what people value in Norwich, what they saw as the challenges and what sort of city they want to see in 2040. This then led to some collaborative pieces of work to address immediate priorities (such as rough-sleeping) as well as progressing longer-term strategic ambitions (such as transport infrastructure).

The vision board contains some of the most important employers and civic leaders in the city and provides the overall programme with a measure of oversight and links to wider landscape, whilst not stifling the organic development of initiatives it will form the basis for interventions developed in the Town Investment Plan.

4. Draft Terms of Reference

Amendments and additions were suggested, a revised draft to be produced for circulation to Board Members and approval at next meeting.

5. Election of Chair

Town Deal Boards are required to elect/nominate a private sector Chair. Following a short discussion, Andrew Dernie was nominated and agreed as the Norwich Town Deals Chair.

6. Timetable, Key Projects and Next Steps

Graham Nelson presented a short overview of the long list of projects identified in the Readiness Checklist which may be fully or partially supported within the Town Investment Plan.

- Creating new, city centre digital workspace
- Leveraging city centre learning and cultural events with our digital hub
- Attracting new jobs and businesses by promoting our strong brand and cultural offer
- Master planning to accelerate major regeneration sites
- A revolving fund to unlock stalled brownfield sites
- Improving areas of public realm in the city centre
- Building on the Norwich Social Mobility Opportunity Area, Good Economy Commission etc. work with partners to address long-term economic drag factors.

It was agreed that these should be mapped against the five 2040 Vision themes, three Town Deal themes, Local Industrial Strategy etc., showing the linkages to existing key projects, supporting evidence base and how they may align with potential sources of other or match funding. This mapping exercise should also include fit with other strategic interventions such as the Transforming Cities programme, Opportunity Area Funding and Growth Deal etc.; identifying opportunities to link capital build projects such as the digital hub with revenue funded business and skills support.

Given the five year funding window, projects developed within the Town Investment Plan should be investment-ready but there is also a need to look at potential future linked interventions and projects beyond Town Deals which may be supported further down the timeline as other key funding sources become available. For example, it is anticipated that the Transforming Cities programme will deliver significant transport infrastructure improvements in the same timeframe as Town Deals, but looking forward there may be new requirements arising from the development of sites in East Norwich which may be delivered by emerging funding opportunities beyond the lifetime of Town Deals. Similarly, there is a requirement to develop strategic people-based skills and workforce interventions in readiness for emerging revenue funding streams such as the Shared Prosperity Fund – Town Deals Funding could provide the catalyst for this strategic development.

It was agreed that this mapping work should be brought to the next meeting along with next steps and the resource and Board involvement required to develop key interventions quickly and effectively. Andrew Dornie to meet with council officers before the date of the next board meeting to agree a forward plan accordingly.

Summary of Agreed Actions:

Action	Lead
Revise and circulate draft Terms of Reference for approval at next meeting.	Ellen Tilney
Circulate Norwich Town Deals area as defined by ONS for information.	Ellen Tilney
Town Deals Board to have oversight of Capacity Funding spend	Ellen Tilney
Briefing for both local MPs on progress to date.	Graham Nelson/Ellen Tilney
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.	Graham Nelson to arrange date
Council officers to meet with Julia Nix to gather information on existing Skills and Employment initiatives as a part of the mapping work.	Ellen Tilney
Mapping of proposed Town Deals key interventions against Norwich 2040, Economic Strategy and existing delivery for next meeting.	Ellen Tilney

7. Future meeting dates:

Monday 24 February, 10-11.30am, Mancroft Room, City Hall

Monday 30 March, 10-11.30am, Mancroft Room, City Hall

Monday 27 April, 10-11.30am, Mancroft Room, City Hall

Tuesday 26 May, 10-11.30am, Venue TBC