

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

TOWNS FUND BOARD

18 September 2020

MS Teams

PRESENT - Councillor Waltham MBE, North Lincolnshire Council Simon Green, Deputy Chief Executive North Lincolnshire Council, Holly Mumby-Croft MP (Chair), Lesley Potts, North Lincolnshire Council, Kishor Tailor, Humber LEP, Diana Taylor, Marketing Humber, Samantha Cook, Hampton by Hilton, Peter Campey, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, Lisa Oakley, Nationwide Building Society.

Debbie Frary was also in attendance.

APOLOGIES – Apologies were received from, Mary Stuart (Chair), University of Lincoln, Dr Faisal Baig, North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group (NLCCG), Denise Hyde, North Lincolnshire Council, Andrew Percy MP, Jo Corney, Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), Jo Dixon, HBP Systems, David Atkin, British Steel, Duncan Willey, PPH Commercial, Sophie Day, British Steel.

The meeting was held as a Teleconference.

Apologies from Mary Stuart had been received therefore a Chair for the meeting was requested from the Board. Holly Mumby-Croft was agreed as the Chair.

40 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** - The Chair welcomed all those present to the meeting and invited Lisa Oakley to introduce herself as a new member to the Board.

41 **NOTES AND ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS – Resolved** - That the minutes of the meetings of the North Lincolnshire Towns Fund Board, held on 17 July and 14 August 2020, be approved as a correct record.

42 **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. A reminder was raised for any outstanding Pecuniary Interest forms to be returned as soon as possible. A declaration of interest form to be sent to Lisa Oakley for completion.

43 **DRAFT TIMETABLE AND FUTURE AGENDAS** - Simon Green, Deputy Chief Executive, North Lincolnshire Council, reminded the Board of the Towns Fund timetable to date and refreshed them on what is required going forward:

-Establish the Board and look at issues to be addressed in North Lincolnshire - completed

-Compile the projects that meet the gap and submit the investment plan by November 2020.

-The Board to be updated on the progress of projects at the meeting today and feedback to be received from the Board.

- 9 October meeting objectives:

Detail and costings on some projects to be presented.

Outputs and Outcomes and scale and scope of finance required from the Fund and private finance and other sources of finance.

The narrative for the emerging Investment plan to be addressed.

It was noted that a lot of work would be undertaken prior to the next meeting therefore the Board were asked to be aware of electronic information being circulated to them prior to the meeting on 9 October.

- Between 9 October and 13 November meeting objectives:

Task and Finish meetings to take place to discuss the projects.

Investment Plan to be circulated electronically to the Board prior to the 13 November meeting to enable final amendments to be made prior to the meeting.

13 November meeting objectives:

-Investment Plan to be signed off by the Board and submitted to government on behalf of the Towns Fund Board as part of the Towns Fund Bid.

-Post 13 November meeting objectives:

The Board to continue to ensure delivery of the projects.

The Board were also informed that government advisers have been appointed to sense check the work and increased dialogue is taking place.

Peter Campey, Area Lead, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, highlighted the submission date for the Investment Plan is 31 October. He gave his support to submit the Investment plan on 13 November but would need to confirm with Government if this would be possible. It was noted an advanced submission would be available by 31 October, but it would not be signed off by the board at this date.

Resolved – (a) The Board were fully informed of the timetable and requirements of the Board going forward and will continue to ensure delivery of the projects. (b) Peter Campey to clarify with Government and confirm to the Board the Investment Plan submission date. (c) the Board to be aware of information circulated to them prior to the meeting on 9 October 2020.

44 **PROJECT UPDATES** - Simon Green, Deputy Chief Executive, North Lincolnshire council, confirmed a project update paper was circulated to the Board with the agenda and asked the Board for the information within the update paper to remain confidential. Simon Green, Deputy Chief Executive and Lesley Potts, Head of Economy & Growth, North Lincolnshire Council, gave a brief outline of the progress to date on each project:

1) 60 Acre Business Park – update noted. No ask to the Board at this time.

2) New Hospital Land Assembly – update noted. The Board were informed that an identified shortlist of sites with associated costs in respect of land acquisition and infrastructure costs would be brought to the meeting on 9 October. It was noted that

North Lincolnshire Council were working with NLAG, CCG and Humber Coast and Vale on this project.

3) Museum – update noted. The Board were informed that the final report would be completed in 2 weeks time and would be circulated to the Board electronically once completed prior to the next meeting on 9 October.

4) Broadband – update noted. The LEP were asked to support with the market position statement. Kishor Tailor, Chief Executive, Humber side LEP agreed to discuss this further with Lesley Potts outside of the meeting.

5) Green Private Wire – update noted. A feasibility report is expected to be complete by the end of September and the Board were informed that this would be circulated and a request made to the Board virtually to approve the completion of this work prior to the meeting on 9 October. It was noted that the funding would be required from the Towns Fund and potentially also from the sites.

6) Project Ark – update noted. The Board were informed that once the business case was in place a request to the Board would be made in respect of the level of involvement required to enable the project to come to fruition. Further detail to be circulated to the board prior to the next meeting on 9 October. It was confirmed that State Aid Compliance is being looked at as part of the feasibility and has been built into the business case. Peter Campey, Area Lead, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy agreed to arrange for a DEFRA officer to contact Simon Green on this issue. Diana Taylor, Marketing Humber, informed the Board that Hull University have put forward The Ark for the Investment Prospectus. The Board were asked for their view on this project with regard to it being included in the Investment Plan. It was agreed that there was a need to see more detail through the Business case which will determine if it is a viable proposition and also confirm if the State Aid compliance has been resolved prior to a decision being made with regard to the inclusion in the Investment Plan.

7) East to West Connectivity – update noted. The Economic Study has commenced and the report will be shared with the Board once completed. It was noted that the feasibility study is one of 5 advanced studies regarding transport corridors and that there is a need for a link irrespective of the Economic Geographies and conversations with Transport for the North remain positive.

8) Town Centre Land Assembly – The board were informed of this Emerging project for future development in the town centre based on the Town Centre Masterplan. Further detail will be shared with the Board electronically prior to the next meeting.

9) Urban Park – additional project - Update noted. It was confirmed to the Board that following the announcement by the Prime Minister on 30 June 2020 regarding the bringing forward of Capital Investment Projects, Scunthorpe had been awarded £1m to finance a capital project to be delivered by 31/3/21. Approval from Government is currently awaited to confirm the £1m and as soon as this is received the project is at a stage to commence. Peter Campey, Area Lead, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, advised the confirmation was likely just a timing issue and there should be no issues with receiving the money. He advised to continue with the work as much as possible.

10) Skills – Update noted. The Board were informed that a substantial amount of work has been undertaken around 2 projects which also connect with the Community Development Theme. The 2 projects were noted as:

Individual Learning Account Pilot to ensure that local provision matches local labour market demand and SME Graduate Scheme which aims to connect talented graduates with SMEs in need of a highly skilled workforce. A report to be brought to the next meeting on 9 October detailing achievements from these projects. Both projects are revenue projects and an amount of £1.5m is asked from the Towns Fund. Peter Campey, Area Lead, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, advised that any revenue projects will be looked at in detail therefore a strong business case would be required. He also advised to ensure other funding opportunities for the projects were looked for before the Towns Fund. The board were requested for their support for the Business Case to be worked up. The board agreed there was a need for these projects but to avoid any duplication. The Board gave their support to go forward with these projects.

11) Active travel – update noted. The Board were asked to support this project and it was noted that it would be part of the Town Investment Plan, however, the Board were informed that conversations were taking place to look at linking in to other government funding. The Board agreed to support the project should funding from the Towns Fund be required.

Resolved -a) New Hospital Land Assembly report to be brought to meeting on 9 October 2020. b) Final museum report to be circulated electronically to the board prior to meeting on 9 October. c) Kishor Tailor to discuss further Broadband with Lesley Potts. d) Green Private Wire feasibility report to be circulated to the Board Electronically for approval to complete the work prior to the meeting on 9 October. e) Further detail on Project Ark to be circulated to the Board electronically prior to the meeting on 9 October to enable the Board to make a decision on including the Project in the Investment Plan. f) Peter Campey to arrange a DEFRA officer to contact Simon Green. g) The East to West Connectivity economic study to be shared with the Board once complete. h) Town Centre Land Assembly update to be circulated to the board electronically prior to the next meeting on 9 October. i) Urban Park work to continue. j) The Board confirmed their support of the Individual leaning Account Pilot and SME Graduate Scheme. k) A report to be brought to the meeting on 9 October detailing the achievement from the 2 skills projects l) The Board agreed to support the Active Travel project if other government funding was not available.

45 **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE** – Lesley Potts, Head of Economy & Growth, North Lincolnshire Council, informed the Board that a Task and Finish Group had been established and had had an initial meeting with a further 4 meetings arranged over the next few weeks to get to a position to understand what the project will look like. Any other Board Members who wished to join the group would be welcomed. Lesley Potts shared a presentation with the Board regarding the work undertaken as at August 2020 by the Task and Finish Group outlining the Principles of the approach, Strategy, Outcome Framework and Process. The Board agreed with the principles of approach and strategy as the way forward. It was agreed for the T & F Group to continue their work and bring the project to the Board meeting in October. Lisa Oakley, Nationwide Building Society, requested to join the T & G group.

Resolved – The T & F group to continue and bring the Community Development Project to the next Board meeting on 9 October 2020. Lisa Oakley to be invited to the T & F group meetings.

46 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business was discussed.

Resolved – Minute 43 – Post meeting the approval of the submission date of 13 November 2020 for the Investment plan has been confirmed.

47 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING** – The Chair confirmed the next 2 meetings of the Board would Friday 9 October 2020, 2.00 - 4.00pm and Friday 13 November 2020, 2.00 - 4.00 pm via MS Teams. Invites confirmed in diaries.