

# NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

## TOWNS FUND BOARD

20 March 2020

### **PRESENT:**

Samantha Cooke, Simon Green, Holly Mumby-Croft MP, Andrew Percy MP, Lesley Potts, Alan Ross, Mary Stuart (Chair), Kishor Tailor, Diana Taylor Councillor Waltham MBE, and Duncan Willey

Vikki Oxley was also in attendance.

**APOLOGIES** – Apologies were received from, David Atkin, Dr Faisal Baig, Peter Campey, Jo Corney, Joanne Dixon, Gary Drane and Denise Hyde

The meeting was held as a Teleconference.

1 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** - The Chair welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Scunthorpe Towns Fund Board.

2 **THE NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE TOWNS FUND BOARD – PURPOSE.** The Chair outlined the prospectus for the £3.6bn Government Towns Fund. .

The Chair explained that the central purpose of the Board was to develop a well-evidenced Town Investment Plan, which set out a clear understanding of the area, focussed on its assets, opportunities and challenges. The amount of investment from the Towns Fund and other funding opportunities will be determined on the strength of the Town Investment Plan.

**Resolved** – That the Towns Fund Prospectus is in the papers for all to read.

3 **THE STORY SO FAR** – The Deputy Chief Executive, North Lincolnshire Council advised the Board –that, in recent years, North Lincolnshire Council had worked to transform Scunthorpe Town Centre in a £60m plus investment to transform the offer.

The Deputy Chief Executive described the Economic Plan, which focussed on the five year period 2018 – 2023, setting out the ideas and support that were needed over this period in order to put the council and its partners in a strong place on which to build and develop. The plan, with the emerging industrial strategy, offered North Lincolnshire the opportunity to deliver its ambitions and realise its potential.

The Deputy Chief Executive concluded by describing the local objectives of creating opportunity, higher value jobs and higher level skills, and increasing productivity, employment and infrastructure.

**Resolved** – That the Deputy Chief Executive’s presentation be noted.

4 **INDICATIVE GEOGRAPHY** – The indicative area of the local Town Deal area, represented on a map, was distributed prior to the meeting. The Chair invited board members to consider the map and indicative geography.

**Resolved** – (a) That the Indicative area of the local Town Deal be noted, and (b) that Board members give consideration to a ‘wider geography and approach’.

5 **INVESTMENT PLAN** - The Deputy Chief Executive outlined the requirements of the Investment Plan, the timescales and a proposed approach for North Lincolnshire.

**Resolved** – (a) It was agreed that the investment plan would be greater than just that for the town’s fund (b) that the plan should seek a culture change as much as a physical environment / productivity change (c) the board decision making criteria should consider; leverage with other projects/programmes, legacy, impact on outcomes, challenge place (d) that a communication from the board was important and a Communication Plan be put in place.

6 **TERMS OF REFERENCE** - The Chair invited the Deputy Chief Executive, North Lincolnshire Council, to submit to the Board the proposed Terms of Reference to consider and approve. This included; (a) the role of the Board and (b) Declarations of Interest provisions.

The Deputy Chief Executive proposed that the Board’s governance and decision-making structures be aligned with North Lincolnshire Council’s governance standards and policies, including around whistle blowing, conflicts of interest, and complaints. Associated support would also be provided by North Lincolnshire Council.

The Chair then facilitated a discussion amongst Board members on the Terms of Reference.

**Resolved** - (a) That the members of North Lincolnshire Towns Fund Board submit comments in relation to the Terms of Reference and proposed governance and decision-making structures, via the Chair, to the Board’s secretariat, (b) that all members complete and return Declarations of Interest to the Boards’ secretary; and (c) that the Terms of Reference of the Board be discussed and considered further at the Board’s next meetings on 28 April 2020.

7 **NEXT STEPS/FORWARD PLAN** – The Chair then facilitated a discussion amongst Board members to agree next steps/forward plan.

**Resolved** – That the Terms of Reference, projects and initiatives to be considered, and consultation with local community stakeholders be included on the agenda for consideration at the Board’s next meeting on 24 April 2020.

8 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING** – The Chair confirmed that the next meeting of the Board would be at 10am on Friday, 24 April 2020, via Teleconference.