

# Environment, Development and Transport Committee

Item No.

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| <b>Report title:</b>   | <b>Recommendations of the Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP) Board</b> |
| <b>Date of meeting:</b>  | <b>27 January 2017</b>   |
| <b>Responsible Chief Officer:</b>  | <b>Tom McCabe, Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services</b>        |
| <b>Strategic impact</b><br>Working in partnership across Greater Norwich will help to deliver infrastructure and jobs. |  |

## Executive summary

At the 8 July 2016 meeting, EDT Committee agreed to support the re-establishment of the Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP) Board and appoint three Members to serve on it. The GNDP Board oversees the production of the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) for Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk. The Board is not a decision making body and its recommendations are considered by each of the partners. While the plan making responsibility remains with the district councils, in the spirit of partnership, the County Council will endorse the recommendations of the Board as appropriate. This helps us discharge our responsibilities under the “duty to co-operate” and demonstrates unity of purpose, supporting the delivery of economic growth and infrastructure in the Greater Norwich area.

The second meeting of the re-established GNDP Board took place on 14 November 2016. The Board agreed to modify their terms of reference to allow public questions.

The Board considered a progress report on the [Greater Norwich Local Plan \(GNLP\)](#). The Board noted progress made on the GNLP, agreed the next steps for plan preparation and provided early views on key issues and themes to be considered through the Plan. At this early stage there are no specific recommendations from the Board that require endorsement although Members may also wish to comment on any of the key issues and themes.

## Recommendations

### Members agree to:

- **Note progress on the production of the Greater Norwich Local Plan.**

## 1. Proposal

- 1.1. The Greater Norwich Development Partnership (GNDP) Board oversees the production of the Greater Norwich Local Plan (GNLP) for Broadland, Norwich and South Norfolk. The Board is not a decision making body and its recommendations are considered by each of the partners. While the plan making responsibility remains with the district councils, in the spirit of partnership, EDT Committee will endorse the recommendations of the Board as appropriate. This helps us discharge our responsibilities under the “duty to co-operate”, required under the Localism Act 2011, and demonstrates unity of purpose, supporting the delivery of economic growth and infrastructure. The County Council is represented on the

## GNDP Board by Councillors Clancy, East and Wilby

- 1.2. The second meeting of the re-established GNDP Board took place on 14 November 2016. The Board agreed to modify their terms of reference to allow public questions.
- 1.3. A number of different strands of work being progressed for the Greater Norwich Local Plan and are described in sections 3 to 8 of the GNDP report (linked above). The main issues are set out below with a brief summary of the feedback from GNDP board members. Official minutes of the meeting will be published in due course. The GNDP report also includes minor revisions to the partnership's Terms of Reference (section 9) and Next Steps for the GNLP (section 10).
- 1.4. GNDP Board Members were very keen to stress that the plan should have a significant focus on both local and strategic infrastructure and that it should reflect any progress on the Norwich Western Link.
- 1.5. The Board considered draft Local Plan objectives and asked for them to be revisited and rewritten to make them more sharply focused, with a greater emphasis on infrastructure provision and delivery of sites.
- 1.6. The Progress Report outlines the response to the GNLP "Call for Sites" exercise. Over 500 prospective sites have been submitted totalling about 3,850 hectares of land for housing, retail and commercial uses, mixed use development and open space. Significantly more land has been proposed than will be required to meet the objectively assessed need for new homes in the area by 2036 as set out in the Central Norfolk Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA). Board Members made it clear that officers should not restrict their considerations to the sites that have been submitted and should seek out sites which can help to deliver strategic objectives. Members also emphasised that there is a need to ensure there is sufficient land for employment as well as housing.
- 1.7. The progress report provides a high-level, preliminary assessment of the potential for strategic-scale growth (1000 dwellings plus) at 22 locations across Greater Norwich. Further work is anticipated to refine the analysis and identify potential locations for smaller scale growth in the light of ongoing evidence gathering. Members requested that when the next stage of analysis is undertaken it should be more forward thinking. This includes taking greater account of the impact of planned and potential infrastructure, in particular the completed NDR, the Long Stratton By-pass and (as noted above) any progress on the Norwich Western Link.
- 1.8. As part of a discussion on the outcome of stakeholder workshops held earlier in the year, the Board requested that a paper on whether the GNLP should retain a Norwich Policy Area (NPA)<sup>[1]</sup> should be considered at a GNDP meeting to be arranged in January (subsequently arranged for 30 January 2017). Members agreed the criteria to be covered should include: economic development including Travel to Work and commuting issues; infrastructure provision; meeting housing needs including consideration of the SHMA; the strategic role of the NPA given that the GNLP includes site allocations; land supply; housing delivery; accessing funding; assessing windfall planning applications; and appropriate NPA boundaries if retained. The Board emphasised that the report should be a technical and evidence based.
- 1.9. At this early stage there are no specific recommendations from the Board that require endorsement. This report keeps Committee informed of progress on this key Greater Norwich partnership activity and Members are asked to note progress

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<sup>[1]</sup> The **Norwich Policy Area** is defined in the current adopted Joint Core Strategy for planning purposes as "*Part of the county which is centred on and strongly influenced by the presence of Norwich as a centre for employment, shopping and entertainment, generally comprising the fringe and first ring of large villages around the city of Norwich, but extending to Long Stratton and Wymondham*". The NPA is the same as the NATS area.

on the production of the Greater Norwich Local Plan. Members may wish to comment on key issues and themes for the plan.

- 1.10. Further information on the GNDP Board, including the full set of Board papers, and the emerging Local Plan can be found at <http://www.greaternorwichgrowth.org.uk/planning/greater-norwich-local-plan/>

## **2. Financial Implications**

- 2.1. There are no direct financial implications. Staff support is managed through existing resources.

## **3. Issues, risks and innovation**

- 3.1. There are no other significant issues that arise from this decision. This kind of partnership remains innovative.

## **4. Background**

- 4.1. The County Council has been working successfully in partnership across the Greater Norwich area for a number of years through the previous incarnation of the Greater Norwich Development Partnership and through the Greater Norwich Growth Board. Working in partnership has helped bring significant investment for infrastructure to the area.

### **Officer Contact**

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper or want to see copies of any assessments, eg equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

**Officer name :** Phil Morris

**Tel No. :** 01603 222730

**Email address :** [phil.morris@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:phil.morris@norfolk.gov.uk)



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