



Norfolk County Council

Joint Committee for Transforming Cities Funds Minutes of the Meeting Held on 14 October 2020 at on Microsoft Teams (virtual Meeting)

Present:

Cllr Martin Wilby (Chairman)

Norfolk County Council

Cllr Barry Stone (Vice-Chairman)

Norfolk County Council

Cllr Lana Hemsall

Broadland District Council

Peter Joyner

New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

Cllr Kay Mason-Billig

South Norfolk District Council

Cllr Mike Stonard

Norwich City Council

Cllr Ian Stutely

Norwich City Council

Cllr Brian Watkins

Norfolk County Council

Substitute Members Present

Cllr Danny Douglas for Cllr Steve Morpew Norfolk County Council

Also Present

Mohammed Balan

Civil Engineer, Norfolk County Council

Stuart Payne

Associate (WSP), Norfolk County Council

Jonathan Taylor

Project Engineer - Highways Design (Team 1), Norfolk County Council

Jeremy Wiggin

Transport for Norwich Manager, Norfolk County Council

Chris Andrews

Stakeholder and Engagement, Norfolk County Council

1. Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Steve Morpew (Cllr Danny Douglas substituting).

2. Minutes of last meeting

- 2.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 September 2020 were **agreed** as an accurate record.

2.2 Matters arising from the minutes

- Cllr Danny Douglas requested an update on progress towards having electric buses in Norwich City Centre. The Transport for Norwich Manager reported that there had been no feedback from the expression of interest submitted as part of the Government's "all electric bus town initiative" but the application was still live and it had not been decided who would progress to the next stage. First Bus had put £18m funding investment towards upgrading their vehicles as part of the award of Transforming Cities Funding and were willing to look at converting to electric vehicles if there was further financial support from Government. Therefore, discussions to seek funding were being held with Government.
- Cllr Watkins queried whether plans to remove the 2 lime trees in Tombland and

replace them with saplings could be reviewed, noting that a petition had been lodged to save them. The Transport for Norwich Manager clarified that the Tombland scheme had been approved by the Joint Committee and work had started on the site. Removal of the trees was necessary to allow construction on the site and make the space more accessible; if plans were amended this would require re-designing the scheme. The 2 lime trees were being replaced with 5 trees of different species and the Chairman noted that the replacement trees would be more substantial than saplings.

3. Declarations of Interest

- 3.1 No interests were declared.

4. Election of Vice-Chair

- 4.1 Cllr Kay Mason-Billig, seconded by Cllr Lana Hemsall, nominated Cllr Barry Stone.
- 4.2 With 6 votes for and 1 abstention, Cllr Barry Stone was **elected** as Vice-Chair for the ensuing Council year.

5. Items received as urgent business

- 5.1 No urgent business was discussed

6. Point of Order

- 6.1 The Joint Committee took item 6 first, "Transforming Cities – Marriott's Way to Hellesdon Road" before returning to the running order of the agenda.

7. Transforming Cities – Marriott's Way to Hellesdon Road

- 7.1 The Joint Committee received the report setting out proposals developed for the Marriott's Way to Hellesdon Road scheme in Norwich, which would be delivered as an 'early win' in the Transforming Cities Fund delivery programme. The Joint Committee heard a brief overview of the report by the Transport for Norwich Manager.
- 7.2 Cllr Ian Stutely arrived at 2.12
- 7.3 The following reports were discussed and noted:
- It was queried why a segregated pedestrian and cycle route had been ruled out. The Transport for Norwich Manager clarified that to do this, a wider route would be needed, and it was likely that more trees would need to be removed than proposed
 - Proposals had been subject to a safety audit to ensure the crossing had the correct vision splays and some vegetation would be trimmed back to improve sight lines. Warning signs would be put in the vicinity to update motorists to the changes.
 - The proposals were out to consultation between 12 August and 7 September 2020 and a good number of responses were received, all of which had been replied to.
 - A Member pointed out that it was DfT (Department for Transport) policy for

cycleways and footpaths to be segregated. The Transport for Norwich Manager confirmed the change in guidance indicated that DfT wanted pedestrians and cycles to be segregated from traffic and where possible each other. However, as a substantial element of design work for the scheme had already been undertaken when this change of guidance was released, and as the space to incorporate it was not available, it had not been possible to implement it in this case.

- A pedestrian and cycle count had not been carried out recently on the route, but as cycling had doubled and the number of walkers had increased by 170% in Norwich in recent weeks and months, it was thought that figures would be higher than quoted in the report.
- Cllr Mike Stonard joined the meeting at 14.22.
- The Project Engineer - Highways Design (Team 1), confirmed that the network team were comfortable with proposals around the bridge in the scheme but **agreed** to seek written confirmation on this.
- A response had been drafted to the query received from a member of the public and would be forwarded on to him after the meeting.
- Cllr Stutely was concerned about the proposal to cut down Category B trees. The Transport for Norwich Manager replied that an independent arboricultural assessment had been carried out which recommended a number of trees to be removed and replaced with 48 trees of species in keeping with the local environment. Retained trees would be protected during construction works using fencing and “no dig” works. The Transport for Norwich Manager **agreed** to forward the arboricultural assessment on to Cllr Stutely.
- Cllr Douglas queried whether the pedestrian route could be retained in its current position and the cycle way re-directed along the proposed new route so that more trees could be retained and the routes segregated. The Transport for Norwich Manager explained that redesigning the scheme would require another arboricultural and other environmental assessments to be carried out. The funding received to deliver the scheme would not be sufficient to deliver two different routes as suggested. Additionally, this scheme had been put forward as an early win and if not approved at the meeting would be delayed by an undetermined amount of time
- This proposal formed part of the infrastructure and development plan as part of future funding bids to Government

7.4 With 7 votes for and 2 votes against, the Joint Committee **RESOLVED** to

1. **APPROVE** the proposals for a section of Marriott’s Way between Gunton Lane car park and Hellesdon Road, to make walking and cycling safer and more convenient, as shown in the plan in Appendix C of the report.
2. **COMMENCE** the statutory procedures associated with the legal notice for the parallel crossing and associated raised table on Hellesdon Road.

8. TCF Tranche 2 funding verbal update

8.1 The Joint Committee heard a verbal update from the Transport for Norwich Manager:

- An announcement had been made by Government on the resubmission for Transforming Cities Tranche 2 Funding made earlier in the year, 2020.
- The funding awarded equate to the core package of £32m, and would allow the Council to deliver in excess of 30 schemes over the next 2 years across Greater Norwich.
- There may be an opportunity to be awarded more funding if other areas were not

successful in receiving their core funding.

- Full details of the application was on the Norfolk County Council website: ([please click to view website](#))
- The Transport for Norwich Manager was happy to arrange to brief members in more detail about the plan for the next 2 years at a later date.

8.2 It was queried whether the A146 could be included in schemes if the opportunity arose to be awarded more funding.

8.3 The Joint Committee **NOTED** the verbal update.

The Meeting Closed at 14:42

**Cllr Martin Wilby, Chair,
Joint Committee for Transforming Cities Funds**



If you need this document in large print, audio, Braille, alternative format or in a different language please contact 0344 800 8020 or 0344 800 8011 (textphone) and we will do our best to help.