

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

TOWNS FUND BOARD

14 April 2023

MS Teams

PRESENT

Board Members: Dr Faisal Baig, (Chair), Holly Mumby-Croft MP, Becky McIntyre, Director Governance & Communities, North Lincolnshire Council; Roxeanne Asquith, British Steel; Mark Fuller, Humberside Fire & Rescue Service; (until 1140hrs) Diana Taylor, Marketing Humber; Julian Free, University of Lincoln.

Board Advisors: Victoria Godfrey, DLUHC; Helen Manderson, Director Economy & Environment, North Lincolnshire Council; Lesley Potts, Assistant Director Place, North Lincolnshire Council.

Amy Knapper and Adam Lovell, North Lincolnshire Council, were also in attendance.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Cllr Rob Waltham MBE; Jonathan Evison, Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner (HPCC); Jo Corney, Department of Work and Pensions (DWP); Duncan Willey, PPH Commercial, Ruth Carver, Lincolnshire County Council, Alex Seale, North Lincolnshire NHS Place Director, Francis Micallef, Rainham Steel, Peter Campey, DBT, Sian Broughton, Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire; Simon Green, Deputy Chief Executive North Lincolnshire Council.

The meeting was held as a Videoconference via MS Teams.

185 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed all those present to the meeting and gave a warm welcome to Victoria Godfrey, DLUHC. Victoria informed the Board that she works for DLUHC, in conjunction with DBT. Victoria is temporarily attending this meeting following Katherine Cousins departure. The Department are currently recruiting to the vacancy and Victoria expressed her pleasure in observing the meeting and answering any questions on the Department's behalf. Victoria explained she currently works with Local Authorities and Partners in the southern area of Lincolnshire on Towns Fund Projects.

186 NOTES AND ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd December 2022 were approved as a true record by those present, however as the meeting was not quorate, an email was subsequently sent out to absent Board Members and the minutes have since been approved through quoracy.

187 DECLARATIONS OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS AND PERSONAL OR PERSONAL AND PREJUDICIAL INTERESTS

No new DOIs were declared.

PROGRAMME SUMMARY REPORT

Lesley Potts, North Lincolnshire Council, provided the Board with a verbal update.

FHSF002 - Urban Park Phase 2 – Lesley Potts, North Lincolnshire Council explained the significant issues encountered with the laying of the York Stone pavers and the benches within the vicinity. The benches issue is now resolved, and the work on the lighting and grouting of the pavers will be undertaken by the contractors once the weather improves. The fountain has been switched on today and will remain running until October.

FHSF003 – Enabling a Future for Clean Growth – Ben Atkinson from North Lincolnshire Council is joining the meeting shortly to update Board members fully under agenda item 8.

FHSF004 – Transforming the Scunthorpe Housing Market - The housing scheme project has been approved, and NLC have received 7 good quality applications into grant scheme. The scheme will create an additional 50 new housing units. The remainder of the funding will be utilised to remove barriers for sites like South Leys and Willoughby Road, NLC have already received a number of enquiries relating to the South Leys site from developers. Ben Atkinson will be the Project Lead from North Lincolnshire Council for the South Leys and Willoughby Road scheme, and Kate Mills from North Lincolnshire Council will be the Project Lead for the Barton LUF scheme. This project is going well and there are no risks to make Board members aware of.

TF001 – Advanced Manufacturing Park – The board have received email communication recently from Lesley Potts, North Lincolnshire Council in relation to reverting to the Lincolnshire Lakes site, the project adjustment form has been completed and submitted to DBT. Conversations are ongoing with DBT, DLUHC, owners of the land, the receiver and HE. The conclusion of these conversations is expected on the 15/04/23 and Board members will be advised on the outcome. A grant scheme looking to develop retail units has been recommend and is subject to a project adjustment form, this work will commence once NLC receive approval from Homes England.

TF002 Creating 21st Century Connectivity – The broadband project is complete, and the team are ensuring any new projects within North Lincolnshire can connect into this gigabyte connectivity. Monitoring and evaluation of the project is ongoing.

TF006 Developing Scunthorpe's new Cultural, Arts and Heritage Offer – The first phase of project will commence on site in May, this will include the repairs to the masonry and the chancel area of the church. The works will create more capacity in the church for displays and events and will include the removal of the final barriers around the church which will open up the urban park. The fountains within the urban park are to be switched back on today and will remain on until October.

TF005 – Integrated Health, Innovation and Emergency Services Hub – The project adjustment form has been submitted and NLC are working with the Humberside Police and DLUC to progress the project. We have received a letter from the Police & Crime Commissioner confirming their preferred site, and both teams are working through the due diligence.

FHSF001 – Project Anchor – The contractors have experienced some ground issues since they started on site. The steel structure is being constructed and Lesley Potts, North Lincolnshire Council shared some photographs of work to date. The site set up is complete, and the excavation and reinforcement works are ongoing, but nearly complete. The project is 7 weeks behind schedule due to the ground works issues, NLC are working with the contractor to consider twin-track work to ensure the project is finished by the projected completion date. NLC have already received interest from the market and there are some visits scheduled to take place next week from potential end users. The contractors are facilitating visits to the site next week and should any Board Member wish to make a visit to the site please contact Amy Knapper, North Lincolnshire Council who will make the necessary arrangements. The project has seen a significant increase in the cost of building materials and NLC have provided significant capital funding to help curb the cost of inflation and keep the project on financial track.

Board members will be updated on the progress of the Advanced Manufacturing Park via email as soon as any news is received. They will also be kept up to date on timescales for the new Police Station. Board Members will receive a full update on the successful Levelling up Fund bid at Barton at the next board meeting. There is also a lot of positivity in the market for the North Lincolnshire area as some buildings in town centre are moving, some are being re-leased and there are some new some new businesses moving into the town centre.

189 OVERVIEW OF TOWNS FUNDS PROJECTS

Lesley Potts, North Lincolnshire Council provided an update on the Shared Prosperity Fund. NLC successfully obtained £5.46m in funding. In the 2022/23 process, 33 applications were approved. All offer letters have been distributed and most inception meetings have been held. The 2023/24 calls process has now commenced and the deadline is 8th May 2023. Following a policy change in government, funding can now be spent on People & Skills in the year of 23/24. An update on the 2023/24 bids will be provided to the June board meeting.

NLC successfully obtained £787k from the Rural Prosperity Fund. The call for projects will commence shortly and will follow the same process as the Shared Prosperity Fund, this fund will hopefully assist in farming and diversification in rural communities.

The website for the Shared Prosperity Fund is: <https://investinnorthlincolnshire.com/funding/uk-shared-prosperity-fund>

Board members were updated on the Multiply Project, following a successful year 1 and going into year 2 of the project. The project has been a real success and very positive feedback has been received. Julian Free, University of Lincoln emphasised the importance of incorporating maths in all areas of learner's lives. Becky McIntyre, North Lincolnshire Council agreed with this point, and noted the challenges faced ensuring reach and accessibility due to the strict criteria set.

190 COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

Adam Lovell, North Lincolnshire Council gave a presentation to the meeting on the Board's communication plan. The next communication work will focus on the various grant schemes, the successful Levelling Up Fund bid at Barton and the new Police Station, as well as the SPF and LUF projects A community led pride festival is to take place in the Urban Park later in the year.

All project profiles on the Towns fund website will be updated with all new activity, and users will be able to click on projects and obtain full details which will be complete within

the next couple of weeks. Now there are a number of live projects the communication will be upscaled.

It is difficult to assess the impact of communications, however the AI tool ChatGPT was asked about the Scunthorpe Towns Fund. It recognised the government design, the £21m investment, the full transcript will be shared with Board members.

The chair thanked Adam Lovell for his presentation and update and commented that the Investing in North Lincolnshire website looks very good, vibrant and exciting. The Towns Fund website will be a subset of the council website, and will contain details of meeting agendas, minutes and members.

Reaching younger audiences was discussed and how they access information, including how to enthuse them and inform them of events which are happening in the town.

A communications appendix will be included with all future board meeting agenda's which will include links to websites and articles and will include audience reaches.

Julian Free, University of Lincoln explained how they utilise students when producing videos, Adam Lovell agreed this is something to be explored now we have a larger number of live projects.

Victoria Godfrey, DBT explained how she works on towns funds projects in southern Lincolnshire and she will provide Adam Lovell with their contact in Communications and Marketing to allow the sharing of good practice.

191 MONITORING & EVALUATION OF TOWNS FUND PROJECTS

Lesley Potts, North Lincolnshire Council, confirmed the report has been submitted and NLC are awaiting feedback from DLUHC.

192 ENERGY PROJECT UPDATE

Ben Atkinson, North Lincolnshire Council was welcomed to the meeting to update Board members on the North Lincolnshire Community Energy scheme. The cooperative has seen an interest from 250 local residents to date, the scheme is seeking c.£700,000 in the first share offer. The scheme will then be offered nationwide, similar nationwide schemes have proved very popular.

6 schools have installed solar panels and are collectively saving nearly £100,000 per annum, allowing budgets to be spent on education. A number of the schools have installed display monitors of the live system displaying how much power is being generated from the solar panels and the saving of CO2 being made. One school is using the usage figures as an education tool within mathematics classes. Roadshows are being held within the schools by the Contractor to educate both staff and pupils on the benefits of green energy and carbon literacy.

The second phase of the scheme will commence on 29th May 2023 which is the next half term holiday. 10 educational facilities will see installations in the next phase, with John Leggott College being the biggest participant, who are also looking at the possibility of storing the energy created. A total of 30 schools are in the scope from initial business case, there are 82 schools in North Lincolnshire however not all meet the funding criteria. There has also been an interest in the scheme from non-education providers including care homes and hospices who have previously struggled due to the capital costs required.

Julian Fee, University of Lincoln acknowledged the amazing project, and the benefit of education providers having more funds to invest in education. He encouraged more communication on how much money is being saved and the need to 'shout louder' about the success of the project. The Chair expresses his thanks for the update received and confirmed he and other members are keen to remain cited on the project and its continued success.

193 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Julian Free, University of Lincoln informed the Chair, the date of the next meeting overlaps with a prior commitment so he will be slightly late attending this next meeting. The Chair thanked all for their most valuable contributions and efforts and requested Board Members provide their apologies in good time to ensure meetings are held with the correct quorum.

194 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Friday 9 June 2023, 1100hrs.