

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

TOWNS FUND BOARD

12 JUNE 2020

PRESENT:

Dr Faisal Baig, North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group (NLCCG), Peter Campey, Humber LEP, Samantha Cooke, Hampton by Hilton, Jo Corney, Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). Holly Mumby-Croft MP, Sophie Day, British Steel, Denise Hyde, North Lincolnshire Council, Lesley Potts, North Lincolnshire Council, Mary Stuart (Chair), University of Lincoln, Kishor Tailor, Humber LEP, Diana Taylor, Marketing Humber, Peter Campey, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), Andrew Percy MP, Councillor Waltham MBE, North Lincolnshire Council, and Duncan Willey, PPH Commercial.

Vikki Oxley was also in attendance.

APOLOGIES – Apologies were received from, David Atkin, British Steel, Joanne Dixon, HBP Systems, Simon Green, Deputy Chief Executive North Lincolnshire Council, and Alan Ross, Stylex Auto Products Ltd,

The meeting was held as a Teleconference.

- 16 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** - The Chair welcomed everyone to the second meeting of the Scunthorpe Towns Fund Board.
- 17 **DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS** – There were no declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests and personal or personal and prejudicial interests.
- 18 **MINUTES - Resolved** – That the minutes of the meeting of the North Lincolnshire Towns Fund Board, held on 28 April 2020, be approved as a correct record.
- 19 **REVISED TOWNS INVESTMENT PLAN TIMEFRAME** – The Assistant Director of Business, Innovation and Skills, Humber updated the Board on recent changes, published by the government, in relation to submitting of the Towns Investment Plan (TIP).

The effects of Covid-19 had been felt directly by all towns, and the impact had been particularly acute for those with the vulnerabilities and weaknesses that the Towns Fund was set up to address.

The Towns Fund was primarily a capital fund. The government intended to support projects that are viable and sustainable in the long term, and which build on the town's assets and strengths. Interventions supported through the Towns Fund should be developed with input from the community, who should feel a genuine sense of

ownership. All interventions should be designed to help generate local economic growth whilst taking into account the principle of clean growth.

Town Investment Plans needed to be submitted by 31 July 2020 for cohort 1, by the end of October 2020 for cohort 2, or by the end of January 2021 for cohort 3.

All towns must submit their TIP by the end of January 2021. All towns would have a second chance to submit their TIP if they are not successful the first time, no matter which cohort they first come forward in.

Resolved –The Head of Economy and Growth, Business Development, North Lincolnshire Council with the support of the board confirmed that the intention was that draft Towns Investment Plan would be submitted in the October 2020 cohort

20 **COMPLEMENTARY GUIDANCE** – The Head of Economy and Growth presented the draft document to the board for comments. The draft guidance was well received by the board.

Resolved – That the board provide any feedback to the Head of Economy and Growth by 27th June. The final draft document would be presented to the board for comment.

21 **SCRUTINY – Resolved** - That consideration of this item be deferred to the next meeting.

22 **PROJECT MANDATES FOR APPROVAL** – The Head of Economy and Growth, Business Development, North Lincolnshire Council submitted a number of project mandates to the Board, for endorsement and approval of the use of the Towns Fund capital funding.

(a) **Journey Time Improvement Programme** - TransPennine Express operate an hourly service from Scunthorpe to Sheffield, with a journey time of around 56 minutes. This is comparable to the length of time it would take to complete the same journey by car. Therefore, rail is not seen as a convenient and practical alternative to the car and it is not always maximised for business or leisure travel. A clear conditional output of two trains per hour from Scunthorpe to Sheffield with a journey time of 30 minutes was proposed. Continued lobbying is required to seek funding to deliver the different elements of the project.

It was envisaged it will take 6 months to do the theoretical line-speed analysis on the routes identified.

Resolved – That the Journey Time Improvement Programme project be endorsed and approved. That the board supports the development of the economic evidence base.

(b) **Hospital Site feasibility and outline business case for new hospital** - This project is for feasibility money for site search, investigation and recommendation. This work is part of the wider project to provide a new hospital in Scunthorpe.

The ask of the board is to support this work with a £20,000 budget to deliver the feasibility work and outline business case in relation to site selection.

Resolved – That a Hospital Site feasibility and outline business case for new hospital project be endorsed and approved.

- (c) **Advanced Manufacturing Park** - The long-term vision for the extension of Humber Enterprise Zone area would support the North Lincolnshire and wider economic geography. It would transform North Lincolnshire into an area where new development and industry, combined with existing steel operations contributed to, and facilitates economic growth and prosperity. It would create one of the UKs largest Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering Hubs. This was in line with the North Lincolnshire Growth Plan 2018-2023.

The location of the Development Zone was on the eastern side of Scunthorpe, in North Lincolnshire. This provided an excellent access to multi-modal connectivity networks. It meant the site is an excellent location for inward investment in the proposed area. Infrastructure would be in place and operational in March 2021. The project was ready and met all required criteria, subject to reserved matters in planning.

Endorsement of the Board had been asked to support the further development of the project, once the new junction on the M181 was in place. This would enable visibility in getting the site ready for investors. Alongside this, a task and finish group would be established to focus on advanced manufacturing and digitalisation.

Resolved – (a) That the Advanced Manufacturing Park project be endorsed and approved; (b) that a task and finish group for further development of the advanced manufacturing park be established, and (c) that Holly Mumby-Croft MP, Simon Green Deputy Chief Executive North Lincolnshire Council, Lesley Potts Head of Economy and Growth, Business Development, North Lincolnshire Council, Duncan Willey, PPH, Sophie Day, British Steel and Councillor Waltham MBE, Leader of North Lincolnshire Council, be members of the task and finish group.

- (d) **Full Fibre Digital Infrastructure** – In North Lincolnshire access to fast, reliable internet connectivity was a necessity for residents, local businesses and public services. Currently the Superfast Broadband provided 94% coverage in our area. Full fibre was required to every premise, to meet current and future demands. Full fibre was widely acknowledged to deliver superior connectivity opening up the next generation of applications for residential and business users.

This project was critical, and would enable, sustain and underpin projects within the Towns Fund investment plan and wider Economic Growth Plan for North Lincolnshire. Private sector interest had been positive, which was needed to drive this project forward and to renew and recover the economy.

Resolved – That the Full Fibre Digital Infrastructure be endorsed and approved.

- (e) **New Museum** - Scunthorpe Towns Fund supported a project to create a new museum offer as part of our Cultural Strategy in Scunthorpe Town Centre. It was proposed to commission a work to undertake an options appraisal and development plan for a new museum for North Lincolnshire. This study, for the development of a new museum, would need to align with, and take on board any findings from the emerging North Lincolnshire Cultural Strategy.

Museums create public interest. They engage their visitors, foster deeper understanding and promote the enjoyment and sharing of authentic cultural and natural heritage.

Resolved –(a) That the New Museum project be endorsed and approved; (b) that the Assistant Director of Business, Innovation and Skills, Humber Local Enterprise Partnership to share government department contact details, and (c) Mary Stuart (Chair) to share contacts of the Arts Council and Lincoln University.

- (f) **Traffic Free Routes** - The project would see the creation of traffic free safe routes to access key employment sites both existing and new. This was a clear strategic focus to enhance our transport offer to the public.

There was significant potential to be catalysts in promoting and enabling healthier and more active lifestyles, as well as promoting sustainable and environmentally friendly means of travel over the council plan period and beyond. There were some cycle routes around the town but there are some gaps in the cycling infrastructure which need completing.

Resolved – That the Traffic Free Routes project be endorsed and approve and is extended to include other modes of active travel including electric scooters. That the project be renamed Sustainable Travel.

The Head of Economy and Growth, Business Development, North Lincolnshire Council, concluded the presentation in confirming that Treasury Green book process was being followed, in relation to developing a business case for all proposed projects.

23

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING – The Chair confirmed that the next meeting of the Board would be at 11am on Friday, 17 July 2020, via Teleconference/MSTeams.