

Greater Thetford Development Partnership

Objective 1 : To seek and lobby for investment and improvement in strategic infrastructure

Update Report October 2017

1 Introduction

Greater Thetford is at a significant crossroads with regard to its future development. With the completion of the A11 dualling in 2014 and the first phase of housing now confirmed for the Sustainable Urban Extension to the north of Thetford, opportunities exist to positively shape the future direction of economic and social development within Greater Thetford.

Underpinning that growth requires a well planned programme of works to improve essential elements of the area's infrastructure. So as not to duplicate work on other objectives, it is proposed that Objective 1 concentrates on transport and utilities infrastructure, with other areas of work considered by agreement with the board.

2 List of identified Strategic Infrastructure

Ely Junction – Ely Area Enhancement Project	
Description	Improvements to Ely North Rail Junction to increase rail capacity and provide improvements for both freight and passenger services across key routes. Five railway lines presently converge at Queen Adelaide, two miles north of Ely, making it a very complex area to address in terms of improving rail traffic flow.
Current Status	The project has strong LA support and two LEPs and the Strategic Freight Network have committed funding for technical feasibility work. The feasibility work is ongoing as a precursor to securing a place in the next Network Rail Programme which runs from 2020 to 2029.
Lead Bodies	New Anglia LEP, Greater Cambridge Greater Peterborough LEP, Network Rail
Delivery Body	Network Rail
Funding	£3.3m by NA LEP £3.3m by GCGP LEP £2.2m by the Government's Strategic Freight Network
GTDP Objective	tbc
Proposed GTDP Activity	tbc

A11 Thetford Junctions	
Description	Possible improvements to the five A11 junctions serving Greater Thetford, required as traffic flows increase, partly due to the SUE but also due to the increasing importance of the A11 as the major trunk road connection between Norwich, Cambridge and London.
Current Status	The existing planning conditions and agreements for the Thetford SUE have identified mitigation at the existing junctions to be delivered through development. A bid for Growth Deal 3 is being developed to secure

	funding to carry out feasibility work to develop more long term solutions at these junctions.
Lead Bodies	Norfolk County Council, Highways England
Delivery Body	Highways England
Funding	tbc, possible funding opportunities:- National Productivity Investment Fund (NPIF) Highways England Roads Investment Strategy 2 (2020 – 2025)
GTDP Objective	tbc
Proposed GTDP Activity	tbc

Thetford Railway Station	
Description	Greater Anglia (GA) operate the franchise that covers maintenance and management of the stations, including Thetford (East Midlands operate the franchise to provide trains from Norwich to Liverpool but do not have responsibility for stations).
Current Status	There are no plans for further improvement of Thetford Station, but opportunities exist to work with GA to identify further enhancements. GA are looking at service and rolling stock improvements and Norfolk County Council will continue to lobby for improvements.
Lead Bodies	DfT, Norfolk County Council, Greater Anglia (trading name of Abellio East Anglia Ltd.)
Delivery Body	Greater Anglia
Funding	tbc
GTDP Objective	tbc
Proposed GTDP Activity	tbc

Thetford Town Centre Signing and Traffic Management	
Description	Programme to improve pedestrian, cycle and road management in and around Thetford Town Centre.
Current Status	Town centre signing for car parks and pedestrians already implemented. Initial feasibility work being carried out to identify short term traffic management improvement opportunities. Stakeholder consultation on delivery options early 2018.
Lead Bodies	Norfolk County Council, Breckland Council, Thetford Town Council
Delivery Body	Norfolk County Council
Funding	tbc
GTDP Objective	tbc
Proposed GTDP Activity	tbc

Market Town Network Improvement Strategy	
Description	This strategy will facilitate Norfolk's market towns' and larger villages' sustainable development through addressing the transport pressures of planned housing and employment growth by improving access to public transport and reducing congestion.
Current Status	NCC has committed to carry out five market town studies in the first year. Thetford is within that first wave of studies. Officers are contacting the key stakeholders and will be asking for a GTDP board member to sit on the working group.
Lead Bodies	Norfolk County Council
Delivery Body	tbc

Funding	tbc
GTDP Objective	tbc
Proposed GTDP Activity	tbc

Thetford Electricity Capacity Improvements	
Description	The major housing development to the north of Thetford (SUE) and the expansion of employment land (TEP and SUE) will require a major upgrade of electricity capacity to the north of Thetford.
Current Status	Discussions are ongoing with UKPN to continue to examine both the short and long term power needs for Thetford, so we can best work in partnership with them to ensure the best technical solutions are adopted. Breckland Council submitted a bid to the Housing and Communities Agency (HCA) in September which included the cost of delivering a new primary Substation on the Thetford SUE. This would represent a major step in upgrading Thetford's long term power capacity.
Lead Bodies	Breckland Council, Norfolk County Council, UKPN, Pigeon
Delivery Body	tbc
Funding	tbc
GTDP Objective	tbc
Proposed GTDP Activity	tbc

Thetford Water Capacity Improvements	
Description	The major housing development to the north of Thetford (SUE) and the development of employment land (TEP and SUE) will require a major upgrade of water capacity to the north of Thetford. Anglian Water has provided outline details of a scheme to bring additional water via new mains piping to the Mundford Road Reservoir and from the reservoir to serve the SUE and TEP.
Current Status	Breckland Council submitted a bid to the Housing and Communities Agency (HCA) in September which included a contribution to the cost of upgrading water capacity to serve north Thetford.
Lead Bodies	Breckland Council, Norfolk County Council, Anglian Water, Pigeon
Delivery Body	tbc
Funding	tbc
GTDP Objective	tbc
Proposed GTDP Activity	tbc

3 Broader strategic linkages

Economic Strategy for the East

Author: New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership

Publication Date: tbc

Stated Ambitions:-

- The place where high growth businesses with aspirations choose to be
- **A well connected place *particular relevance to GTDP Objective 1***
- A high performing productive economy
- An international facing economy with high value exports
- An inclusive economy with a highly skilled workforce

- A centre for the UK's low carbon energy sector
- A place with a clear, ambitious offer to the world

Norfolk Infrastructure Delivery Plan 2017-2027

Author : Norfolk County Council

Publication Date: tbc

The Norfolk Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) pulls together information on the key infrastructure needed to deliver economic growth in Norfolk. It is a working document that will be reviewed annually as information becomes available and we progress the projects through to delivery. The Plan will help co-ordinate implementation, prioritise activity and respond to any funding opportunities. The IDP sets out Norfolk's high level strategic infrastructure priorities for the next 10 years.

This proposed project list has been compiled in conjunction with stakeholders including internal county council departments, district councils, utility companies and government agencies. These projects align with the County Council's priority for improved infrastructure, the ambitions of the recently adopted Norfolk and Suffolk Economic Strategy (NSES), the County Council's new administration's "caring for your county" priorities focussing on caring for your roads and environment and Children's Services Local Growth and Investment Plan assessing the impact of growth on schools. There are many other infrastructure schemes and projects important across the county. The IDP includes the most strategic projects on which the county council or other partners are actively working and which have a recognised route towards delivery.

The infrastructure projects in this delivery plan are appropriately in sync with the recently published Industrial Strategy, which identifies growth as being clustered around centres of skills and ideas. All of the projects will deliver the physical infrastructure that is essential to promote these economic growth locations.

Building Our Industrial Strategy - Green Paper

Author : HM Government

Published : January 2017

'A vision for a modern British industrial strategy that does not repeat the mistakes of our past, and learns the lessons of our own successes and those of our overseas competitors. It is a vision to support, strengthen and develop our different industries, and to get all parts of the country firing on all cylinders.'

Based on 10 pillars

1. Investing in science, research and innovation
2. Developing Skills
3. **Upgrading infrastructure - we must upgrade our standards of performance on digital, energy, transport, water and flood defence infrastructure, and better align central government infrastructure investment with local growth priorities. *particular relevance to GTDP Objective 1***
4. Supporting businesses to start and grow
5. Improving procurement

6. Encouraging trade and inward investment
7. Delivering affordable energy and clean growth
8. Cultivating world-leading sectors
9. **Driving growth across the whole county - we will create a framework to build on the particular strengths of different places and address factors that hold places back – whether it is investing in key infrastructure projects to encourage growth, increasing skill levels, or backing local innovation strengths. *particular relevance to GTDP Objective 1***
10. Creating the right institutions to bring together sectors and places

https://beisgovuk.citizenspace.com/strategy/industrial-strategy/supporting_documents/buildingourindustrialstrategygreenpaper.pdf

According to the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, a follow up White Paper is expected to be published later this year.