



# WNDC Public Board Minutes

## Present

John Markham (JM) (Chair)  
John Weir (JW) (Vice Chair)  
Cllr. Sandra Barnes (SB)  
Mary Burrows (MB)  
Cllr. Joy Capstick (JC)  
Cllr. Richard Church (RC)  
Cllr. Chris Millar (CM)  
Nick Thompson (NT)

## In attendance:

Peter Mawson (PM) Chief Executive

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

Ann Battom (AB) - Head of Finance & Resources

Adrian Arnold (AA) - Director of Planning Services

Chris Garden (CG) – Director of Regeneration and Development

Charles Amies – (HCA)

Gail Mathers (GM) – Secretary to the Board

Rhea Keehn (RK) – Governance, Policy and Communications Officer

Paper Reference: 2011-02-03-01

Minutes from Board Meeting held at the

WNDC

Meeting Rooms 1 & 2

2.00 pm

1 February 2011

Paper reference	Minutes	Action
1. n/a	<p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>Apologies were received from Cllr. Jim Harker, Cllr. Tony Woods, Tim Coburn and Hilary Chipping</p>	
2. n/a	<p><b>Declaration of Interests</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JM declared a personal non-prejudicial interest as a member of the NEL Board.</li> </ul>	
3. Paper Ref. 2011-01-03-01	<p><b>Minutes</b></p> <p><b>IT WAS RESOLVED THAT:</b></p> <p>The minutes are <b>approved</b> as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 7 December 2010.</p>	
4. n/a	<p><b>Matters arising – None.</b></p>	
5. Paper Ref. 2011-01-05-01	<p><b>Chief Executive's Report</b></p> <p>PM introduced the report. In discussion the following points were made:</p> <p><b>Positive signs for 2011</b></p> <p>5.1 Notwithstanding the current challenging economic conditions WNDC and local authority partners have an important role to play.</p> <p>5.2 The area continues to receive strong interest from investors and developers, with Moat Lane attracting national recognition.</p> <p><b>Delivering for our customers</b></p> <p>5.3 The renovation of Bury Mount has won a prestigious national award, the BALI award from the British Association of Landscape Industries.</p> <p>5.4. The 20 January 2011 saw the official opening of the Sandy Lane Improvement North road.</p> <p>5.5 Planning permission has been granted for BMW's new national distribution centre at Pineham.</p>	

	<p>5.6 Pineham continues to attract investment, enabling two local companies – EBC Brakes and Frem Ltd to remain in Northampton and expand their operations.</p> <p><b>Engaging the Market</b></p> <p>5.7 Marketing and communications strategies for all our key projects continue, including the iCon and Construction Futures.</p> <p>5.8 At a recent Northamptonshire Economic Forum, WNDC was a panellist discussing issues relating to the economic growth of the area.</p> <p>5.9 WNDC is procuring a digital interactive 3D Model for Northampton and Daventry town centres. This can be used to market key sites to investors and is being developed in partnership with the local authorities.</p> <p><b>IT WAS RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD :</b></p> <p>1. <b>Note</b> the progress WNDC has made regarding the growth and regeneration of Northampton, Daventry and Towcester.</p>	
<p>6. Paper Ref. 2011-01-06-01 &amp; Paper Ref. 2011-01-06-02</p>	<p><b>Finance</b></p> <p>AB introduced the report. In discussion the following points were made:</p> <p><b>Growth Fund</b></p> <p>6.1 We are currently in Q3 of our financial year to December 2010. Growth Fund totalling £6.401m has been invested in West Northamptonshire projects. This figure represents 77% of the total available for the year and is an increase of 28% on the equivalent period last financial year.</p> <p><b>WNDC Management Report &amp; Accounts</b></p> <p>6.2 Noted the financial statements for the period under review to 31 December 2010.</p>	

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>S106 Report</b></p> <p><b>6.3</b> A summary shows that WNDC has received £3.680m of S106 monies to date of which WNDC has invested a total of £2.781m, as at 18 January 2011.</p> <p><b>6.4</b> NBC signed a Protocol with WNDC in December 2010 which will enable further investment of S106 monies held.</p> <p><b>IT WAS RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Note</b> the report.</li> <li>2. <b>Note</b> that the Corporate Seal has not been used in the period.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>7.</b> <b>Paper Ref.</b> <b>2011-01-07-01</b></p>	<p><b>Regeneration &amp; Development and Implementation &amp; Delivery</b></p> <p>CG reported that WNDC continues to make progress across all regeneration projects. In discussion the following points were made:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Summary</b></p> <p><b>7.1</b> Moat Lane CPO inquiry took place on the 18 January 2011.</p> <p><b>7.2</b> Sandy Lane Improvement North was officially opened on the 20 January 2011 and is now open to traffic.</p> <p><b>7.3</b> Ransome Road/London Road junction improvement has started on site, enabling the first phase of the development at Ransome Road to commence.</p> <p><b>7.4</b> Construction of the new Facilities Building at Becket's Park started on site in January 2011.</p> <p><b>7.7</b> GRIP Stage 4 outline designs for Castle Station were completed and issued to Network Rail for approval in December 2010. Sign-off is expected in mid February 2011.</p> <p>The Board <b>noted</b> the report.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Regional Growth Fund (Round One) Bid: Northampton Rail and Business Hub</b></p> <p><b>7.7</b> A presentation on the Regional Growth Fund (RGF) which is a £1.4billion fund that will operate for 3 years between 2011</p>	

	<p>and 2014 was given to the Board at the last Board meeting. It had been proposed that the bid focus on the Castle Station area.</p> <p><b>7.8</b> Five bids totalling £54m were submitted for the West Northamptonshire area.</p> <p><b>7.9</b> WNDC has decided not to proceed with the round one bid for Castle Station given the number of competing bids and the need for further review by partner agencies including Network Rail and DfT.</p> <p><b>IT HAS BEEN RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Note</b> the bids that have been submitted in the first round of the Regional Growth Fund by various agencies within West Northamptonshire.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>8.</b> Paper Ref. 2011-01-08-01</p>	<p><b>Planning</b></p> <p>AA introduced the report. In discussion the following points were made:</p> <p><b>Highlights</b></p> <p><b>7.1</b> Business Plan projects within the control of WNDC have been achieved.</p> <p><b>7.2</b> Overall performance has remained acceptable.</p> <p><b>IT WAS RESOLVED THAT THE BOARD:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Note</b> the current position regarding Business Plan projects.</li> <li><b>Note</b> the planning performance.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>9.</b> Paper Ref. 2011-01-09-01</p>	<p><b>Operations</b></p> <p>RM introduced the report and the following points were made in discussion:</p>	

	<p><b>Health &amp; Safety</b></p> <p>9.1 There were no accidents or near misses to report.</p> <p><b>Business Continuity</b></p> <p>9.2 A plan has been developed to enable WNDC to recover effectively in the event of an emergency or disaster. Recovery plans will be in place and will be tested in February.</p> <p><b>Audit &amp; Risk</b></p> <p>9.3 The Audit &amp; Risk Committee met on the 24 January.</p> <p>9.4 Chairman’s briefing notes are as follows:</p> <p>9.4.1 Bill Ockenden, who has been the Corporation’s Internal Auditor since inception is retiring. The Committee recorded its thanks for all his hard work and support. Peter Reeves will be Bill’s replacement.</p> <p>9.4.2 All actions from the last meeting have been completed.</p> <p>9.4.3 WNDC Management Accounts Q3 2010/11 was presented showing a healthy position with income better than forecast and overall year to date expenditure in line with budget.</p> <p>9.4.4 Continuing transfer of S106 monies to partner organisations and a Protocol has now been signed with Northampton Borough Council.</p> <p>9.4.5 Audit timetable – a schedule has been agreed to ensure laying of WNDC accounts prior to Parliamentary recess (19 July 2011).</p> <p><b>Transparency / Freedom of Information (FOI)</b></p> <p>9.5 Since 1 December 2010 there have been six Freedom of Information requests. All requests have been responded to on time or before the due date.</p> <p>The Board <b>noted</b> the report.</p>	
--	--	--

10.	There being no further business the meeting closed at 14:45.  Gail Mathers  Board Secretary  1 February 2011  Signed by the Chairman: .....  Dated: .....	
-----	---	--

DRAFT