

## NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

### TOWNS FUND BOARD

28 January 2022

MS Teams

**PRESENT** – Board Members: Dr Faisal Baig, North Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group (NLCCG); (Chair), Holly Mumby-Croft MP; Becky McIntyre, Director of Governance & Partnerships, North Lincolnshire Council; Simon Green, Deputy Chief Executive North Lincolnshire Council; Julian Free, University of Lincoln; Jo Corney, Department of Work and Pensions (DWP); Samantha Cook, Hilton by Hampton; Roxeanne Asquith, British Steel; Diana Taylor, Marketing Humber British Steel; Gurpa Singh, 2Sisters Food Group.

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

Debbie Frary, North Lincolnshire Council was also in attendance.

**APOLOGIES** – Apologies were received from Cllr Rob Waltham MBE Helen Manderson, Director Business Development, North Lincolnshire Council; Duncan Willey, PPH Commercial; Ruth Carver, Greater Lincolnshire LEP; Susan Oliver, H&WRA, Voluntary & Community Sector Alliance; Andrew Percy MP; Roj Rahman Community Representative

The meeting was held as a Teleconference via MS Teams.

- 137 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS** – The Chair welcomed all those present to the meeting and Julian Free, University of Lincoln, was welcomed to the Board as a new Board member.
- 138 NOTES AND ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS** – The minutes of the meeting of the Scunthorpe Towns Fund Board held on 5 November 2021, be approved as a correct record.
- 139 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.
- 140 PROGRAMME SUMMARY REPORT** - A summary report was circulated to the Board with the agenda and the following highlights were noted. TF001-Advanced Manufacturing Park - A Vision and Strategy draft report was circulated to the group with the overall Summary Report for information and Simon Green, North Lincolnshire Council, explained the intention behind the vision. It was confirmed that a price for the land and Heads of Terms had been agreed, however, some issues had been encountered and a meeting has been arranged to overcome these. The land purchase therefore was highlighted as a risk at present. The Board were informed that the next stage is for the marketing material to go out in February/March and soft market testing initiated to look

for a development partner. It was noted that the Business case is progressing, the economic case is being completed and the strategic case is complete. TF003 – Enabling a Future for Clean Growth – It was confirmed the Project Adjustment form had been approved in December and the first North Lincolnshire Community Energy board meeting had been held. It was noted that Diana Taylor, Marketing the Humber, will be on the Community Energy board as a Towns Fund Board representative. The Board were informed that interest in the scheme had been received from schools. It was noted that the Business case is progressing and expected to be submitted for due diligence at the end of February. TF004 – Transforming the Scunthorpe Housing Market – It was noted that work is being undertaken on all potential sites looking at the current barriers and how to remove them, work is also being undertaken on bringing empty homes back into use. The board were informed that some additional funding had been received from Homes England to support the bringing forward of some sites. An organisation has been procured through the Council’s framework to assist with the site feasibility. TF005 - Health, Innovation and Emergency Services Hub – It was reported that work is progressing well and agreement from partners on what space is required has been undertaken. Work is continuing on the design and costs. The site acquisition was raised as still a risk to the project. It was agreed to submit a reflection paper to the Board at the next meeting. Peter Campey, BEIS, raised concern regarding the site acquisition. It was noted that the project team are working on this daily and are in constant contact with the agent. It was highlighted that this site is to create a location for future large infrastructure projects so is important to acquire the correct site, however, there is another potential site as a second option. TF006 - Scunthorpe’s new Culture, Art and Heritage offer – The Board were informed that a design team are in place and are currently working on options. A Project Exec board will look at the options on 4 February 2022 to determine a preferred option which will align with the future of the town centre long term. It was agreed to circulate a reflection paper to the Board prior to the next Board meeting. Peter Campey, BEIS, highlighted the requirement for the Board to submit documents to government which provide assurance of the process undertaken. The date for this submission was confirmed following the meeting as 24 March 2022, 12 months from the date the Heads of Terms was signed. **Resolved** - The programme progress, risks and upcoming milestones were noted. The date for the submission of documents to government from the Board was noted. Diana Taylor, marketing the Humber, to be invited to the North Lincolnshire Community Energy board meetings. A Reflection paper for TF005 to be submitted to the Board at the next meeting. A reflection paper for TF006 to be circulated to the Board prior to the next meeting.

**The following item (item 140a refers) is 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)**

- 140a** **FHSF001/002 Highlight Reports** - FHSF001 - Project Anchor – A highlight report was circulated to the Board with the agenda. It was reported work had been undertaken with the market and significant interest received, due diligence now to be undertaken. A stakeholder group has also been established for the project.
- FHSF002 - Urban Park Phase 2 – A highlight report was circulated to the Board with the agenda. It was noted that a contractor had been agreed and contract signed prior to Christmas. The lead time for materials is 12 weeks therefore work will commence on site in March with a completion by the end of June 2022. – **Resolved** – the highlight reports and progress of both projects were noted by the Board.

141 **MARKETING AND COMMS UPDATE** – An Engagement/Media Planner was circulated to the Board with the agenda. Simon Green, North Lincolnshire council, highlighted the context of the marketing of the Towns fund in relation to the Economic Growth Plan which was launched in 2018 and set out 10 ideas, one of which was the role and development of the town centre. It was noted that the narrative for the overall towns centre is being refreshed and a marketing schedule put together. It was also confirmed that engagement is taking place with the market and the population of the area to ensure understanding of what is trying to be achieved within the town centre. A discussion and views were requested from the board on the media planner in terms of anything missing and how it could be improved in respect of communicating with the population and businesses within the area. The following comments/responses were received; The need to ensure the younger population of North Lincolnshire were aware of what is trying to be achieved to ensure they remain in the area was highlighted and agreed by the Board. Lesley Potts, North Lincolnshire Council, to work with the Head of Marketing so put some video footage together for social media. It was noted and agreed there was a need to ensure engagement with the population that are not regularly interacted with. Lesley Potts to discuss with Susan Oliver and work on some narrative. It was noted the need to use the right platform with the right message and tone on social media and Diana Taylor, Marketing the Humber, offered support with this. It was suggested to work with schools and colleges and Becky McIntyre, North Lincolnshire Council, agreed to look at engaging with the Youth Council. Samantha Cook, Hampton by Hilton, agreed to work with UCNL on undertaking a Tok-tok competition with prizes supplied by Hampton by Hilton. Lesley Potts, North Lincolnshire Council informed the Board that work was being undertaken as part of the UKCRF fund on video and agreed to look at putting together a towns fund video which can be shared with organisations to promote. The board were also informed that 3 events were planned for young people which promotion of the towns fund would also be incorporated into; careers festival with UCNL, Discover event for primary school and jobs expo. The Board members were encouraged to be involved in these events. It was noted that the Towns Fund website was very traditional and was suggested that more visionary to be included on the website as well as regularly progress updates. Peter Campey, BEIS, informed the board that he was required to provide fortnightly updates to Neil O’Brien MP on Towns Fund milestones, it was agreed for Lesley Potts, North Lincolnshire Council, to send through bullet points and any case studies on any relevant updates and milestones including the recently completed Creating 21<sup>st</sup> Century connectivity project. It was also suggested to think about potential opportunities to invite Ministers to visit any projects that are up and running. **Resolved** – Video footage on the projects to be created for social media as well as promotion within organisations. Work to be undertaken with the Voluntary sector to produce a narrative to support the engagement with residents who are not regularly interacted with. Engagement with the Youth Council to be undertaken. A competition to be launched in conjunction with Hampton by Hilton and schools and colleges. The three jobs and careers event were noted and involvement requested from the Board. The Towns Fund website to be updated and modernised with some visionary material and progress updates. Fortnightly progress updates and milestones bullet points and case studies to be sent to Peter Campey.

142 **DUE DILLIGENCE UPDATE** – The Board were informed that a company had been appointed to undertake the due diligence on the business cases of 4 projects and another company had been appointed to undertake the due diligence for the Advanced Manufacturing Park. The Board were reminded to ensure the conditions outlined in the

Heads of Terms were reflected in the business cases. Lesley Potts, North Lincolnshire Council, confirmed the conditions are in place and continue to be adhered to. **Resolved** – The update was noted by the Board. The conditions outlined in the Heads of terms to continue to be adhered to.

- 143 CREATING 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY CONNECTIVITY PRESENTION TO CONFIRM COMPLETION OF PROJECT** – Becky McIntyre, North Lincolnshire Council, gave a presentation to the Board to confirm the completion of the Creating 21<sup>st</sup> Century Connectivity project TF002. It was noted the project was undertaken in 2 phases, the first phase being funded by private sector and the second phase funded using £148K of the Towns Fund. Through the project, 2200 commercial premises are now able to access high speed digital connectivity and access has also been opened up to households. The next steps will now be to work with the provider to help businesses understand what is available and how they can benefit and also engage with businesses to maximise sign up. It was reported that positive responses had been received from businesses which will be used as case studies. It was agreed to circulate the case studies to the Board. It was suggested to engage with start up businesses through the colleges and UCNL to ensure they are aware of the opportunities. It was noted this project highlights the benefits to businesses both current and new in the area due to the availability of the high speed connectivity. **Resolved** – The Chair thanked Becky McIntyre for the presentation and the team for the hard work undertaken on the project and the successful completion of the first project and next steps were noted. Case studies to be circulated to the Board.
- 144 ANY OTHER BUSINESS** - No other business was discussed. The Chair thanked the Board for their attendance and continued support.
- 145 DATE AND TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS** - The Chair confirmed the date of the next Board meeting as Friday 4 March 2022, 11.00am. The future dates for 2022 were also noted, all taking place on the first Friday of every other month at 11am.