

INFORMATION MARKING	OFFICIAL SENSITIVE
MEETING:	Towns Fund Board
TITLE OF REPORT:	Future of the Towns Fund Board

<p>1. PURPOSE OF AGENDA ITEM:</p> <p>To provide the board with an update on the Place development and Regeneration programme and opportunities for North Lincolnshire.</p> <p>To explore the opportunities to extend the role of the Towns Fund Board.</p>
<p>2. KEY POINTS (BACKGROUND AND DETAIL):</p> <p>The board set its Terms of Reference in March 2020 outlining its role for Scunthorpe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and agree an evidence based Town Investment Plan that includes: • Background, context and evidence of need for suggested interventions. • A vision that, complements agreed or emerging local economic strategies. <p>A high level description of priority areas for the short, medium and long term including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activity that can be locally funded. • Projects that could be supported by public investment (including through the Towns Fund), with high level costs estimates. • Ambitions for private sector investment and community involvement. • Develop a clear programme of interventions • Coordinate resources and influence stakeholders <p>The board agreed and we successfully created our Towns Investment Plan which was succinct with the Economic Growth Plans for North Lincolnshire.</p> <p>Since the successful establishment of our Towns Fund Board, Government have recognised that levelling up requires a multi-faceted approach including the Towns Fund, from supercharging our city regions, to supporting our struggling towns, to catalysing industrial clusters in the sectors that will drive the future economy – the opportunities will deliver as part of a broad package of complementary UK-wide interventions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The UK Community Renewal Fund, which will provide local areas across the UK with access to £220 million of additional funding as they prepare for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund due to launch in 2022. As EU structural funds tail off after 2022-23, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund will succeed them as a programme distinct from the UKCRF and help to level up and create opportunity across the UK in places most in need in a manner distinct but complementary to the Levelling Up Fund, through investment in skills, enterprise and employment.

- **The UK Community Ownership Fund**, which will empower communities to protect vital community assets in their area by providing funding to take ownership over them, in support of the social wellbeing of local communities.
- **The Plan for Jobs**, which builds on DWP's Jobcentre Plus network, offering tailored support to help people find work, including through Youth Hubs, Restart, and Kickstart. The Plan for Jobs will support longer term recovery from the unprecedented economic impact of Covid-19.
- **The Freeports programme**, establishing national hubs for global trade and investment in every nation of the UK, promoting regeneration and job creation and creating hotbeds for innovation that will intensify the economic impact of our ports and generate increased economic activity in areas in need of regeneration across the UK.
- **The UK Infrastructure Bank**, which will provide financing support to local authority and private sector infrastructure projects to help meet UK Government objectives on climate change and regional economic growth. It will also establish an advisory function to help with the development and delivery of projects.

North Lincolnshire Council as a priority one area has submitted bids to the UK Community Resilience Fund and the Levelling Up Fund. The detail is listed below:

Community Renewal Fund

Project name	Total bid value	Full total cost
Greener North Lincolnshire	£498,132	£508,095
Aspire to Progress	£350,000	£375,000
Building Prosperous Communities – Employability and Skills Support Programme	£521,883	£532,321
Reconnect	£138,612	£141,384
Expert Business Academy	£557,690	£567,844
Scunthorpe South: VCS Enabling Employability	£212,815	£217,071
Crosby Transformation	£281,863	£287,500
Early Years Workforce	£100,000	£102,000
	£2,660,995	£2,714,215

Levelling up Fund

Package	Constituency	Theme	LUF Ask
1	Brigg and Goole	Employment	£19,997,917
2	Scunthorpe	TownCentre Regeneration Scunthorpe	£19,999,855
3	NL	Housing	£49,999,811
Total			£89,997,613

We have also been successful in the FHSF and Freeports bids.

The success of the public private partnership of the Towns Fund has been evident and as the board moves into the delivery phase of the TIP, it would make sense to extend the remit of the Towns Fund Board to include the whole of the Place Development and Regeneration Programme in line with the North Lincolnshire Economic Growth Plan.

3. IMPLICATIONS (RESOURCES, POLICY, RE-DESIGN)

The secretariat for the board will continue to be provided by NLC as the accountable body for all funding streams.

The existing terms of reference meet the proposal to extend the remit with a re-drawing of the geographical area covered.

The MPs are currently members of the board which would meet the needs of the Levelling up Fund.

4. CONCLUSION:

- That the board note the development programme and opportunities in North Lincolnshire
- That the board consider extending its remit to include oversight of the whole Place Development and Regeneration programme.
- That the board numbers are increased to include a further 5 private sector members.

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