

PLANNING POLICY & BUILT HERITAGE WORKING PARTY

Minutes of the meeting of the Planning Policy & Built Heritage Working Party held on Thursday, 21 November 2024 at the Council Chamber - Council Offices at 10.00 am

Committee	Cllr M Hankins (Chairman)	Cllr A Varley (Vice-Chairman)
Members Present:	Cllr A Brown	Cllr N Dixon
	Cllr P Fisher	Cllr V Holliday
	Cllr J Toye	

Officers in Attendance:	Planning Policy Team Leader, Democratic Services & Governance Officer, Planning Monitoring Officer and Senior Planning Officer
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Apologies for Absence:	Cllr M Batey
	Cllr H Blathwayt
	Cllr P Heinrich
	Cllr L Paterson
	Cllr J Punchard
	Cllr W Fredericks

19 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr M Batey, Cllr W Fredericks, Cllr P Heinrich, Cllr L Paterson, Cllr J Punchard and the Assistant Director for Planning.

20 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None received.

21 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held Thursday 10th October 2024 were approved as a correct record.

22 ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS

None.

23 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

24 NORFOLK GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND RECREATIONAL IMPACT AVOIDANCE AND MITIGATION STRATEGY

The Acting Planning Policy Manager introduced the attached Officers report. He advised the strategy is now at the stage of implementation having gone through the Norfolk Strategic Framework. The Officer shared a memorandum of understanding for a member led forum, run by Project Officer based at Norwich City Council.

Cllr N Dixon expressed concern relating to matters of governance and accountability, related to the selection criteria and merit of schemes as well as the evidence of long-term and short-term outcomes. Understands there is a healthy

funding stream, which appears to be delivering but would query the evidence for this.

With reference to the second recommendation, Cllr N Dixon expresses the importance of a member on the board able to represent concerns and raise them at the forum. He also finds the absence of NCC as part of the scheme worrying and would expect them to lead the scheme given their area coverage. He believes this offers a significant impediment to the completeness of the scheme.

Cllr V Holliday shared her concerns with the evidence base and sense checking of actions, with some proposals having the consequence of increasing footfall to sensitive areas.

Having spent time on the previous strategy, Cllr V Holliday advised this had much more prioritisation on local green infrastructure. She advises the zones of influence are much smaller, previously reaching Peterborough and Lincolnshire but now restricted to Norfolk. She also noted that the GIRAMS payments are much lower than elsewhere nationally and queried why NNDC had been capped at a lower figure.

Cllr V Holliday cautioned against installing a WooWoo Loo due to increase of footfall hindering ability to cope.

Cllr J Toye raised concerns over the governance and control of how this project is delivered. Querying whether the data shared, particularly in relation to housing, is up-to-date or needs a proposal to be reviewed.

The Acting Planning Policy Manager advised that the implementation of mitigation was not considered specific enough which has led to further work on aims of the project.

The Senior Planning Officer advised there will be a combination of projects with focus on recreational activities away from European sites, these projects will be subject to ongoing monitoring to make sure they are achieving the desired outcomes. The Senior Planning Officer advised with new mitigation and avoidance measures success will be varied hence the various projects to recognise what is effective.

The Senior Planning Officer advised NCC would not make decisions on schemes relating to housing growth which may influence their involvement in the project.

With reference to the zones of influences, NNDC cannot charge GIRAMS outside of the county, which is noted as a countrywide issue. The tariff is charged based on overnight accommodation including tourist accommodation. It is based on a calculation of current projects and subject to change based on new projects and inflation.

The Acting Planning Policy Manager referenced the housing growth which has been based on the most up-to-date figures and continue to be revised each time. Does not include further consultation figures. In relation to the Memorandum to Understanding, NNDC are committed to implement the scheme. Whilst NCC were involved with trying to host, there was a legal issue which made this not possible.

Cllr V Holliday reiterated the concern for lack of evidence and data. Questioned where the expertise is coming from on the board and questioned the lack of money going into the diversionary projects. Queried the judgement of not adjusting the tariff until the next review, preventing the implementation of projects in the meantime.

The officers confirmed that the Senior Planning Officer would be involved with the projects. They confirmed the diversionary projects are long-term goals. The tariff is index linked, going up with inflation. Regarding the tariff there is no impact on our budget, as it is based on diversionary project contributions, however if there were significant projects they may require a contribution from the Council. It is important to get this in motion and start delivering.

Cllr A Brown advised that he attended the Norfolk Strategic Planning Member Forum when action plan was first aired. Stated the next 22 years of action plan would cost twenty-two million pounds, increasing the per dwelling tariff of 33%, which developers would see as a stealth tax affecting their value for money.

Cllr A Brown reiterated the concerns regarding governance arrangements and NCC not playing a prominent role. As portfolio holder and attendee of Norfolk Strategic Planning Member Forum would be agreeable to sit on the board.

Cllr A Brown asked if there are any different policies regarding monies going across to NCC.

The Acting Planning Policy Manager advised without the scheme, the developer would need to develop their own HRA scheme which would be onerous and therefore they willingly pay the fee. The monies referenced are collected via either S111 or S106 agreement. The action plan looks at proportionate funding, with the expectation of other funding streams, not just GIRAMS.

Cllr J Toye reiterated the desire for NCC involved with the project. Cllr A Brown agreed.

The Acting Planning Policy Manager explained that as NCC are not responsible bodies, this would not be possible as this is a Local Authority group. They are involved with steering group but would not be a signature due to their own rules. NCC do not collect GIRAMS money.

Cllr J Toye believes that as it is a countywide project, they should be involved with no voting rights as an advisory capacity.

Cllr N Dixon echoed the concerns regarding NCC involvement and would like to thoroughly investigate this decision. Need the evidence of governance, accountability, and progress updates to be clear and communicated.

With reference to the nomination of an appropriate Member to sit on the GIRAMS board, Cllr N Dixon believes having another voice alongside Cllr A Brown as Portfolio Holder is important and therefore nominated Cllr V Holliday as the appropriate Member to sit on the GIRAMS board.

Cllr V Holliday confirmed her desire to be on the board. Would like NCC to be on the board as a voting member and there is a need for an earlier review date.

Cllr N Dixon proposed the endorsement of the recommendations with caveats, including the review of appropriate representatives. The final wording to be drafted

by the Acting Planning Policy Manager in consultation with the Portfolio Holder and Chair of Planning Policy & Built Heritage Working Party.

Cllr J Toye suggested the addition of reference to the endorsement of the attendance of appropriate representatives, including NCC, who offer countywide oversight. Cllr N Dixon echoed the need to endorse the addition of value from appropriate representatives.

The Acting Planning Policy Manager advised he can put some wording together and circulate it back to the board for distribution. Advised NCC will most likely be involved on their own behalf.

Cllr N Dixon proposed Cllr V Holliday as the appropriate Member to sit on the GIRAMS board. Cllr P Fisher seconded the motion.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

Cllr N Dixon proposed the Officer's recommendation. Cllr P Fisher seconded the motion.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

Members of the Planning Policy & Built Heritage Working Party recommend to Cabinet that:

- I. The Action Plan and Governance arrangements are endorsed**
- II. Nominate appropriate Member to sit on the GIRAMS board**

25 PLANNING IN HEALTH PROTOCOL

The Acting Planning Policy Manager outlined the updated 'Planning in Health Protocol.' This was endorsed by Norfolk Strategy Framework as well as the Health and Wellbeing Board with draft approval by the ICB Executive Management team. It was previously endorsed by this Work Party and NNDC as a council.

Cllr N Dixon felt that the documents are important but secondary to delivery. Cllr V Holliday supported Cllr N Dixon's views in welcoming the document with concerns regarding the implementation and funding streams. Considering the document aspirational and would like the document to be continually reviewed.

The Acting Planning Policy Manager advised the document is evolving, with further editions expected. NNDC have not been involved in the development of this but have contributing through the Norfolk Strategic Framework, NNDC policies would require health impact assessments.

Cllr J Toye questioned whether there are safeguards in place to prevent cumulative effects of developments. The Acting Planning Policy Manager advised that NNDC's local plan is input into the model.

Cllr A Brown advised the Planning in Health Protocol is a revisit, previously sent back by NNDC with recommendations. There is reference to the community infrastructure levy, are we at a disadvantage by not adhering to this. He asked how NNDC would engage with this project.

The Acting Planning Policy Manager advised he does not have an answer for this as the delivery of health infrastructure is not a planning authorities' responsibility. The protocol states there is one point of contact for health at the application level.

Cllr A Brown proposed the Officer's recommendation. Cllr A Varley seconded the motion.

UNANIMOUSLY RESOLVED

Members of the Planning Policy & Built Heritage Working Party:

- I. note the updated content and the new approach to embedding health and wellbeing in spatial planning and
- II. recommend to Cabinet that the revised Planning for Health Protocol be used when preparing Local Plans and determining planning applications.

26 ANNUAL MONITORING REPORT - PRESENTATION

The Planning Monitoring Officer introduced the report, which was for information only.

27 EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

The meeting ended at 12.06 pm.

Chairman