



WNDC Public Board Minutes

Present

John Markham (JM) Chair
John Weir (JW) Vice Chair
Cllr. Sandra Barnes (SB)
Cllr. Joy Capstick (JC)
Cllr. Richard Church (RC)
David Dickinson (DD)
John Farrow (JF)
Ann Tate (AT)
Cllr. Tony Woods (TW)

In attendance:

Peter Mawson (PM) Chief Executive

Roger Mendonca (RM) Chief Operating Officer & Deputy Chief Executive

Adrian Arnold (AA) Director of Planning Services

Chris Garden (CG) – Director of Regeneration and Development

Nigel Greenhalgh (NG) – Interim Director of Implementation & Delivery

Gail Mathers – Board Secretary

Rhea Keehn – Governance, Policy & Comms. Officer

Paper Reference: 2010-06-03-01

Minutes from Board Meeting held at the

Heroes Lounge
Franklins Gardens
Northampton
NN5 5WU

2.00 pm

6 July 2010

Paper reference	Minutes	Action
1. n/a	<p>Apologies</p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllr. Chris Millar, Cllr. Jim Harker, Nick Thompson, Mary Burrows, Robert Cayzer, Xavia Morbey and Ann Battom.</p>	
2. n/a	<p>Declaration of Interests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AT declared a personal non-prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 6 as a member of the iCon (EM) Board and as Vice Chancellor of the University of Northampton. • JM & DD declared a personal non-prejudicial interest as Board members of NEL. 	
3. Paper Ref. 2010-05-03-01	<p>Minutes</p> <p>IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:</p> <p>The minutes be approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 25 May 2010 subject to the following amendment:</p> <p>In the Minutes of the 25 May 2010 paragraph 6.3.1 to read:</p> <p><i>“National Grid”</i> and not <i>“Network Rail”</i></p>	
4. n/a	<p>Matters arising</p> <p>4.1 Northampton Market Square Lighting project now complete. Official launch held on 8 June 2010.</p>	
5. Paper Ref. 2010-05-05-01	<p>Chief Executive’s Report</p> <p>PM introduced the report and summarised a number of activities over the last month. The following points were made:</p> <p>Working with Government</p> <p>5.1 The Minister responsible for WNDC has been confirmed. Andrew Stunell OBE is a Parliamentary Under Secretary of State within CLG.</p> <p>5.2 An invitation has been extended to the Minister for him to visit WNDC in order to demonstrate the importance of the</p>	

	<p>projects we are delivering in West Northamptonshire. Confirmation of this visit is awaited.</p> <p>5.3 WNDC has made a significant contribution to the lean efficiency programme by achieving an in-year revenue savings of 25% during the last financial year.</p> <p>Progress through partnership</p> <p>5.4 The Corporation collected two Green Apple Awards for the Built Environment which relate to the iCon centre for sustainable construction, as well as the zero carbon Sainsbury's distribution centre at Pineham.</p> <p>5.5 The University of Northampton won the Times Higher Education 'Outstanding Estates Team' Award in recognition of its campus improvement and property expansion activities.</p> <p>Working with the Community</p> <p>5.6 Upton Lodge Farm House played host to a corporate social responsibility day by Northampton-based firm Johnson Diversey.</p> <p>5.7 Stronger Communities Fund signed off through the panel another £115,000.</p> <p>5.8 WNDC is now part of Northamptonshire Chamber's Business Alliance Group where we hope to build stronger relationships with the local business community.</p> <p>5.9 We continue to secure significant development contributions through S106 agreements.</p> <p>Communications</p> <p>5.10 8 June 2010 saw the launch of the Manual for Design Codes in London.</p> <p>5.11 Construction Futures continues to receive positive coverage in leading publications. This scheme is becoming a model of best practice for other planning authorities across the UK.</p> <p>5.12 The Market Square lighting scheme completed and was well received by the local press, radio and television.</p>	
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	<p>5.13 An unqualified Audit Report has been received by the Corporation for its Annual Report and Accounts to the 31 March 2010 and will be laid before Parliament on 12 July 2010.</p> <p>5.14 It was reported that Becketts Park marina was progressing well. This project, when completed, will demonstrate what a massive resource the entire Waterside stretch, including Becketts Park, is to the benefit of all the people of Northampton.</p> <p>5.15 The Pride of Lions project, which WNDC has contributed to, has proved to be an astonishing success. This project has drawn people into the town centre and captured their imagination as a public art project and demonstrates how a public art project can contribute to the vitality of a place.</p> <p>The Board noted the report.</p>	
<p>6. Paper Ref. 2010-05-06-01</p>	<p>Regeneration and Development and Implementation and Delivery</p> <p>CG introduced the report providing an overview of all the projects we are involved with. In discussion the following points were made:</p> <p>6.1 Key highlights</p> <p>6.1.1 The first meeting of the Northampton Station Steering Group has approved the basis of the station design.</p> <p>6.1.2 The Stronger Communities Fund panel has approved funding for 12 new projects across West Northamptonshire to the value of £115,000.</p> <p>6.1.3 Process for procuring a private sector development partner for the Moat lane project has started and the forthcoming Developers Day is scheduled for Friday 9 July 2010 where 40 companies have expressed an interest.</p> <p>6.2 London Road/Ransome Road Junction Improvements</p> <p>6.2.1 The planning application for Ransome Road has now</p>	

<p>Paper Ref. 2010-05-06-02</p>	<p>been with the Corporation for some time. This is for 850 new homes and involves a significant improvement to Ransome Road and is part of the wider strategy for regenerating not only Ransome Road but also Avon Nunn Mills.</p> <p>6.2.2 CLG agreed to the funding of this project, however approval is awaited from Treasury.</p> <p>6.3 Grosvenor Centre</p> <p>6.3.1 Engagement process will start on the pre-application phase, not only with the applicant but with key stakeholders, in September 2010.</p> <p>The Board noted the report.</p> <p>6.4 Horizon Project Update</p> <p>6.4.1 This project was set up to lever in and secure additional external funding to add to the growth funding that we are allocated direct from CLG.</p> <p>6.4.2 WNDC has had a good track record of bringing in additional funding. To date the project has prepared ten full bids and secured £5.3m with a further £4.5m under consideration.</p> <p>6.4.3 WNDC's partners have been included in these bids.</p> <p>6.4.4 With the project approaching the end of its first year of operating there are some lessons to be learnt. One being our inability to target funding on our key strategic projects, with the exception of the East Midlands Urban Development Fund, through which we are optimistic of leveraging funding on the Waterside or St. Johns sites.</p> <p>6.4.6 External funding process still requires significant WNDC time and resources.</p>	
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	<p>6.4.7 As we move forward, external funding will prove to be more important and there is a need to work very closely with our partners so as to have a joined up approach to funding strategies.</p> <p>6.4.8 As the project comes to a conclusion we will be reviewing how it has worked for us and looking for options to continuing it on a performance related fee basis.</p> <p>The Board noted the report.</p>	
<p>7. Paper Ref. 2010-05-07-01</p> <p>Paper Ref. 2010-05-07-02</p>	<p>Planning</p> <p>AA introduced the report. In discussion the following points were made:</p> <p>Highlights</p> <p>7.1 Planning Application Performance has remained satisfactory.</p> <p>7.2 Applications determined in April and May totalled 25 with the number on hand at the end of May standing at 63.</p> <p>7.3 A number of notable major planning applications have been approved.</p> <p>IT WAS RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note current planning performance. 2. Note the planning update and review of the major applications. 3. Note the planning decisions in Appendix A. <p>The West Northamptonshire Sustainability Manual</p> <p>7.4 A completed Manual was presented to the Board for approval for use in making decisions on planning applications.</p> <p>7.5 Discussions are on-going with local authority partners to allow them to take the Manual forward for development</p>	

<p>Paper Ref. 2010-05-07-03</p>	<p>control purposes.</p> <p>IT WAS RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Approve the Sustainability Manual for the purposes of development control. 2. Delegate to the Director of Planning Services the finalisation and publication of the West Northamptonshire Sustainability Manual for development control purposes. <p>Planning Obligations Strategy Review</p> <p>7.6 The recommendations set out for approval are as follows:</p> <p>7.6.1 The review of the Planning Obligations Strategy be progressed and public consultation on the proposed revision commence.</p> <p>7.6.2 The revised POS be presented to the Board for approval for the purposes of development control.</p> <p>7.6.3 The assessment and determination of planning applications and the provision of pre-application advice be continued reflecting the components of Option 2 and the requirements of the CIL Regulations.</p> <p>7.6.4 The Corporation continues to engage with public sector partners on this key issue.</p> <p>7.7 It was noted that in paragraph 7.1 the word <i>“lawful”</i> be amended to <i>“defensible”</i>.</p> <p>7.8 A note of thanks was extended to AA and his team in recognition of the hard work and effort put into this document.</p> <p>IT WAS RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the report. 	
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	2. Approve the recommendations as set out above.	
<p>8. Paper Ref. 2010-05-08-01</p> <p>Paper Ref. 2010-05-08-02</p>	<p>Finance</p> <p>PM introduced the report. In discussion the following points were made:</p> <p>8.1 Part 1 of the report advises that the Audit and Risk Committee received confirmation from the National Audit Office that it was prepared to recommend to the Comptroller that the Accounts to the end of March 2010 were to receive an unqualified audit approval.</p> <p>8.2 The Comptroller and Auditor General has signed off the accounts and they will be laid before Parliament on 12 July 2010.</p> <p>8.3 Note the use of the Corporate Seal.</p> <p>IT WAS RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the report. 2. Approve the use of the Corporate Seal. 	
<p>9. 2010-03-09-01</p>	<p>Operations</p> <p>RM introduced the report and the following points were made in discussion:</p> <p>9.1 The Audit & Risk Committee met on the 21 and 25 June 2010. The Annual Report & Accounts for 2009/10, the Internal Audit Programme for 2010/11, health and safety, risk management and project reporting were discussed.</p> <p>9.2 Noted that Cllr. Brian Markham has been nominated to the Northampton Area Planning Committee. Cllr. Sadik Chaudhury has been nominated as Cllr. Markham's replacement as a substitute.</p> <p>9.3 Board approval is sought for Cllr. Chaudhury's appointment.</p> <p>9.4 This appointment will require confirmation from the Secretary of State.</p>	

	<p>IT WAS RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Note the current operational issues as set out in the report. 2. Note the discussions at the Audit & Risk Committee on 21 June and 25 June 2010. 3. Approve the appointment of Cllr. Sadik Chaudhury as a substitute to the Northampton Area Planning Committee, subject to confirmation from the Secretary of State. 	
10.	<p>Forthcoming meetings:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 21 September 2010 2. 2 November 2010 3. 7 December 2010 	
11.	<p>There being no further business the meeting closed at 14:55</p> <p>Gail Mathers</p> <p>Board Secretary</p> <p>6 July 2010</p> <p>Signed by the Chairman</p> <p>Dated</p>	