

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

TOWNS FUND BOARD

25 June 2021

MS Teams

PRESENT – Board Members: Mary Stuart, University of Lincoln (Chair), Holly Mumby-Croft MP; Cllr Rob Waltham MBE; Becky McIntyre, Director of Governance & Partnerships, North Lincolnshire Council; Simon Green, Deputy Chief Executive North Lincolnshire Council;; Diana Taylor, Marketing Humber;; Jo Corney, Department of Work and Pensions (DWP); Susan Oliver, H&WRA, Voluntary & Community Sector Alliance; Gurpa Singh, 2Sisters Food Group; Lisa Oakley, Nationwide; Duncan Willey, PPH Commercial, Samantha Cook, Hampton by Hilton;
Board Advisors: Peter Campey, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Helen Manderson, North Lincolnshire Council; Lesley Potts, Head of Economy & Growth, North Lincolnshire Council.

Paul Smith, North Lincolnshire Council and Debbie Frary, North Lincolnshire Council were also in attendance.

APOLOGIES – Apologies were received from Dr Faisal Baig, North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group (NLCCG); Ruth Carver, Greater Lincolnshire LEP; Sophie Day, British Steel; Andrew Percy MP; Apologies were also received from Roj Rahman Community Representative, due to technical issues and Lisa Quinn, MHCLG.

The meeting was held as a Teleconference via MS Teams.

- 91 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** - The Chair welcomed all those present to the meeting. A welcome was made to new board member Roxeanne Asquith, British Steel following Sophie Day's resignation.
- 92 **NOTES AND ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS – Resolved** - The minutes of the meeting of the Scunthorpe Towns Fund Board held on 30 April 2021, be approved as a correct record.
- 93 **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.
- 94 **PROJECT PRESENTATION – CREATING 21st CENTURY DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY** – Paul Smith, Strategic Lead ICT communications and Facilities and Project Lead for TF002 Creating 21st Century Digital Connectivity attended the meeting to inform and update the Board on the project. Paul Smith gave a background on digital and particularly digital place and broadband infrastructure. He outlined what a digital place looks like and the current position of digital infrastructure in North Lincolnshire was also highlighted. The case for change was outlined and the reason for this project explained. It was highlighted that Phase 1 identified a route through the heart of

Scunthorpe and it was confirmed that this stage has now been delivered using commercial investment and a news story has been communicated. Phase 2 is to expand the ITS network to the South of Scunthorpe and an extension from Foxhills and Skippingdale industrial estate. The activity and timescales were detailed and it was confirmed the business case was currently being drafted to be signed off in July 2021 to commence the build in August 2021. It was noted the project was agreed to be fast tracked due to the need for business now. Questions were invited on the presentation and project and a discussion took place. It was noted that the project required a level of investment of public subsidy of circa £148k of the £200k allocated to the project from the Towns Fund. It was confirmed that this would be clarified in the project confirmation to ensure the money is not lost. A project adjustment form will be completed and submitted with the Business case to apply the circa £50k to another project. **Resolved** - The presentation was well received and appreciated, and the Chair thanked Paul Smith for attending. A project adjustment form to be submitted with the business case in July 2021.

- 95 **PROGRAMME AND PROJECT UPDATES - Project Updates** – Project Highlight reports were circulated to the board with the agenda for information and noting. **Overall Programme Update** – It was confirmed the response to the heads of terms had been submitted on 24/5/21. A response from government with some queries had been received back and a reply to those queries was currently being drafted. Once this response has been submitted back to government the grant offer letter will be issued from government. It was noted the 12 month period to write the business cases is in process to complete and submit in March 2022 and currently the Strategic and Economic cases are being developed. It was also noted that the business case for the fast track project is also in progress. Lesley Potts, North Lincolnshire council, highlighted to the board that the issues that were flagged as red in the highlight reports were in respect of the need to acquire land for the projects and these acquisitions needs to be finalised within the next 6 to 8 weeks. It was also noted that projects are working within funding tolerances with the funding available and a large piece of work had been done for the LUF submission which will make some of the projects shortfalls more supported if successful with the fund. Questions or comments were invited on the projects.

The Board were informed that two other projects were likely to have progressed somewhat by July and therefore it was suggested to hold an additional Board meeting at the end of July to enable all 3 projects (Enabling a future for Clean growth/AMP/New cultural & Heritage Offer) to be presented to the board for their information and decision making to take back to the project leads and sponsors. It was noted that should any projects fall out of the programme after the grant offer letter has been received there would be no guarantee the funds will fall to other projects. A Programme risk register was requested. Lesley Potts, confirmed a register was in place and agreed to present it at a future meeting. No further questions were raised with the projects. The board wished their thanks to be passed to the project teams for their work on these projects. **Resolved** – The board agreed for an additional meeting at the end of July to be arranged and for the 3 projects (Enabling a future for Clean growth/AMP/New cultural & Heritage Offer) to be presented to the board at this meeting. The Programme Risk Register to be presented to the Board at a future meeting.

96 **LEVELLING UP FUND UPDATE (LUF)** - Lesley Potts, North Lincolnshire Council, informed the group of the recent opportunity for local authorities to submit bids to the Levelling Up Fund through their MP constituent areas. North Lincolnshire Council were able to submit 4 bids under the following areas:

Brigg and Goole constituency
Scunthorpe and surrounding villages constituency
Cleethorpes constituency
Transport for North Lincolnshire

Three package bids were submitted as follows:

Package 1 – Employment Scheme. This bid was in partnership with East Riding of Yorkshire council and is to support employment growth.

Package 2 – Regeneration and town centre and Cultural Investment scheme based on Scunthorpe. The package consists of 3 schemes:

- Cultural offer and repair of the 20/21 visual arts centre
- Health, Innovation and Emergency services hub
- repurpose/improvement of town centre buildings to improve the environment in the town centre.

Package 3 – Transport theme to enable future housing growth by delivering 2 key link roads within Barton and Brigg enabling the delivery of over 2,500 homes.

The bids were submitted on 17/6/21 and a response from government is expected in the next few weeks. It was noted that the bids support at least 3 of the towns fund projects going forward. The Chair thanked officers for their work on the LUF bids and the local MPs for their support. **Resolved** – The board noted the submission of the bids.

97 **FUTURE OF THE BOARD** – A paper was circulated to the Board prior to the meeting to provide the board with an update on the place development and regeneration programme and opportunities for North Lincolnshire that have presented themselves since the Towns Fund board was initially set up, the details of the opportunities were outlined in the report. The paper also identifies the opportunities to extend the role of the Towns Fund board. Helen Manderson informed the board of the recognition from government that levelling up requires a multifaceted approach. The Board were requested to note the development programme and opportunities in North Lincolnshire and consider extending its remit to include oversight of the whole Place Development and Regeneration programme. Also due to the success of the public private sector partnership the Board were asked to consider increasing the board membership to include a further 5 private sector members. Helen Manderson, North Lincolnshire Council confirmed these changes would meet the terms of reference and constitution of the funding streams. Becky McIntyre, North Lincolnshire Council, felt it important that the board has a full overview of what is happening considering the link between the schemes and supported this request. Mary Stuart, University of Lincoln, commented that this felt a logical approach, however, would change the focus to Place rather than programmes and projects and will have agenda implications. Peter Campey, BEIS, made the board aware that this request was not a requirement from government and highlighted the need to ensure the board fulfils its requirements of the Towns Fund. **Resolved** – The board noted the paper and the development opportunities programme and opportunities in North Lincolnshire. The Board agreed to extend its remit to include oversight of the whole Place Development and Regeneration programme. The board agreed to increase the membership to include a further 5 private sector members. No objections were received.

- 98 **COMMS UPDATE** – A paper was circulated to the Board prior to the meeting for information and noting. The Board were also informed that a Podcast had been recorded with Board member Faisal Baig, NLCCG, and the link is now on the website. Susan Oliver, H&WRA, Voluntary & Community Sector Alliance, highlighted the need to engage with wider community particularly now we are talking about Place and confirmed her support to assist with doing this through a range of networks. Lesley Potts, north Lincolnshire Council, thanked Susan Oliver for the support and also confirmed the project leads were currently working on engagement and a full engagement plan would be provided at the next board meeting. Peter Campey, BEIS, highlighted the guidance on branding which has been provided by government. Lesley Potts, North Lincolnshire Council, confirmed the information had been received and was being adhered to. **Resolved** – The Towns Fund Branding provided by government to continued to be used. Programme engagement plan to be brought to the next meeting.
- 99 **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** – No other business was discussed. The chair thanked to everyone for their attendance and continued support.
- 100 **DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING** – The Chair confirmed following agreement of the Board, an additional meeting to be arranged at the end of July. It was suggested for the next meeting to take place in Scunthorpe to enable the Board to see the work on the Urban Park that is taking place. **Resolved** - Debbie Frary to arrange an additional meeting at Church Square House in Scunthorpe and invites to be sent out.