

## NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

### TOWNS FUND BOARD

17 July 2020

#### **PRESENT:**

Dr Faisal Baig, North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group (NLCCG), , Samantha Cooke, Hampton by Hilton, Jo Corney, Department of Work and Pensions (DWP). Simon Green, Deputy Chief Executive North Lincolnshire Council, 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.), 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, Peter Campey, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS, Joanne Dixon, HBP Systems, and Alan Ross, Stylex Auto Products Ltd,

The meeting was held as a Teleconference.

- 24 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** - The Chairman welcomed all those present to the meeting and invited all attendees to introduce themselves.
- 25 **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.
- 26 **MINUTES - Resolved** – That the minutes of the meeting of the North Lincolnshire Towns Fund Board, held on 12 June 2020, be approved as a correct record.
- 27 **MATTERS ARISING – Resolved** – Advanced Manufacturing Park task and finish group had taken place. Minutes of the meeting to be distributed to all members.
- 28 **VICE CHAIR ROLE** – The Chair requested to appoint a Vice Chair. It was agreed a member from the private or community sector, would be appropriate.

**Resolved** – Nominations for Vice Chair to be submitted to the Deputy Chief Executive, North Lincolnshire Council, and formally agreed at the August 2020 meeting.

29 **PROGRAMME OVERSIGHT** – The Deputy Chief Executive reported that a meeting with Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) officials had taken place. An advisor allocated to the North Lincolnshire Towns Fund, the advisor has access to a group of technical specialists, consisting of a range of business professionals across a range of disciplines. Part of their role will be to review continually and challenge the strategic direction of the TIP and projects. Feedback received included –

(i) That the portfolio of project mandates showed a good balance, and there was a clear understanding of what the Board was trying to achieve. The work around the mandates and feasibility studies had been highlighted as a good approach, in recording evidence. It was proposed that the narrative would now need to be developed and to be shared wider than the board.

(b) That the template of the Towns Investment Plan (TIP) had now been provided. The template consisted of a proforma of questions. The proforma was a standard template for all Towns Fund Boards.

(c) That the current the BCR rate was 2 to 1 at a national level. This meant that every £1 of government money generates £2. The government has recognised that the BCR rate would not always be the best way to measure the impact of projects in the current economic climate, and judgement would be made on a project by project basis. The benefit–cost ratio (BCR) was an indicator, used in cost–benefit analysis, that attempted to summarize the overall value for money of a project or proposal.

(d) That the TIP’s due to be submitted in the October 2020 cohort. Timescale in relation to delivery of the projects would be 2021-26.

(e) That engagement with stakeholders and the local community groups were being considered and developed. It was confirmed that engagement had been taking place; (i) representatives from the local authority on the board, as per the guidance (ii) consultation with the community via Town Ward Members, Scunthorpe Town Team and the government website ‘my town’.

**Resolved** – (a) The template of the Towns Investment Plan (TIP) be distributed to all members for information, and (b) that the draft Towns Investment Plan be submitted in the October 2020 cohort.

30 **PROJECT MANDATES** - The Head of Economy and Growth, Business Development, North Lincolnshire Council submitted a number of project mandates using the Towns Fund capital funding to the Board, for its consideration and approval.

(i) **Project Ark** – The National Flood Resilience Centre was the first facility of its kind anywhere in the world. It provides realistic environments that would enable businesses, specialists and communities to build resilience through collaborative training and research. It included a full-sized street scene and other settings. The Ark would create specific, real-life flood scenarios where emergency responders would train and practise safely together.

**Resolved** – That the Project Ark be endorsed and approved.

(iii) **Green Private Wire** – The project would create opportunities for clean growth for new investment and opportunities for existing carbon intensive businesses to embrace new energy opportunities. Delivering on the governments clean growth strategy would be a real USP for North Lincolnshire as one of the biggest areas of carbon intensive industries. The development of a Green Private Wire for new and existing businesses would take North Lincolnshire a long way towards carbon neutral. Cap on the Green Wire was currently being reviewed.

(ii) **Humber Industrial Decarbonisation Roadmap** had been previously distributed to members, for further information and context

**Resolved** - That the Project Green Private Wire be endorsed and approved.

(iv) **Skills and Enterprise** – The economic landscape continued to evolve with emerging new and diversification of existing sectors, this has brought with it a need for a wider skills base. The development of the skills base would have a critical role to play in future prosperity whether that be for individual, the employer or the wider economy.

Information, advice and guidance was available to make well-informed decisions whether as a parent talking to your child, a young person entering the labour market or an adult looking to improve their career prospects. Everyone had access to a skills system that met the needs of local communities.

The case for a new eco-skills system for North Lincolnshire arguing that greater local influence over skills would result in better outcomes for North Lincolnshire individuals and businesses. Opportunities from a new skills system:

- i. The opportunity for increased economic growth, by linking skills with the labour market needs of local economies.
- ii. The opportunity to boost productivity through improving skills levels.
- iii. The opportunity to enable employer engagement, with devolution offering the chance for the system to become more responsive to local economic needs. (Demand pull not push)
- iv. The opportunity to join up public services, as devolution enables the better local integration of skills with other public services such as DWP and health. (Cradle to Grave IAG)
- v. The opportunity for innovation, as devolved systems offer greater scope for local areas to innovate and experiment.
- vi. Opportunities to create an entrepreneurial economy for all.

The Skills and Employability statement had been previously distributed to members. The statement was currently being reviewed due to the impact of COVID-19.

The Head of Economy and Growth, Business Development, North Lincolnshire Council, advised that other incentives could be explored alongside the Towns Fund Board revenue to compliment this work, working in partnership with DWP and providers.

The DWP representative provided a verbal update on the current employment status and trends, across the Humber. The claimed count has increased since March 2020 (20,000

to nearly 40,000). Number currently on furlough 105,000 (1 in 5 persons in employment). Self-employment scheme currently 24,000. Due to COVID-19 this totalled 125,000 people more on benefits and other forms of government support.

In North Lincolnshire 7,000 were currently looking for work. Future developments included; (i) community advisors to reinforce an employment focus (ii) a Job Creation scheme was due to be rolled out in the Autumn.

**Resolved** – (a) That the Reviewed Skills and Employability statement be circulated to members, and (b) that the Project Mandate Skills and Enterprise be endorsed and approved.

- (v) **Community Development Project** – The Deputy Chief Executive, North Lincolnshire reported that due to COVID-19 all the Towns Fund Board’s had been asked to develop more of a community aspect, as part of their project mandates. This involved enabling and capacity building in relation to the nature of the towns. In moving forward with this project, a set of principals need to be agreed.

**Resolved** – (a) That a Community Development Project be included in the project mandates; (b) that the August meeting focus on the Community Development Project; (c) that evidence and data on local age groups and community groups be shared at the next meeting, and (d) that suggestions of set principles be sent to the Deputy Chief Executive, North Lincolnshire Council, prior to the next meeting.

The Head of Economy and Growth, Business Development, North Lincolnshire Council, concluded by confirming that a State Aid Report would be completed with all project mandates.

The Deputy Chief Executive, North Lincolnshire, confirmed when developing the project mandates this had been completed with Lincolnshire based partners or in house.

This approach would continue.

- 31 **COMMUNICATION PLAN** - The Deputy Chief Executive, North Lincolnshire submitted the Communication Plan, for information. The strategic aim of all communications activity was to create and sustain a narrative of long-term strategic investment in North Lincolnshire.

**Resolved** – (a) That the Communication Plan be received and noted, and (b) that members of the Board be part of and incorporated into press releases in relation to the Towns Fund Board, and (c) that future Communication Plans be circulated to members as and when required.

- 32 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING** – The Chair confirmed that the next meeting of the Board would be at 2pm on Friday, 14 August 2020, via Teleconference/MSTeams.