

Norfolk Strategic Planning Member Forum

Thursday 1st October 2020

2pm Virtual Forum via Microsoft Team

Minutes

Councillors	Attended	Apologies
Cllr Andrew Brown – North Norfolk District Council	✓	
Cllr Paul Claussen – Breckland Council		x
Cllr Gordon Bambridge – Breckland Council (Sub)	✓	
Cllr Stuart Clancy – Norfolk County Council		x
Cllr John Fuller – South Norfolk District Council - Chair	✓	
Cllr Melanie Vigo di Gallidoro – Broads Authority		x
Mr Bruce Keith – Broads Authority (Sub)	✓	
Cllr Graham Plant - Great Yarmouth Borough Council	✓	
Cllr Richard Blunt – King’s Lynn & West Norfolk	✓	
Cllr Mike Stonard – Norwich City Council	✓	
Cllr Lana Hempsall – Broadland District Council	✓	
Supporting Officers	Attended	Apologies
Mark Ashwell – North Norfolk District Council	✓	
Natalie Beal – Broads Authority	✓	
Rachel Gibbs – Breckland Council		x
Andrew Darcy – Breckland Council	✓	
Keith Moore – Environment Agency	✓	
Stephen Faulkner – Norfolk County Council	✓	
Judith Davison – Norwich City Council	✓	
Simon Marjoram – South Norfolk Council	✓	
Sam Hubbard – Great Yarmouth Borough Council	✓	
Ninan Xu – Norfolk County Council	✓	
Simon Marjoram – Broadland and South Norfolk District Councils	✓	
Paul Harris - Broadland and South Norfolk District Councils		x
Alan Gomm – King’s Lynn and West Norfolk	✓	
Trevor Wigggett – Strategic Framework Project Manager	✓	
Caroline Jeffrey - Norfolk County Council		x
Nick Johnson– Norfolk County Council	✓	
Robin Price – Water Resources East	✓	
Cameron Clow – Suffolk County Council		x
Martin Hinchliffe – Norfolk County Council	✓	

1	Annual Election of Chair	Actions
1.1	Cllr Fuller has been re-elected as the Chair of the Norfolk Strategic Planning Member Forum for the year going forward.	
2	Welcome, introduction and apologies	
2.1	All members and officers introduced themselves and apologies were noted (as above).	
3.1	Minutes and matters arising from meeting of 14th January 2020	
3.1	Previous minutes agreed as accurate.	
3.2	Due to the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, the previously scheduled regular Member Forums that were due to April and July this year were cancelled. This forum is first forum to be held since the outbreak of the pandemic.	
4	Water Resources East (Robin Price)	
4.1	Dr Robin Price gave a presentation on the Water Resources East. WRE is established as an organisation to bring together partners from a wide range industries and bodies to work in collaboration to deliver the vision for the East of England to have sufficient water resources to support a flourishing economy, a thriving environment and the needs of its population, and for the region to be seen as an international exemplar for collaborative integrated water resource management. It is one of the five regional planning groups operating as part of a National Framework for water resources.	
4.2	WRE is intending on to publish a Regional Plan in September 2023, in line with National Framework timescales. This Plan will be a single plan that crosses multiple sectors to enable the most effective form of water management to deliver aims such as increase the level of resilience for water resources; ensuring water is not a barrier to economic growth and explore innovative funding and delivery models for water management solutions. Linked to this, there is also a separate strand for Norfolk Water Management Plan in progress.	
4.3	As part of the Norfolk Water Management Plan, there are ambitions to create pool resource into a single water fund to maximise investment capability as well as idea of constructing reservoirs to store and enable more effective usage of excessive water obtained during wet season for farming and economic development purposes.	
4.4	Members were supportive of this work and asked numerous inquisitive questions on the conceptual details of the reservoirs.	
5	Central and Eastern Norfolk Housing Needs Assessment Update (Judith Davison)	

5.1	Judith Davison, Planning Policy Team Leader for Norwich City Council, who project manages the commissioning process for Central and Eastern Norfolk Housing Needs Assessment, has produced a paper to provide an update on the progress of the project.	
5.2	In order to inform local plan progress, a decision was taken by the Norfolk Strategic Planning Officers group to progress a new joint local housing needs assessment for all Norfolk authorities except for King's Lynn and West Norfolk given their recently published LHNA. Preparation on the commissioning of a new LHNA is already underway and a brief has been prepared.	
5.3	The current process is made somewhat uncertain due to the Government's latest publication of a consultation seeking views on the acceptability of a revised method of accessing housing need. The revised methodology will, if implemented, have a significant impact on the local housing need compared to the current method.	
5.4	For these reasons, Judith explained to Members that officers have agreed to give further consideration to their individual evidence requirements in relation to housing need in order to inform the timescales for procurement of CENHNA.	
5.5	Cllr Hemsall reinforced the need during in this uncertain time not to press ahead in haste with the procurement process.	
5.6	Cllr Plant emphasised the need for a power for government either to incentivise or punish those who obtain planning permissions for a long period of time without any intention to carry out construction work.	
5.7	Members agreed with the recommended approach to give further consideration to their individual evidence requirements in relation to housing need in order to inform the timescales for procurement of CENHNA.	
6	Planning for the Future (Sam Hubbard)	
6.1	Sam Hubbard, Strategic Planning Manager for Great Yarmouth Borough Council, gave a presentation summarising the key points in the Government's white paper on for Planning for the future.	
6.2	There are 3 main pillars to this which includes planning for development, planning for beautiful and sustainable places; and planning for Infrastructure and connected places. Land will be divided into Growth, renewal and protection zones, with Duty to Co-operate proposed to be abolished and much shorter timescale for local plan production.	
7	Green Infrastructure and Recreation Avoidance Mitigation Strategy (Alan Gomm)	

7.1	Alan Gomm, Planning Policy Manager for Borough Council for King's Lynn and West Norfolk, gave an update on the progress of the GI and Rams Study. This study combines into one document of exploring the accessibility to, and potential opportunities for green infrastructure but at the same time making proposals for managing visitor impacts on Natura 2000 designated sites. This latter being a legal requirement in Habitats Regulations Assessment.	
7.2	The overall conclusion is that no extra county scale solutions are needed to meet new housing growth and the study will also provide a detailed costed programme of strategic mitigation measures which is recommended for funding by developer contributions from residential development schemes. Similar RAMS schemes exist in other parts of Country including Suffolk.	
7.3	This work will be finalised in the next 2 months and recommendations will be reported to Members at the next forum.	
7.4	Members were comfortable with the tariff approach as long the amount does not go above a certain threshold and discussed at length the nature, purpose and potential usage of the tariff.	
8	Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework Update (Trevor Wiggett)	
8.1	Trevor Wiggett, Norfolk Strategic Planning Framework Project Manager, produced a report updating Members on the progress of the framework.	
8.2	A refreshed version of the framework will be provided in early 2021. There will be an additional December Member forum planned to review the refreshed draft framework and ready for sign off in the January 2021 forum.	
8.3	ACTION: Trevor to provide Members with a draft refreshed version of the framework in the December Member forum.	TW
8.4	Trevor talked through plans for next year's programme of work including Norfolk Design guide, Implementation of the RAMS tariff, and possible assessment of a county wide approach to new settlement.	
8.5	Members discussed in detail on the future works programme, especially on the County wide approach to new settlement. Cllr Plant thought it was a potentially a good way to accommodate extra housing growth. Cllr Fuller thought while we can debate this as an idea at a basic level in this forum, we are a long way away from substantiating this as a concrete solution.	
8.6	Members collectively endorsed the future work programme.	
9	Budget 2021-22	
9.1	The budget paper prepared by Trevor proposed continuation of the current arrangement of each district contributing £10,000 and Broads	

	authority £5,000. Norfolk County Council will continue to fund datasets fees as well as providing officer support.	
9.2	Members have collectively agreed the Budget for 2021-22.	
10	Neighbouring Counties Update	
	Camera Clow, Senior Planning Officer from Suffolk County Council, has send his apology as he was supposed to present this item.	
11	Local Plan Update	
11.1	A summary report updating members on the latest progress of the local plans have been presented at the forum. Updates noted.	
12	AOB	
12.1	The next member forum will be arranged in early December, exact date to be confirmed by Ninan Xu.	