

# Norfolk Strategic Planning Member Forum

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July 2022 11:00-13:00

Edwards Room, County Hall and via Microsoft Team

## Councillors

### In Attendance

Cllr Helen Crane – Breckland District Council  
Cllr John Fuller – South Norfolk District Council - Chair  
Tim Jeckells – Broads Sub  
Cllr Mike Stonard – Norwich City Council  
Cllr Richard Blunt – King's Lynn & West Norfolk  
Cllr Andrew Brown – North Norfolk District Council  
Cllr Graham Plant - Great Yarmouth Borough Council  
Cllr Brian Long – Norfolk County Council

### Apologies

Cllr Susan Lawn – Broadland District Council  
Cllr Melanie Vigo di Gallidoro – Broads Authority

## Supporting Officers

### In Attendance

Mark Ashwell – North Norfolk District Council  
Natalie Beal – Broads Authority  
Stephen Faulkner – Norfolk County Council  
Judith Davison – Norwich City Council  
Sam Hubbard – Great Yarmouth Borough Council  
Ninan Xu – Norfolk County Council  
Paul Harris - Broadland and South Norfolk District Councils  
Rachel Gibbs – Breckland District Council  
Trevor Wiggett – Strategic Framework Project Manager  
Nick Johnson – Norfolk County Council  
David Edwards - Broadland and South Norfolk District Councils  
Phil Courtier - Broadland and South Norfolk District Councils  
Caroline Jeffrey - Norfolk County Council  
Keith Moore – Environment Agency  
Ross Walker – Suffolk County Council  
Ian Dennis – Royal Haskoning  
Oliver Bowers – Royal Haskoning

## **1. Welcome, introductions and Apologies**

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

## **2. Minutes and Matters Arising from Meeting of 25<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

- 2.1. Previous minutes agreed as accurate.

## **3. Nutrient Neutrality Update – Royal Haskoning**

- 3.1. Ian Dennis, from Royal Haskoning, gave the forum a presentation on the latest progress on the Nutrient Neutrality. He set out the legal context of the ruling from the “Dutch case” and Natural England’s subsequent stance on this issue which lead to developers must demonstrate nutrient neutrality or provide mitigation to Local Planning Authority confidence that permitting development will not be unlawful against their duty under Habitat Regulations.
- 3.2. Norfolk has 2 internationally protected sites affected by Nutrient Neutrality, namely River Wensum SAC and Norfolk Broads SAC. This is having significant impact on housing developments across the County,
- 3.3. Royal Haskoning has been commissioned to look into the mitigation measures that are needed to fulfil the requirement of Nutrient Neutrality and unlock growth. The current scope of work includes short- and long-term mitigation measures; catchment mapping and Nutrient budget calculator.
- 3.4. The current key task is to develop a nutrient calculator to provide a rapid and quantifiable assessment of nutrient loading from a development. There are similar calculators endorsed by Natural England in other areas and while the exact data to be used is being finalised, this calculator could potentially save millions of pounds in mitigation requirements. Nutrient Budgets will be developed following completion and adoption of the calculator.
- 3.5. Royal Haskoning will also be developing various solutions to offset the effects of nutrient level in the water, these could include wetlands, catchment-based solutions and non-policy measures such as SuDS.
- 3.6. Cllr Fuller emphasised the importance of the Nutrient Calculator and the iterative process of developing the calculator.
- 3.7. Cllr Fuller referenced Court of Appeal ruling on Natural England guidance, that Local Planning Authorities are the responsible bodies to take cogent reasoning based on scientific evidence to make decisions on issue of Nutrient Neutrality when it comes to determining planning applications.
- 3.8. Members debated in detail on the potential risks and benefits of the current emerging approaches including mitigation measures and Nutrient Calculator.

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

- 4.1. Trevor gave the forum an update on the progress of GI Rams. All local authorities have now introduced the tariff for qualifying developments, in 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.
- 4.2. In term of governance arrangement of delivering the GI Rams, a steering group has been working on the finer details of the logistical arrangement and finalising on the terms of reference for the overarching board and a job description for the Delivery Officer role.
- 4.3. The brief for the New Rams Mitigation Package review study is being finalised and will be going out to tender.

## **5. Neighbouring Counties Update**

- 5.1. Ross Walker gave the forum an update the local plans progress across Suffolk County.

## **6. Local Plan Update**

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

## **7. AOB**

- 7.1. The next member forum will be scheduled in Sept/Oct 2022, exact date to be determined.