

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

TOWNS FUND BOARD

8 October 2021

MS Teams

PRESENT – Board Members: Dr Faisal Baig, North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group (NLCCG); (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; Halina Davies; Roxeanne Asquith, British Steel; Jo Corney, Department of Work and Pensions (DWP); Gurpa Singh, 2Sisters Food Group; Duncan Willey, PPH Commercial.

Board Advisors: Peter Campey, Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Lesley Potts, Head of Economy & Growth, North Lincolnshire Council, Helen Manderson, Director Business Development, North Lincolnshire Council

Chris Ramsbottom and Debbie Frary, North Lincolnshire Council were also in attendance.

APOLOGIES – Apologies were received from Diana Taylor, Marketing Humber; Susan Oliver, H&WRA, Voluntary & Community Sector Alliance; Ruth Carver, Greater Lincolnshire LEP; Samantha Cook, Hampton by Hilton; Andrew Percy MP; Roj Rahman Community Representative

Board Advisor: Lisa Quinn, MHCLG.

The meeting was held as a Teleconference via MS Teams.

121 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS – As the new Chair of the Board, Dr Faisal Baig introduced himself. Dr Faisal Baig is a North Lincolnshire local GP, a local resident and Chair of the NHS Clinical Commission Group (CCG). The Chair welcomed all those present to the meeting. The Chair thanked Mary Stuart for the role and work she had undertaken for the past 18 months.

122 DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS – It was noted that Duncan Willey's practice is involved with the work on the Lincolnshire Lakes land and therefore he confirmed he had excluded himself from any of this work due to his role on this board and confirmed there was no conflict of interest.

The following presentations (item 3 refers) are considered to be exempt and not for circulation in the public domain on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)

It was noted that documents will be going out for stakeholder engagement in the next few weeks but currently they are not out for public information.

PRESENTATIONS

ECONOMIC RENEW PLAN

Lesley Potts, North Lincolnshire Council, gave a presentation to the Board on the North Lincolnshire Economic Renew Plan. The board were informed that due to the current Economic Plan being in its 3rd/4th year of being launched and the effect of the pandemic on the Economy and North Lincolnshire, a draft Economic Renew Plan had been developed. It is aimed at reducing and mitigating the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. It will provide the council with a strategic and coordinated approach that will help rebuild our economy and provide sustainable employment opportunities for our residents whilst supporting the national recovery and meeting key policy objectives. The new Economic Growth plan will then be launched in 2023. The Renew plan focuses on five key priorities which are borne from stakeholder engagement with businesses and public sector partners:

Priority 1 - Protect the economy through strengthened business support

Priority 2 - Enable the creation and safeguarding of jobs

Priority 3 - Stimulate growth through capital investment and infrastructure

Priority 4 - A better quality of life for residents

Priority 5 - Progress sector specific programmes

Questions were welcomed from the Board – Halina Davies, Greater Lincolnshire LEP, asked how the plan ties into the Greater Lincolnshire plan for growth. It was noted that both Greater Lincolnshire and the Humber plan are alluded to in the document, however, it was agreed to make this clearer. Responses to the engagement survey were requested and encouragement from Board members to other business colleagues to respond to the survey was also requested. <https://investinnorthlincolnshire.com/news/feature/economic-renewal-plan> **Resolved** – The Chair thanked Lesley Potts, North Lincolnshire Council, for the presentation. The plan to be amended to make the links to Greater Lincolnshire and the Humber plan for growth clearer. The Board agreed to respond to the engagement survey and encourage other business colleagues to respond.

INTEGRATED TRANSPORT STRATEGY

Chris Ramsbottom, Head of Service Assets and Infrastructure, North Lincolnshire Council attended the meeting and gave a presentation on the Integrated Transport Strategy.

North Lincolnshire Council are developing an Integrated Transport Strategy which will not only meet the statutory requirements of a Local Transport Plan but also develop broader aspects of an integrated approach to transport development across North Lincolnshire to improve connectivity, enable flourishing communities and to keep people safe and well whilst also stimulating and enabling the economy to grow. The vision is to have transformational transport networks that connect people, business, places and supports the delivery of the council priorities. It is a long term strategy covering the current day up to 2038 to run concurrently with the new Local Plan. The strategy is evidence led and is underpinned by robust data and intelligence sources. The strategy outlines the 4 priorities of the strategy and outlines the plans to achieve these priorities. The next steps for the strategy once approved is engagement and consultation as per the engagement plan programme to raise the awareness and gain support and ensure all stakeholders are given opportunities to comment and influence how the ITS is adopted.

Questions were welcomed from Board - Dr Faisal Baig raised how the strategy would be approved and signed off. It was confirmed that this would be done by Cabinet.

Halina Davies noted that it corresponds with the thinking of the Greater Lincolnshire Strategy, however it would be helpful to make the correlation between the two areas and make connections in the strategy.

Dr FB asked if discussions were taking place in respect of rail links out of Scunthorpe where we currently do not have them, to support and encourage people into the area particular with the current working from home climate. It was confirmed that this is being considered and conversations and close work with transport agencies are taking place. It was also noted that the gauge enhancement scheme had recently been undertaken which widened the freight line and work is being undertaken with transport agencies to gain connectivity to freight lines. It was noted that road connectivity is also being looked at withing the wider greater Lincolnshire area.

Peter Campey, BEIS, raised a question regarding what is happening with the bus services across North Lincolnshire and how it will support people in the area. It was reported the North Lincolnshire Council are currently development a bus strategy improvement plan which will be completed by 26 October 2021. The plan will analyse what aspirations we have in North Lincolnshire and how it can be improved. The Bus services are a high priority and a separate piece of work is being undertaken which will link into the ITS. It was noted that positive feedback has been received about the JustGo Services from rural communities. **Resolved** – The Chair thanked Chris Ramsbottom, North Lincolnshire Council for the presentation. The strategy to be amended to make the corelation between North Lincolnshire and Greater Lincolnshire areas.

LOCAL PLAN 2020-2038

Lesley Potts, North Lincolnshire Council, gave a presentation to the Board on the New North Lincolnshire Local Plan. Local Plans are statutory documents prepared by the Local Planning Authority (LPA) of a Council and **all councils must produce one**. Adopted Local Plans and Neighbourhood Plan make up the Development Plan for the area. Local Plans set out the strategic priorities for development of an area and cover housing, commercial, public and private development, including transport infrastructure, along with protection for the local environment. Work started on developing a new local plan 4 years ago and the final stage of the Local Plan Publication Draft is due to go out for public consultation on 15 October 2021. Following the consultation period, it will be submitted to government and then an examination will take place in Summer 2022. It was noted that the plan is based on strong evidence and everything in the plan has evidence to support the why. It was confirmed that the local plan supports everything in the Towns Fund Programme. The Plan is strong in evidence and strong in delivery and will help take North Lincolnshire to the next level in terms of economy and place.

Questions were welcomed from the Board - Halina Davies suggested it would be beneficial to identify one or two housing sites that could be committed to modern methods of construction. It was noted that this is picked up in the plan and those conversion are being undertaken and the plan is supportive of modern methods of construction. It was agreed for the link to the New North Lincolnshire Plan to be sent to all Board members. **Resolved** – the Chair thanks Lesley Potts, North Lincolnshire Council, for the presentation. The link to the North Lincolnshire Local Plan to be set to all board members.

It was noted that all 3 plans presented are all proactive in taking North Lincolnshire forward and they all link North Lincolnshire within itself as well as to the wider area. The Chair thanked North Lincolnshire council for the work undertaken on the 3 plans.

Grant Offer Letter – It was confirmed that the reprofiled programme was submitted to MHCLG in September and the revised grant offer letter had now been received following this submission. The letter was noted by the Accountable body and the Board. The board were informed that the response from government following the submission of the project readjustment form for TF003 – Enabling a future for Clean Growth was expected shortly. Peter Campey, BEIS, confirmed it was in progress. Lesley Potts, North Lincolnshire Council, confirmed that the information requested by MHCLG regarding TF002 would be submitted by the end of the day. It was noted that Full Business cases for all projects were continued to be worked on within the timescales. **Resolved** – the Board and Accountable Body to note the revised Grant Offer Letter.

125 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The Chair confirmed the date of the next Board meeting as Friday 5 November 2021, 11am – 12.30pm