

## **Norfolk Strategic Planning Member Forum**

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> July 2023 09:30 – 11:30 Yare Room, Horizon Centre and via Microsoft Team**

### **Councillors**

#### **In attendance**

Cllr John Fuller – South Norfolk District Council - Chair  
Cllr Harry Blathwayt – Broads Sub  
Cllr Brian Long – Norfolk County Council  
Cllr Mike Stonard – Norwich City Council  
Cllr Stuart Beadle – Broadland District Council  
Cllr Sarah Suggett – Breckland District Council

#### **Apologies**

Cllr Graham Plant - Great Yarmouth Borough Council  
Cllr Andrew Brown – North Norfolk District Council  
Cllr Graham Plant – Great Yarmouth Borough Council  
Cllr Jim Moriarty – King's Lynn & West Norfolk

### **Supporting Officers**

Natalie Beal – Broads Authority  
Laura Waters – Norfolk County Council  
Judith Davison – Norwich City Council  
Kim Balls – Great Yarmouth Borough Council  
Ninan Xu – Norfolk County Council  
Paul Harris - Broadland and South Norfolk District Councils  
Trevor Wiggett – Strategic Framework Project Manager  
Nick Johnson – Norfolk County Council  
Phil Courtier - Broadland and South Norfolk District Councils  
Jane Locke - Norfolk County Council  
Keith Moore – Environment Agency  
Tom Sayer – Norfolk Environmental Credits  
Craig Boyles – NHS England  
Michael Burton – King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council  
Charlotte Collins – Active Norfolk  
Andrew D'Arcy – Breckland District Council

### **Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

1.1 All Members and officers introduced themselves and apologies were noted (as above).

### **Minutes and Matters arising from meeting of 13<sup>th</sup> January 2023**

2.1 Previous minutes agreed as accurate.

### **GI Rams Update – Trevor Wiggett**

- 3.1 Trevor Wiggett introduced a paper updating Members on the progress of the GI Rams.
- 3.2 Cllr Fuller raised concern over the wording in the paper on the set up of the GI Rams Board. He made it clear that the intention is for the Board to be made up of publicly elected members to be the key decision maker of the allocation of the collected tariff, and not representatives from other organisations such as Natural England and Environment Agency.
- 3.3 Trevor Wiggett clarified that representatives from other organisations would be in advisory roles, supporting the Members in decision making.
- 3.4 Cllr Long suggested that the wordings in paragraph 11 which refers to the Board set up to be amended to reflect the advisory and supportive role to be played by representatives from the aforementioned organisations.
- 3.5 It is agreed that Trevor will amend the wordings in paragraph 11.
- 3.6 Cllr Fuller also recommended arrangements to be made up on setting up the Board, including inviting interested Members across Norfolk LPAs to join the Board, for the upcoming October Member Forum.
- 3.7 Trevor Wiggett updated Members that Footprint Ecology were commissioned in early 2023 to start working on the review of the mitigation package.

### **Biodiversity Net Gain – Trevor Wiggett**

- 4.1 Trevor Wiggett introduced a paper setting out proposals for continued investigation of Biodiversity Net Gains and the impacts it has on LPAs in Norfolk.
- 4.2 Trevor Wiggett also presented a powerpoint slides to Members, informing them of the purpose, contents and impacts of this new requirement where all appropriate developments are expected to deliver a minimum of 10% net gain in biodiversity.
- 4.3 In the presentation, Trevor Wiggett talked about possible areas where all Norfolk LPAs can work together.
- 4.4 Phil Courtier talked about how the recently set up Norfolk Environment Credits can also serves as a trading platform to facilitate the buying of environmental credits.
- 4.5 Cllr Fuller has requested Norfolk Environment Credits to prepare some proposals on how it might serve as a trading platform for Biodiversity Net Gain for the October Member Forum, to inform future work on BNG implementation.
- 4.6 Cllr Blathwayt supported this proposal in principle, although he pointed Broads Authority, is not officially part of the Norfolk Environment Credits. Phil Courtier confirmed that Norfolk Environment Credits would trade with developers in the Broads.

## **Nutrient Neutrality and Joint Venture – Tom Sayer**

- 5.1 Tom Sayer presented to Members on the launch the Joint Venture Company of Norfolk Environmental Credits, which would provide a platform for property developers to buy environmental credits to demonstrate nutrient neutrality.
- 5.2 The company has made a capital bid of £13m as seed funding to support a portfolio of mitigation solutions as part of a £35.3m three-year programme.
- 5.3 Tom Sayer informed Members that there are a number of work streams including progressing our first mitigation scheme for the Yare Catchment which will unlock over 5000 homes, trading credits from late summer.
- 5.4 The Norfolk Environmental Credits Joint Venture Board has started the recruitment process to appoint an Independent Chair.
- 5.5 Members endorsed the approach taken by Norfolk Environmental Credits.

## **Neighbouring Counties Update**

- 6.1 Ninan Xu gave the forum an update the local plans progress across Suffolk County, on behalf of Suffolk County Council.
- 6.2 Updates include Suffolk County Council recently provided responses to the South Norfolk Village Clusters Housing Allocations Plan. This raised some concern for Suffolk around provision of details on cross border traffic impacts.
- 6.3 Paul Harris responded that this matter has been raised with South Norfolk District Council at the Regulation 18 consultation stage. The Council believed these issues to have been resolved. As such, it is unclear why they have been raised again. The Council is currently working with Suffolk County Council to resolve this issue.

## **Local Plan Update**

- 7.1 A summary report updating Members on the latest progress of the local plans have been presented to the forum.

## **AOB**

- 8.1 Jane Locke and Craig Boyles gave Members a presentation on Planning in Health and NHS Infrastructure Delivery in Norfolk .
- 8.2 The Health Planning Protocol is a service level agreement between LPAs and NHS estates, East of England Ambulance Service and Public Health to facilitate better health planning.
- 8.3 Craig Boyle also talked about the HUDU tool which NHS estate uses when responding to planning applications.
- 8.4 The current draft of the Health Protocol has already been endorsed by 5 LPAs, but not in South Norfolk and North Norfolk.

- 8.5 Cllr Fuller re-iterated that the general public have made it clear that adequate primary health care provisions should be in line with the level of housing development in an area. And therefore, Cllr Fuller suggests the current Protocol does not go far enough in holding NHS to account in providing a level of service that matches the rate the house building.
- 8.6 Jane explained that the purpose of the Health Protocol is more of an engagement tool, rather than to hold NHS to account to allocate adequate resources. She suggested since the protocol has already been adopted by 5 LPAs, perhaps a addendum added in the appendix could be an option.
- 8.7 Cllr Fuller has asked the Health Protocol to be revised to include provisions that would allow NHS to show how they are working with LPAs to provide adequate health care services, for the October Member Forum.
- 8.8 Cllr Stonard raised a wider question on the shortage of clinical staff in NHS in general.
- 8.9 Cllr Suggett suggested since the Protocol has already been adopted by some authorities, the raised issue may need to be addressed in a new separate document. Cllr Stonard also suggested that a separate agreement outside of the health protocol might be needed.
- 8.10 Cllr Fuller disagreed and suggests all issues should be addressed under one protocol.
- 8.11 The next member forum will be scheduled in October 2023, exact date to be confirmed.