

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

TOWNS FUND BOARD

28 July 2023

MS Teams

PRESENT

Board Members: Dr Faisal Baig, (Chair), Holly Mumby-Croft MP, Cllr Rob Waltham, Leader, North Lincolnshire Council; Simon Green, Deputy Chief Executive, North Lincolnshire Council; Becky McIntyre, Director Governance & Communities, North Lincolnshire Council; Roxeanne Asquith, British Steel; Julian Free, University of Lincoln; Jonathan Evison, Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner; Jason Frary, Humberside Fire & Rescue Service; Alex Seale, North Lincolnshire NHS Place Director; Gurpa Singh, 2 Sisters Food Group; Samantha Cook, Hampton by Hilton; Anne Cook, Director, Crosby Community Association.

Board Advisors: Matthew Turner, DBT; Lesley Potts, Assistant Director Place, North Lincolnshire Council.

Lisa Coates and Laura Williamson, North Lincolnshire Council, were also in attendance.

APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Diana Taylor, Marketing Humber; Helen Manderson, Director Economy & Environment, North Lincolnshire Council; Jo Corney, Department of Work and Pensions; Ruth Carver, Lincolnshire County Council; Sian Broughton, Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire; Mark Fuller, Humberside Fire & Rescue Service; Duncan Willey, PPH Commercial.

The meeting was held as a Videoconference via MS Teams.

195 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair welcomed all those present to the meeting and gave a warm welcome to two new members of the Board.

Matthew Turner informed the Board that he works for the Department for Business and Trade and the Department of Levelling Up, formerly BEIS Local Growth Unit.

Anne Cook informed the Board she is the Director of the Crosby Community Association but is also attending on behalf of the Voluntary Community Sector Alliance.

Laura Williamson, North Lincolnshire Council, was also in attendance to give a presentation on Project Anchor.

196 NOTES AND ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the meeting held on 14 April 2023 were approved as a true record.

The Chair thanked those who were not in attendance at today's meeting for submitting their apologies in good time to ensure meetings are held with the correct quorum.

197 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 an update.

FHSF003 – Enabling a Future for Clean Growth – The Grange Primary School have had their solar PV system installed (104kw, 276 panels), the system was due to be energised on 24.07.23. Planned summer installations are: Crosby Primary School – July 2023; St Luke’s & Brumby Resource Centre – July/August 2023; Lincoln Gardens Primary School – August 2023; Oakfield Primary School – October 2023. Future key actions noted are to instruct the structural surveyor to commence surveys on the final list in priority order. Continue supporting the installation at multiple sites throughout the summer. Issuing of the community share offer to raise £680,000. Export meter installation at Frederick Gough on 24.07.23. Data is now being received in terms of the success of this project. Total monthly savings in schools through this project is £53,825 which is being reinvested back into the schools (carbon saving 35,841 kg).

FHSF004 – Transforming the Scunthorpe Housing Market - £3.2m funding pot. Housing scheme launched within Scunthorpe High Street and beyond to transform commercial property back into housing. 1 application has been successful and the applicant has been awarded £30,000 of the grant funding to renovate a town centre property into two residential flats. Work is ongoing to bring other applications forward, but more marketing is needed. A marketing plan is being put together which Lesley Potts, North Lincolnshire Council, will bring back to the Board for their views. Development has commenced on the former Ashby Market sites. NLC has received an application to discharge the pre-commencement planning conditions for the former East Common land sites. Park Farm Road, potential opportunities for delivery of net zero carbon homes are being progressed. Sandfield House demolition is progressing and development options are being considered. Future key actions noted are an increase in the budget being progressed (£0.5m) for a commercial unit grant for Scunthorpe Town Centre. Marketing of Willoughby Road and South Leys is being progressed. An extension to the current intervention boundary for the grant scheme is under consideration. Lesley Potts, North Lincolnshire Council, gave an explanation of where the current boundary falls and the proposed extended area. Holly Mumby-Croft MP asked if there is any potential to look at small pockets of separate areas as opposed to one large area. Lesley Potts, North Lincolnshire Council, will look into this within the proposal map of Scunthorpe as a whole. The Board is in agreement and fully supports this suggestion.

TF001 – Advanced Manufacturing Park – A project adjustment form has now been approved on a decision to revert back to the Lincolnshire Lakes site. Since the last Board meeting, a deal between Homes England, the Receiver and Development Partner has concluded. Positive information and discussions are ongoing with Hargreaves and consultants to identify potential synergies in delivery. Future key actions noted are to develop a ‘plan on a page’ to support pitches to educational institutions, defining the advanced manufacturing aspiration. Legal to provide a draft proposal on how the delivery agreement can be structured taking into account procurement implications etc. Development of a project delivery programme taking into account the residential work and Hargreaves plans. Progress regular project meetings with Hargreaves supporting with requested information. Cross-check instructed surveys by Hargreaves and instruct BWB to extend remit to the AMP site. Lesley Potts, North Lincolnshire Council, will bring the ‘plan on a page’ back to the next meeting for the Board to consider and feedback. Jason

Frary, Humberside Fire & Rescue Services, asked if the AMP was inside the Freeport boundary. Lesley Potts, North Lincolnshire Council, advised the AMP is within the boundary but is not one of the identified sites and does not have any incentives.

TF006 Developing Scunthorpe's new Cultural, Arts and Heritage Offer – in respect of The Listed Building Consent, consultation replies have been received from Ecology, Highways, Homes England. Positive communication between the Architects and Conservation Officers in respect of Listed Buildings Consent continues. A tender process has been concluded but we are going back out to open tender to the specific people who can deliver the work. Future key actions noted are the review of activity schedule for the community hub works. Assisting where required in communications concerning the Listed Buildings Consent application. Receive and review the tender report regarding 20-21. The procurement of a contractor for restoration works to begin for works at 20-21. Draft the Officer Decision Record for the contract award. Assist in relocating items at 20-21 during works to a secure storage unit. Set up meeting between the Architects and Building Control to discuss drawings. Lesley Potts, North Lincolnshire Council, will bring a full update on this project to the next Board meeting.

TF005 – Scunthorpe Town Centre Regeneration and New Central Police Station – The Chair asked how advanced the conversations are in relation to this project. Lesley Potts, North Lincolnshire Council, informed the Board that the project is progressing as quickly as it can to design stage, considering we have only just recently received approval to proceed.

Government Policy Update – Accountable Bodies can now make decisions locally rather than having to refer to DLUHC through the project adjustment process on project changes that relate to up to 30% change in funding profile and up to 30% change in output and outcomes. This is provided the project remains materially the same. Changes which exceed these thresholds will need to be referred to DLUHC through the project adjustment process in the usual way.

The Chair thanked Lesley Potts for the presentation and gave thanks to her and the team for the work undertaken to date on all the projects.

199 BARTON LUF PROJECT UPDATE

It was agreed to defer this item to the next meeting.

200 SPF UPDATE

Lesley Potts, North Lincolnshire Council, gave an update on some of the community projects undertaken through this funding. £5.26m over 3 years, currently in Year 2. £124,848.20 defrayed to projects. Work is well under way in terms of 2022/23. In terms of grant offers for 2023/24 32 applications have been received for Community and Place, 10 applications have been received for Local Business and nothing has been received for People and Skills to date. In terms of the projects received, if approved, there will be a substantial amount of unallocated funding not used and it is important to think about other options for the funding. Lesley Potts, North Lincolnshire Council, informed the Board that calls for funding have gone out to the community, but we are just not getting enough projects back to deliver on the outcomes or utilise the funding. Another option is currently being looked at whereby the Accountable Body can identify projects to spend the money on and make suggestions on how to take this forward. The Board is asked to give its

support/direction on this. The Chair asked why businesses are not accessing the funding. Lesley Potts, North Lincolnshire Council, informed the Board that lots of work has been carried out with business and community but sometimes the issue is around capacity. Alex Seale, North Lincolnshire NHS Place Director, said that taking control of this and working with individual groups to support them will be a positive thing. Cllr Rob Waltham, Leader North Lincolnshire Council, is supportive of adopting this approach. Priorities considered now are evidence-based priorities and if projects can be developed with a steer from the Board this will make an impact on the funding but also build community capacity.

Gurpa Singh, 2 Sisters Food Group, asked for clarification in terms of what is an eligible project for consideration. Lesley Potts, North Lincolnshire Council, advised there is an EOI which sets out the criteria for funding which she will forward a copy of. Lesley Potts, North Lincolnshire Council, will also have a separate conversation with Gurpa Singh, 2 Sisters Food Group, in terms of working with families in Crosby and Town Wards to help them live prosperously in North Lincolnshire.

Julian Free, University of Lincoln, informed the Board of a programme in Lincoln called 'Lincoln be Smarter' which uses digital facilities and capabilities to increase productivity, maximising opportunities. A link is attached [Towns Fund Projects – City of Lincoln Council](#).

201 PROJECT ANCHOR UPDATE

Laura Williamson, North Lincolnshire Council, gave a presentation on Project Anchor which is being delivered under the Future High Streets Fund. A visual was shown which was taken 2 weeks ago giving a visual overview of the current status of the works. The development comprises of two buildings, a 46-unit accommodation block and circa 2,600sqm of Enterprise and Innovation Hub. The accommodation block is expected to be completed by 15 December 2023 and the Enterprise and Innovation Hub by 21 June 2024. Laura Williamson, North Lincolnshire Council, gave an overview of progress to date on both buildings, including the social value to North Lincolnshire. Project Anchor has won an award for 'Best Overall Site for Northeast & Yorkshire' and a visit has been undertaken by the Considerate Contractor Scheme whereby Project Anchor scored 'Excellent 43/45' and reflects conforming for the Code of Considerate Practice.

Laura Williamson, North Lincolnshire Council, shared an image to showcase the proposed scale and location for the new central police station. The view is that the development will mimic the accommodation block but west of the site. The building will have to be independent to the Enterprise and Innovation Hub offices and therefore the view is to put a structural break line west of the main atrium. Laura Williamson, North Lincolnshire Council, gave an update on general progress to date. Once a collaboration agreement and indemnity bond has been agreed the first milestone will be the forming of designs to submit for a pre-application. The aim is to achieve this by October 2023.

Cllr Rob Waltham, Leader North Lincolnshire Council, thanked Laura Williamson, North Lincolnshire Council, for the presentation. It is exciting to see the project developing and also to see the construction workers going into the town centre to purchase things which is good for the high street.

Becky McIntyre, North Lincolnshire Council, asked how Project Anchor and the New Central Police Station are progressing in terms of the funding envelope against targets and grant funding. Laura Williamson, North Lincolnshire Council, informed the Board that the Accommodation Block and Enterprise and Innovation Hub delivered by the Future High Streets Fund will meet the grant funding spend profile of March 2024. For the new Central Police Station, North Lincolnshire Council's contribution of £4m is earmarked to align with the Towns Fund spend programme, to be spent by March 2025.

The Chair asked if there are any other challenges. Laura Williamson, North Lincolnshire Council, advised the Board that costs are constantly being monitored in terms of inflation. The appointed joiners have gone into administration but there are other suppliers that can be approached. Cost implications of this can be mitigated but it may cause a delay to the programme.

Laura Williamson, North Lincolnshire Council, extended an offer to the Board to visit the site. It was agreed that the next Board meeting be held face-to-face at CSH, followed by a visit to the Project Anchor site.

The Chair thanked Laura Williamson, North Lincolnshire Council, for the presentation and asked that the Board be kept sighted on work taking place on the project.

203 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business raised. The Chair thanked all for their attendance.

204 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Friday 13 October 2023, 1100hrs.

The next meeting will be face-to-face at CSH, followed by a site visit to Project Anchor.