

NORWICH TOWNS DEAL BOARD

MONDAY 27 NOVEMBER, 2.00PM

Via MS Teams

Attendees:

Andrew Dernie (AD) (CHAIR) – Aviva	Nova Fairbank (NF) – Norfolk Chamber
Chris Sargisson (CSa) – Norfolk Chamber	Chamber
Graham Nelson (GN) – Norwich City Council	Christie Waddington (CW) – DWP
Sarah Collins (SC) – Norwich City Council	Jerry White (JW) – CCN
Cllr Mike Stonard (MS) – Norwich City Council	Alice Saunders (AS) – Office of Chloe Smith MP
Ellie Hardy (EH) – Norwich City Council	Chris Starkie (CSt) – Norfolk County Council
Michael Pedder (MP) – DLUHC	Julie Schofield (JS) – UEA

Apologies:

Clive Lewis MP	George Denton – South Norfolk & Broadland Council
Julia Nix – Jobcentre Plus	Stefan Gurney – Norwich BID
Ellen Tilney – Norwich City Council	Rosanne Wijnberg – New Anglia
Juliana Meyer – Supapass	Chris Dashper – New Anglia LEP
Phil Courtier – South Norfolk and Broadland	Sarah Steed – Norwich University of the Arts
Chloe Smith MP	
Kris Jones – Tech Velocity	

Ref	Item	ACTION
1	Welcome, Actions, Apologies, Minutes The 30 October 2023 Board minutes were approved, and actions covered.	
2	Update on LUF 3 Funding GN provided an update on the LUF bid. We have received confirmation that the Norwich North bid previously submitted in the summer of 2022, has been successful under the third round of LUF bids. This focussed on Mile Cross and Sloughbottom Park. The bid for the Norwich South constituency remains unsuccessful. However, GN stated that the award for one of the	

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	<p>most deprived communities is undoubtedly good news and one we hope to make the most of to deliver the benefits.</p> <p>JW asked if the report for the original bid in 2022 could be recirculated and if there could be any additional contributions. JW also asked if there will be additional opportunity for the Norwich South bid. GN asked for a summary of the original bid to be created and distributed.</p> <p>GN responded that it is believed there is no further prospect as an individual bid, however there could be a chance to take some elements forward through other means. The third round of the LUF is the last prior to the next General Election.</p> <p>MP added the final amount has now been allocated with £100m set aside for cultural projects and we are waiting on more information on how that will be assigned.</p> <p>AD asked how we get ahead regarding bidding for the cultural projects. MP responded that there is currently no information on this, but he will update the Board as more information becomes available.</p> <p>As the bid was made in 2022, GN, MP and Ellen Tilney are evaluating the bid to see if the outcomes can still be delivered with the same funding. This will then be fed back to DLUHC and has to be submitted by 1 December 2023.</p> <p>There has been positive discussions with the match funding partners, including with the FA regarding incorporating the scheme into their programme. A meeting has been held with the Wildlife Trust, and while there are small issues to be resolved, they are supportive, and a paper is going to the Growth Board to reconfirm the availability of their match funding.</p> <p>DLUHC have asked for the support from key stakeholders and local MP to be established again. AS acknowledged that Chloe Smith offers her full support of the bid and if there is anything further that can be done to let her know.</p> <p>GN explained we have been unable to fully refresh the costs as of yet. There is the issue of inflation relating to build costs since the summer of 2022. It is anticipated that an additional circa £1m is needed to deliver the bid in full. NCC would welcome the opportunity to present a case to DLUHC if there was the possibility of additional funding available to allow us to deliver the full benefits of the scheme.</p>	<p>ET/EH</p> <p>MP, GN, ET</p>

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	<p>MP explained DLUHC recognise that because the bids were made a while ago there will be changes to costs. At this stage we need to look at what is deliverable then DLUHC can assess how to move forward, for example by adjusting the allocation of costs or scaling back the scope.</p>	
3	<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 – due for completion December 2024.</p>	
4	<p>Project Updates</p> <p><u>Digital Hub</u></p> <p>The team have been talking to the successful tenderer and have issued a Letter of Intent. This has been issued due to the complexities with the JCT which needs to be tied into the lease, the Agreement to Lease and the SLA. The Lol allows the contractor to move forward with the design work. Comments from their solicitors are expected by the middle of week commencing 27 November.</p> <p>The successful tenderer have stated they are excited to be awarded the tender and to move forward and work with the digital community and other partners in Norwich.</p>	SC/CSa

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	<p>CSa is ready to meet with the successful tenderer when SC is happy. The only item we are currently waiting on is for the Letter of Intent to be signed. When this is signed this can go ahead.</p> <p><u>Revolving Fund</u></p> <p>The team are moving forward with the Phase 2 sites. Avison Young (AY) are working hard to gather information on the sites, looking at the values.</p> <p>AY are looking at items such as planning issues, applications, and problems of the sites. This will then inform us of the values to negotiate.</p> <p>Communication with the site owners is planned for the end of December 2023. Some owners are already aware that we are evaluating their site.</p> <p>Windmill Road is being advertised for sale on the City Council website and Rightmove. There has been substantial interest, and we are communicating with those who have been in contact. This includes Housing Associations and developers.</p> <p>Bids are to be submitted by the second week of December 2023. It is expected the successful purchaser will be notified in the new year.</p> <p><u>Public Realm</u></p> <p>There have been significant issues with the stone supplier.</p> <p>The supplier has not hit a programme delivery time and what they have delivered has been incorrect or damaged. NCC have been attempting to work with Tarmac to rectify the issues. It was noted that this was not a nominated supplier.</p> <p>The current problem is the supplier provided seating steps where the inside was polished meaning the part people sit on is still rough. The supplier has now collected the stone for it to be rectified. It was stated the stone will be returned by 1 December 2023.</p> <p>It is expected there will be a couple of weeks delay, but this is manageable.</p> <p>JW asked if there is any deadline we need to be aware of to open Hay Hill. SC stated that the aim has always been to finish in Spring 2024.</p>	

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	<p><u>The Halls</u></p> <p>This has gone out to tender. Three contractors have completed a site visit with two booked in for a second site visit. We have been impressed and pleased with the questions being asked. The tender is due to be back on 10 January 2024, and however it is likely that the contractors will ask for an extension.</p> <p>The planning application has been submitted.</p> <p>On submission of the planning application the team were notified that an ecology survey was required. NCC are currently in the process of commissioning this and expect a report to be completed by 8 December. As it has not yet been completed the planning application cannot be registered. SC is due to have a meeting with a planner to discuss how to mitigate delay and risk to the programme.</p> <p>It's too early to determine how this problem will impact the scheme and if it will cause a delay. There are mitigation options, but SC will first need to speak to the planner.</p> <p><u>DigiTech and Ace</u></p> <p>JW provided an update stating all is working well. ACE has been supplemented with almost £1m of additional funding. This means there is a prototype electric racing car, and they are working with a Snetterton company in the centre.</p> <p>The college has contacted local Scout and Guide groups to complete a badge in mechanics, allowing the college to reach out to younger age groups. There has also been contact with Norwich High School for Girls.</p> <p>MP explained that the DigiTech Factory has formed part of the Levelling Up marketing campaign. It was also explained the ACE Centre is being looked at as part of DLUHC's internal review processes of funding streams as an example of an early project that was delivered and considering what can be learned from it. MP is working with Ellen Tilney to consider what went well and what lessons can be taken from it. A visit will then be organised to the scheme.</p> <p>The DigiTech Factory has won a further award in the non-residential category of the Design and Craftsmanship Awards.</p> <p><u>Branding</u></p>	

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	<p>AD discussed the Branding project forming part of DLUHC's marketing campaign. MP responded that the original intention was for it to be involved, but for the moment it will only be the DigiTech Factory as the marketing campaign will move by region. However, MP expressed he was grateful for the response from the Branding team.</p> <p>Norwich BID are continuing to seek funding for the project to make sure the website and content is maintained. If campaigns are to be run, joint investment is needed from other organisations. Stefan Gurney is continuing to speak to Local Authorities and businesses for this investment.</p> <p><u>ENMP and Carrow House</u></p> <p>GN updated that the work through the Towns Deal funding for ENMP had successfully passed the examination from the Government appointed inspectors. Modifications were proposed for some of the policies, but the allocations are being made.</p> <p>These are currently out for consultation which closes on 6 December. The next step will be to get the plan adopted with the intention it can be taken to council in March 2024, and have the Master Plan in a formal supplementary planning document by summer 2024.</p> <p>GN was satisfied with the outcome of the examination.</p> <p>There are still some ongoing planning issues. This includes the application submitted in summer 2023 from Fuel Properties regarding the redevelopment of Carrow Works where there have been many representations submitted including from Historic England and Norfolk County Council. There is due to be a meeting with the applicant to discuss responding to the representations and to consider a revision in order to move forward.</p> <p>There is work going on regarding the Deal Ground and May Gurney site to discharge reserve matters. This will be a technical process, particularly relating to flood risk. We are expecting to resolve this but are currently unable to provide a timetable.</p>	

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5	<p>AOB</p> <p>SC explained twice a year there is an evaluation and monitoring report submitted to DLUHC reporting how each project is performing.</p> <p>This year there has been a change with DLUHC's processes. They have asked that the monitoring form is shared with the Board to look at. Following this, AD will evaluate and sign it.</p> <p>ACTION: Monitoring form to be circulated to Board members.</p> <p>SC shared the form on screen with the Board to review. SC explained what is needed on each section of the form.</p> <p>MP explained one issue that has appeared is inputting recent PAR's resulting in numbers not matching up. If this happens, SC can contact MP for it to be looked into or any other issues.</p> <p>The City Council are going through the five-year corporate plan which is now out for consultation. AD stated there is now opportunity for members of the Board or their network to input on the consultation.</p> <p>AD reminded the Board that there will be no meeting in December 2023.</p>	EH

Next Meetings

Monday 29 January – 2pm

Monday 26 February – 10am

Monday 25 March – 2pm