

NORWICH TOWNS DEAL BOARD
MONDAY 25 SEPTEMBER, 10.00AM

Via MS Teams

Attendees:

Chris Sargisson (CSa) (VICE-CHAIR) – Norfolk Chamber	Chris Sargisson (CSa) – Norfolk County Council
Graham Nelson (GN) – Norwich City Council	Michael Pedder (MP) – DLUHC
Sarah Collins (SC) – Norwich City Council	Christie Waddington (CW) – DWP
Ellen Tilney (ET) – Norwich City Council	Chris Starkie (CSt) – New Anglia LEP
Sarah Steed (SS) – NUA	
Cllr Mike Stonard (MS) – Norwich City Council	
Ellie Hardy (EH) – Norwich City Council	

Apologies:

Clive Lewis MP	Chloe Smith MP
Andrew Dernie – Aviva	Kris Jones – Tech Velocity
Julia Nix – Jobcentre Plus	George Denton – South Norfolk & Broadland Council
Juliana Meyer – Supapass	Stefan Gurney – Norwich BID
Gill Mason – DWP	Rosanne Wijnberg – New Anglia
Phil Courtier – South Norfolk and Broadland	Julie Schofield – UEA
Jerry White – CCN	

Ref	Item	ACTION
1	<p>Welcome, Actions, Apologies, Minutes</p> <p>The 31 July 2023 Board minutes were approved, and actions covered.</p>	
2	<p>Introduction from Michael Pedder, DLUHC Deputy Area Lead, Norfolk</p> <p>MP introduced himself to the Board. He is pleased with how the projects are progressing. He is working through marketing campaigns to publicise the work.</p> <p>We are approaching the announcement for Levelling Up round three and potential additional Town Deal funding. We are expecting announcements in October/November.</p>	

<p>3</p>	<p>Update on funding streams into the city</p> <p>Now is the time to think of projects to be included in a new bid. As announcements come out MP will keep in touch and guide towards new funding.</p> <p>ET stated we are keen to continue with momentum from initial Towns Deal projects. We submitted two LUF bids in round two which were unsuccessful, however there are some projects from the round two bid we would like to revisit alongside new projects. ET explained that the project completion date is a barrier, and if this is unchanged it would be challenging to deliver projects by 21 March 2025.</p> <p>MP explained there are other funding streams available, such as ones associated with Norfolk County Council negotiations.</p> <p>SS asked which areas are eligible to apply. MP stated it has not been confirmed which areas are eligible to apply, but he will come back to the Board on this when the criteria is issued.</p> <p>SC asked about the level of funding likely to be available for the next round. MP stated this also has not been finalised but expects it to be in a similar range.</p> <p>AD explained we are keen to do the right thing and to do it quickly. MP stated they are looking to streamline the process.</p> <p>MP asked if feedback had been provided following the unsuccessful LUF bid. ET confirmed we did receive some feedback, but it was unclear what could have been done to improve the bid. However, it indicated we were close to being successful. MP responded that there may be a possibility to bring back the proposals from round two to see if there is an opportunity for them to now receive funding. MP advised looking at the bigger picture and how different projects will contribute to various government goals, such as housing, infrastructure, energy or net zero targets.</p> <p>AD stated we are excited by key developments we can do in Norwich around education. We are also looking at developments in East Norwich and Anglia Square. AD invited MP to come to Norwich and have a look at areas. SC asked for MP to let ET or herself know of availability to visit Norwich.</p>	<p>MP</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>Town Deal Projects, predicted completion dates</p> <p>SC gave an overview of the Norwich Towns' Fund projects and their predicted completion dates. An attachment was provided.</p>	

	<p>ACE – completed and was officially opened on 24 February 2023.</p> <p>Branding – completed October 2022.</p> <p>ENMP – completed June 2022.</p> <p>The Halls – due for completion March/April 2025</p> <p>Carrow House – handover meeting completed 17 February 2023 and practical completion 24 February 2023.</p> <p>Public Realm – Hay Hill due for completion Spring 2024.</p> <p>Revolving Fund – on schedule for March 2025.</p> <p>DigiTech Factory – completed September 2021.</p> <p>The Digital Hub – on schedule for June 2024.</p>	
5	<p>Project Updates</p> <p><u>Revolving Fund</u></p> <p>SC stated we have completed a purchase at Windmill Road for the Revolving Fund. We are in the process of getting documentation together to sell the land. There is already planning permission for housing.</p> <p><u>Public Realm</u></p> <p>Going well. However, we are coming across issues such as concrete in the ground and utilities that were not identified.</p> <p>We have had delays with supply of materials. We are working with Tarmac to mitigate this, however currently it has not altered the programme.</p> <p>We are continuing regular communication with McDonalds and Next as they are impacted by the works, and hold regular stakeholder meetings.</p> <p>MS confirmed the Tunnel of Light has been cancelled for this year. SG stated there are no alternatives available for this year. No decision has been made in the longer term.</p> <p><u>Digital Hub</u></p>	

We have received two bids from our second tender. We are happy with the proposed operational management. The bids are very different, and the project team are currently going through an evaluation process which will be completed by w/c 16 October. CSa is involved in the decision process.

There is already delegated authority for Graham Nelson to award the contract.

SC stated she will need help from the Board in promoting the Digital Hub and its benefits to the community.

The Halls

The intrusive surveys have been completed. Historic England indicated they would like the proposed location for the new lift to be changed to an area that was originally a door opening but blocked up pre-Victorian times. There was the possibility of finding a medieval staircase into the cloisters in this location which would have impacted the relocation.

The original doorway was found, however no evidence of a staircase was discovered, therefore we can proceed with installing a lift in the HE preferred location.

During the investigations there were media requests for information on the staircase, however there has been no further requests.

Clare Hubery submitted an expression of interest to the Arts Council, and we have had confirmation that we can bid for additional funding of circa £490k. The bid has been submitted but we will not be notified if we are successful until April 24, therefore we will tender for these works on a 'shopping list' basis which allows us to exclude the works from the main contract but bring them into the project if we are successful in the bid.

AD discussed looking at making the Halls a creative and multi-use space and looking at alternative funding options to enable this.

SS confirmed there is communication between the Halls and the Cultural Compact team for which Clare Hubery is acting as liaison.

Branding

SG shared a presentation on Work in Norwich which was circulated prior to the meeting.

	<p>At the beginning the conversations related to investing in Norwich. It then became clear that it should not solely be about investing but also working in Norwich.</p> <p>SG shared an example of a billboard. Online was looked at as well to hit as many demographics as possible. A website was built including videos. Social media has been used as well as going out to see groups.</p> <p>SG shared statistics in relation to the project.</p> <p>SG discussed the next steps for phase 2 and how to make Work in Norwich sustainable.</p> <p>AD asked the Board if this a project we should continue to support.</p> <p>MS as the level of interest dropped when the campaign was over, we need to look at ways of continuing the activities.</p> <p>AD discussed where we could look at funding to continue the campaign, such as Norwich City Council, Norfolk County Council and LEP.</p> <p>SG asked if money from the Towns Deal Fund, such as the Revolving Fund, could be used to fund the WiN project.</p> <p>ET stated, at the moment the priority is very much to deliver on the original eight projects as outlined in our BID. We have made a commitment to deliver these projects and with four particularly challenging projects still in their delivery phase it is not possible to identify whether there may be any underspend available to allocate elsewhere.</p> <p>In addition, the WIN project requires revenue funding; Towns' Fund is a capital funding scheme, and it is not possible to convert capital funding to revenue. There is no likelihood of revenue funding becoming available within the programme as we have already identified a shortfall in the revenue funding required to pay for our programme team.</p>	
6	<p>AOB</p> <p>None</p>	

Next Meetings

Monday 30 October – 10am

Monday 27 November – 2pm

Monday 18 December – 10am