

SCUNTHORPE TOWN

INVESTMENT PLAN

NOVEMBER 2020



Foreword

Scunthorpe Towns Fund Board are pleased to introduce the Scunthorpe Town Investment Plan (TIP), which sets out our vision to deliver increased prosperity for Scunthorpe. Our vision for North Lincolnshire is that it becomes synonymous with **“Quality”** and **“Opportunity”**. Quality in what it produces and the environment within which we all live coupled with economic and social opportunity for all.

There are “green shoots” of new sectors and growth within the North Lincolnshire economy, but in general overall prosperity has stalled over the last 10 -15 years. Structural weaknesses, poor productivity, low high-value skills and a lack of business and public investment just reiterates a flatlining and cost based “chasing our tail” position. Recognising this, North Lincolnshire Council in conjunction with local businesses, Universities and the community led a new approach to developing its economy. This new plan, launched at the House of Lords, targets skills and productivity to add value to existing core sectors, investment in critical infrastructure and anchor institutions and importantly takes a broad approach – often described as a giant jigsaw puzzle – recognising that the whole system has to evolve to sustain and embed the change needed which is both cultural and physical.

This Economic Plan identified 10 core areas of activity with associated actions to deliver against them. The Town centre of Scunthorpe was one of these areas.

Scunthorpe Town centre has traditionally provided a near mono offer of retail with associated low-quality leisure activity. Over the years through socio-economic change, planning law and more recently structural impact through the internet this offer is increasingly both relatively poor and low value. Our ambition is to re-purpose the town centre. Once again becoming a “shop window” to North Lincolnshire to be proud of.

People still want to meet, be entertained and educated. The new emerging town centre encompasses this approach. We are creating a truly mixed-use offer and over the last 2 years alone public and private sector investment has seen a new University Campus, new indoor market, an enhanced cultural offer, a central civic / business quarter delivered, new retail and planned student accommodation. There is a sense of direction and a realisation of the kind of town we want. The Towns Fund and its complementary Future High Street Fund (FHSF) are welcome catalysts to accelerate this re-purposing and re-positioning as we plan for a balanced, animated and diverse town centre and local economy with the ability and culture to evolve. We do not want to create just a more pleasant version of the existing.

This TIP details those projects which will individually and importantly collectively act as this catalyst, accelerating renewal and growth and levering in further investment. Through the Towns Fund: we will enhance learning outcomes and importantly increasing aspirations of the young, we will deliver a green energy network and ultrafast fibre infrastructure enabling new and existing businesses to prosper and addressing digital exclusion, we will build an improved arts, cultural and heritage offer linked into a broader definition of learning and also to act a draw and reinforce dwell time, develop a new 60 acre advanced manufacturing park to facilitate new and evolving industry building on our strengths, facilitate and accelerate the process of building a new hospital reflecting new and modern approaches to health care and associated research through land acquisition and related preparatory work – a true anchor institution, and to complement this and underpin all projects we will deliver schemes to get graduates into small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and develop economic growth within our hardest to reach communities, underpinning this will be the transformation of Scunthorpe’s housing market.



Rob Waltham MBE
Leader of North Lincolnshire Council



Mary Stuart CBE
Chair of the Scunthorpe Towns Fund Board

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