



Cabinet

Tuesday, 14 November 2023

Growth Board Review

Report of the Director Development and Economic Growth

Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Growth and Development, Councillor Brennan

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. This report follows the reports to Cabinet in June 2023 and Growth and Development Scrutiny Committee in October 2023. The report to Cabinet in June set out the process for the review of the growth boards with a recommendation for a report to go to Growth and Development Scrutiny for a review of options for the future structure of the boards.
- 1.2. The report to Growth and Development Scrutiny outlined the review process and a preferred option for the future structure of the boards. This was supported by the Group with a recommendation to Cabinet for approval.
- 1.3. This report is seeking Cabinet's approval for the new structure for the boards as well as the proposed terms of reference.

2. Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet

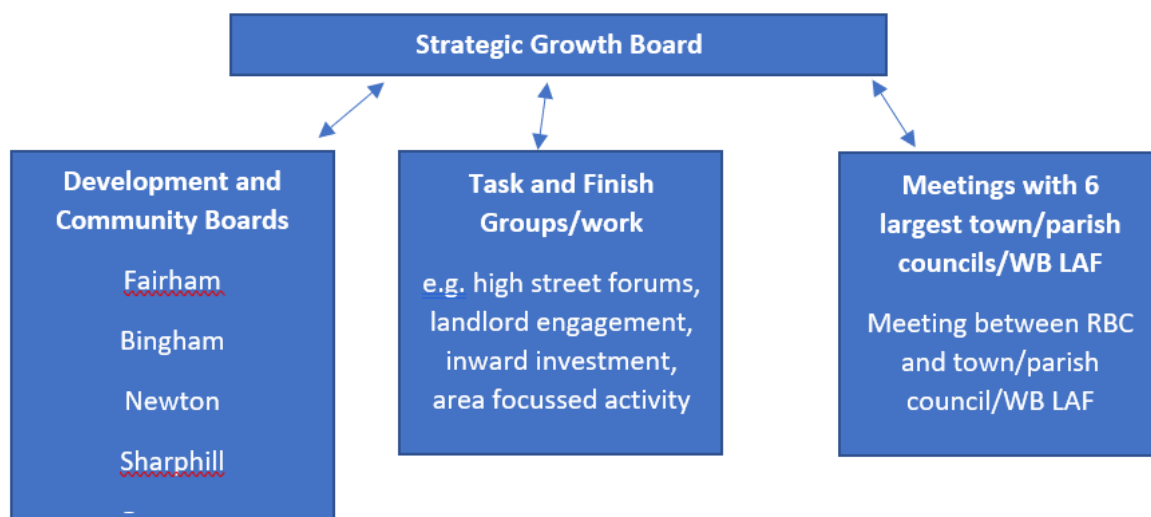
- a) approve the new structure for the boards (paragraph 4.2)
- b) Agree the proposed terms of reference template included as appendix A and B and delegate authority to adapt as necessary to the Director Development and Economic Growth

3. Reasons for Recommendation

- 3.1. Following a Cabinet recommendation in June 2023, officers carried out a review of the existing local growth boards that the Council has been operating since 2015. This resulted in the development of a proposed new structure which was shared with and supported by Growth and Development Scrutiny Group.
- 3.2. This report is seeking Cabinet's approval for the proposed new structure to enable officers to communicate and implement these changes.

4. Supporting Information

- 4.1. Following the report to Cabinet in June 2023, a review was carried out of the existing local growth boards. This review included a survey (sent to existing board members, councillors and businesses) and a review of the terms of reference of the boards. The report to Growth and Development Scrutiny Group provided insight from the review and a proposed new structure for the boards.
- 4.2. The proposed new structure is set out below and includes:
- Strategic Growth Board which is an existing Board but its objectives have been changed and the revised draft terms of reference has been included at appendix A
 - Development and Community Boards – some of these are existing Boards and some will be new. The focus will be on the new housing being built in the particular area and the terms of reference for the Fairham Board as an example have been included as appendix B
 - Task and finish groups which will be established as required to focus on a particular topic or area of interest. Paragraph 4.8 below sets out some questions that need to be considered before the establishment of new groups
 - Meetings with the 6 largest town/parish councils and West Bridgford Local Area Forum. These will be an opportunity for issues within the local community to be raised with the Council. These are not intended to be operate as formal board and will be smaller meetings with limited attendees and so it is not anticipated terms of reference are required.
- 4.3. The term Growth Board has been used for these boards since 2015; however, as the new structure no longer aligns to the previous delivery model, the boards will no longer be referred to as growth boards. The proposed new structure shared with the Growth and Development Scrutiny Group is as follows:



- 4.4. As Cabinet will be aware, the Fairham, Newton and Sharphill boards already exist. This new structure means:
- East Leake Growth Board no longer meet – issues that arise can still be dealt with via more focussed groups. For example, the Integrated Care Partnership have now arranged monthly meetings of identified stakeholders to progress the health centre development project
 - Bingham Growth Board would no longer meet in its current format – this would switch its focus to the development site. In addition, there is the Bingham car parking group, supported by the Borough Council
 - Radcliffe on Trent Growth Board no longer meet – issues that arise can still be dealt with via more focussed groups
 - West Bridgford Growth Board no longer meet – issues that arise can still be dealt with via more focussed groups.
- 4.5. Members of the Growth and Development Scrutiny Group were supportive of this proposal. Comments that were made included:
- Make sure that objectives for the new boards/groups are clear so people understand why they are there
 - Be realistic with what can be achieved by the boards
 - Consider the links between new development sites and existing town/village centres and ensure the link with existing communities is not lost with the focus on development sites
 - If possible, include neighbouring parish councils in meetings with the larger six.
- 4.6. The above points have been considered and taken into account when developing the draft terms of reference for the boards. Proposed terms of reference have been provided at Appendix A for the revised Strategic Growth Board and Appendix B for one of the development and community boards (Fairham included as an existing board which will be used as the blueprint for future boards). The task and finish group's terms of reference will be shaped by the focus for that group and as they are established terms of reference will be developed as required.
- 4.7. As reflected in the report to Scrutiny, one of the important areas of focus for the Strategic Growth Board will be the development of an economic growth strategy for the Borough. This has been identified as a strategic task within the refreshed Corporate Strategy (subject to approval) and will assist in the identification of priorities for the Board and any task and finish groups.
- 4.8. When considering establishing task and finish groups it is important to reflect the additional areas of work of the Council (as outlined in the two previous reports) to ensure there is no duplication and to effectively manage resources. It is recommended that some key questions should be asked when new groups are proposed:
- Does the area of work/focus align with the objectives of the Strategic Growth Board?
 - Is the Borough Council the right organisation to be leading the work?
 - Is there a clear objective to be delivered/achieved?

- Is the proposed purpose of the group deliverable within a reasonable timescale?
- Does the Strategic Growth Board support the establishment of the Group?

4.9. All the existing boards are supported by officers from the Economic Growth Team, with the changing nature/focus of the Board, consideration will be given to who is best placed to support the new boards. This includes administration as well as project management and delivery. The support will continue to be provided by Borough Council officers and is likely to include other departments; for example, the meetings with parishes may be supported by different directors or service managers, each of whom would lead on the relationship with different areas.

4.10. It is proposed that, subject to Cabinet approval, the Strategic Growth Board meeting scheduled for 4 December 2023 remains and is an opportunity for the Board to consider priorities. In addition, the Bingham development and community board is arranged before the end of the year and meetings set up with the parish/town councils and West Bridgford Local Area Forum.

5. Alternative options considered and reasons for rejection

5.1. Included in the report to Growth and Development Scrutiny Group were some alternative options for the future of the boards and the strengths and weaknesses of these options. The preferred option, presented in this report, was supported by the Group.

6. Risks and Uncertainties

6.1. There is a risk that identified organisations or individuals will not engage with the new boards. However, the approach adopted allows more flexibility with the introduction of task and finish group to review membership, objectives etc as required to ensure the right people are involved in relevant discussions.

6.2. There is a risk that there will be requests for a lot of additional meetings which will take a lot of resource to support. This is something that will need to be kept under review to ensure the boards established can be supported and when the remit of a board has been delivered that they do stop meeting to enable other priorities to be focussed on.

7. Implications

7.1. Financial Implications

In 2022, an allocation of £100,000 was made to support the work of the Strategic Growth Board. To date £50,433 of this has been committed of which £30,849 spent and £49,567 uncommitted. Any further funding required would likely be sought from in-year budget efficiencies, via the Strategic Growth Board and ultimately Cabinet approval as existing budgets are utilised.

7.2. Legal Implications

There are no legal implications associated with this report.

7.3. Equalities Implications

There are no equalities implications associated with this report.

7.4. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications

There are no crime and disorder implications associated with this report.

7.5. Biodiversity Net Gain Implications

There are no biodiversity net gain implications associated with this report.

8. Link to Corporate Priorities

The Environment	The Council is committed to sustainable growth and supporting the environment and Growth Boards will operate within this context.
Quality of Life	The Growth Boards' terms of reference demonstrate the range of areas of focus for the boards all of which link to supporting good quality of life for our residents including town centres, infrastructure, education and health.
Efficient Services	The Council has finite financial and staff resources and so needs to work in the most efficient way in relation to the Growth Boards
Sustainable Growth	The Growth Boards' focus has been on supporting the sustainable growth of the Borough, working with stakeholders to create plans delivering outcomes for the Borough's businesses and communities.

9. Recommendations

It is RECOMMENDED that Cabinet

- a) approve the new structure for the boards (paragraph 4.2)
- b) Agree the proposed terms of reference template included as appendix A and B and delegate authority to adapt as necessary to the Director Development and Economic Growth

For more information contact:	Catherine Evans Service Manager Economic Growth and Property 0115 914 8552 cevens@rushcliffe.gov.uk
Background papers available for Inspection:	Cabinet report June 2023 – Process for Growth Board review Growth and Development Scrutiny Report October 2023 – Growth Board review
List of appendices:	Appendix A – Strategic Growth Board draft terms of reference Appendix B – Fairham Board terms of reference