



Minutes of the Joint Town Deal Board for Mablethorpe and Skegness  
(Connected Coast Board) held via Zoom on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020 at 2:00pm.

Present:

Chris Baron	Deputy Chair
Councillor Craig Leyland	Leader, East Lindsey District Council
Ivan Annibal	Rose Regeneration
Councillor Adrian Benjamin	Mablethorpe & Sutton on Sea Town Council
Paul Collins	Boston College
Robert Caldwell	Association of Drainage Boards
Freddie Chambers	Lindum Group
Adrian Clarke	Grimsby Institute
Councillor Tony Tye	Skegness Town Council
Paul Collins	Boston College
Martin Collison	Collison Associates Ltd
Stephanie Dickens	Sub for Matt Warman (MP Boston & Skegness)
Councillor Helen Matthews	District Councillor for Sutton on Sea
Claire Draper	Mellor Group
Rachael Storer	Sub for Victoria Atkins (MP Louth & Horncastle)
Jacqui Bunce	Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group
Sandra Williamson	Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group
Mark Humphreys	CEO Magna Vitae
Caroline Killeavy	CEO YMCA
Robert Parker	MicronClean
John Henry Looney	Sustainable Direction Ltd
Councillor Colin Davie	Lincolnshire County Council
Justin Brown	Lincolnshire County Council
Mick Lazarus	BEIS East Midlands
Councillor Carl Tebbutt	Mablethorpe & Sutton Town Council
William Price	CLA
Steve Kemp	Open Plan
Robert Thompson	Open Plan
Pat Doody	GLLEP
Lisa Fairlie	Platform Housing Group
Pete Holmes	BEIS East Midlands
Councillor Steve Kirk	Portfolio Holder for Coastal Economy, East Lindsey District Council
Andrew Stevenson	University of Lincoln
Peter Watson	Distract
Councillor Sid Dennis	Visit Lincs Coast

**OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Robert Barlow (Chief Executive), Lydia Rusling (Head Economic Development and Growth), Martin Kay (External Funding Lead, Organisational Improvement & Development), Craig Fiske (Commercial Officer), Michelle Howard (Assistant Director (People)) and Lisa Collins (Place Manager).

**1. Apologies for absence:**

Apologies for absence were received from Sarah Louise Fairburn (Chair of Connected Coast Board), Ruth Carver (LEP), Gill Alton (Grimsby Institute) and Janet Stubbs (British Garden Centres).

**2. Minutes of Meetings**

CLLr Colin Davie asked for information on the Investment Committee and the process it will follow. Protocol for the Board has been issued with members of that board being Colin Davie, Claire Draper and Pat Doody.

Minutes approved by the board.

**3. Matters Arising**

No matters arising that are not covered in the agenda.

**4. Restarting the Towns Fund**

Lydia Rusling: Presented how to work together to reinvigorate the board to achieve what is needed for the Lincolnshire Coast. Composed a small delivery team that are committed to supporting the Board – to harness skills, knowledge and entrepreneurial vision. Role is to develop and agree a Town Investment Plan.

- It must be evidence based – outlining the main challenges facing the towns.
- A clear programme of interventions and demonstrate clearly how it will transform the prospects for economic growth and prosperity.
- A view of how the town could look in 30 years' time, if supported and successful.
- The goal is a high-level delivery plan with justification of deliverability.

Update of where we are:

On 6<sup>th</sup> March the second board meeting was presented with an evidence base, draft transformation plan and vision for each town (already critiqued by each Place Reference Group) and a proposed model for assessing projects.

Included in the evidence base:

- a) Audit of the current plans.
- b) A bespoke socio-economic baseline.
- c) Current economic base/skills in each settlement.

- d) Sites, attitudes of investors, opportunities for development, includes discussion with agents.
- e) Assessment of Current Project Ideas.

The Economic Development and Growth team at ELDC has been focussed on supporting businesses across East Lindsey through a package of support from Government. Provided unique comprehension of the scale and effect of Covid-19 on communities and businesses. Interviewed a number of the district's larger businesses, which will bolster evidence base. Helpfully this has reflected the feedback from Government advisors. Still awaiting further guidance on the Towns Fund. Pete Holmes and Mick Lazarus have provided an indicative direction:

- a) Proposals for shovel ready projects in an investment plan that must be capable of being compiled in about 3 months' time.
- b) Looking for proposals that will make a real and tangible contribution to the recovery from Covid-19.
- c) Important to be able to demonstrate broad based community support.
- d) An offer of support from centrally appointed consultants to accelerate projects.
- e) The need for a 'green' recovery to support the Government's commitment to tackle the climate change crisis. We will hear later that how this commitment has particular resonance with the need to build resilience to changes in sea level arising from global warming as part of the wider response of coastal communities across the UK to the risk of flooding.

What happens next?-

We need a strategic investment plan. Looking at projects that are shovel ready and identify short, mid and long term projects as well as investment opportunities. Consultation has happened on most projects and respond to the MyTown suggestions, as well as solve issues highlighted in the evidence base and transformation plan.

We need to build on the evidence base and re-engage with the local community with the issuing of a Prospectus.

Mick Lazarus: Guidance that is looking to be circulated later this month will look at bids with good investment decisions, offer support being provided by ARUP, and set further deadlines for bids to be received.

Clr Colin Davie: Noted that a transport strategy might be required for the Mobi-hub in Mablethorpe and County Council would need to be involved.

**Action: LR to follow up with LCC colleagues re. transport strategy.**

Chris Baron raised the question of whether the bid could include both capital and revenue projects. Mick Lazarus stated that they were awaiting further guidance from Government in relation to the Towns Fund imminently, which will provide clarification relating to capital versus revenue expenditure.

Steve Kirk: Must not lose sight of the longer term vision.

## **5. Shovel Ready Projects**

Lydia Rusling: East Lindsey is starting from a strong level of project development capacity. In each case the project will be either enhanced by the Towns Fund resources, or has unachieved match funding requirement. These projects reflect the transformation targets and have either undergone extensive consultation, or are reflected in the #MyTown 'asks' – particularly those around facilities, education and health.

Comments from Place Reference Group Chairs:

Sid Dennis: Really like the FE Campus, good for the longer term vision of Skegness. Will bring skills and young people to Skegness, as well as training opportunities for local firms. Boating Lake/Skegness Foreshore were well received by the group.

Helen Matthews: Important to engage with the community and take them with us. Agreement that the Colonnade was a good idea but needs to consider the outdoor area around it. A need to make sure we deliver on what has been promised.

## **6. High Impact Projects**

Adrian Clarke: Project will bring further and higher education for Skegness and the area – better delivery of education. It will provide a permanent FE college and higher education buildings and workspace. FE College will be substantially funded with a good provider behind it. Grimsby Institute is an Ofsted outstanding provider. Digital agenda - leader in digital and virtual education, but still a need for practical spaces. Partnership with lots of employers, colleges, universities and are happy to work with further local organisations. State of the art, purpose built FE College which will be transformational and have a big impact on education and training in the area. Can provide training for adults not just children.

Chris Baron: Question what they are offering in terms of digital education? Adrian Clarke: New courses around digital education and skills are coming up. Requirement for capital funding from Towns Fund, and would lease buildings from ELDC. The Institute will invest substantial amount of revenue each year to deliver courses.

Andrew Stevenson: Need to drive through new disciplines and courses. Adrian Clarke: Can provide these but need to look at how education is progressing. Courses listed in document are ones that need practical settings. Again, can adapt courses for the Skegness campus.

Paul Collins: Questions partnerships and displacement of students. Adrian Clarke: Willing to work with local providers and employers to see what they require. Will of course attract students from other providers but offering a facility closer to home with a wide range of activities as well as new training to everyone.

Agreed amongst members that this was a very good idea. Would help with education in the area and offer a training provider for local businesses.

Great that it provides education in East Lindsey and will lead to upskilling locals to provide better opportunities in the area. Will provide the best education to learners in the region and with other partners will allow for all educational and learning to be covered. It is also create business opportunities and attract new business to the area as the skills will be here for those employers.

Ivan Annibal: Campus for Future Living - Working with Ageing Better. Will help with the future of Mablethorpe and what people need. Will be a new build on Stanley Avenue. A base for planning and facility of care. Develop medical technology in partnership with Nottingham Trent University. Project will allow business development and opportunities not only in the care sector. Will bring national attention into Mablethorpe from outside partners and investment into the Town.

Michelle Howard: Will help with the health inequalities as well as economic problems. Need for health and care workers in the area and the Campus will help attract these. Ageing population in the coastal area. Risk heightened by Covid-19 to residents around coastal Towns. Will bring social and economic outcomes, and learning in critical sectors. Use facilities with national firms/organisations to bring the absolute best to the Town with outstanding partners. Lincolnshire has been selected as the rural partnership by Ageing Better. This Campus would help promote this and deliver this at a local level.

Chris Baron: Questioned if the location of Mablethorpe would be a challenge. Ivan Annibal responded: Diverse population and health requirements of the locals would set it apart from elsewhere and enhance the offer that Mablethorpe provides.

Adrian Benjamin asked if leisure facilities could be added to the site to encourage young people to go there and add an extra zing factor to people coming to train. Ivan stated that these kind of facilities would certainly be attractive for people that want to use the facility and could be looked into.

Support from the board on this project. It will help Mablethorpe that this level of investment would be coming into the area and also provide new opportunities for local people either by catering for their needs or training provisions for younger people. Also with excess room on site questions and suggestions were put forward on what could be put alongside this.

## **7. Wider Project Development and Public Engagement**

Openplan has been commissioned to engage with local communities and businesses around the key stages of the development of our Towns Investment Plan. Need to re-engage and bring to life plans. Agreed Prospectus development.

It was identified that there was a need for marketing and communication support, a brief was issued and Distract were selected by the Investment Committee. Board agreement and focus on enabling pro-active communications up and running as soon as possible.

Need to not only work from the top down but vice-versa to engage our communities fully with our ideas but also their suggestions.

## **8. Capacity Fund Budget Allocations**

Cllr Colin Davie noted for the record that LCC has hired Martin Collison as an external consultant.

Contracts with Distract and Martin Collison approved by the board, detail to be managed by Towns Fund lead officer, Lydia Rusling.

## **9. Coastal Flood Risk Protection Presentation**

Robert Caudwell presentation on coastal defences and role of Environment Agency. Presentation available on request.

The presentation and ideas put forward were fully supported by the Board and are an integral part of the development of the coastal strip, but does not require any Town Funds money.

## **10. Any Other Business**

Discussion of whether we submit one or two bids.

Members were in general agreement that they would want one investment plan but within it two distinct deals for each Town. Comments included: One Investment Plan needed, as already branded as a 'Connected Coast' and linked in terms of benefits and challenges for both coastal towns. However, recognise that each Town needs their own identity and projects, as well as the same chance to bid for the same amount of money dependant on the strength of projects and deals for each Town. Concerns were raised by some members of one plan and the funding split between the two towns. Neither town would want to lose out to the other. Was stated by most members that MP's need to be consulted on this and their preference, early indications were for two bids but further clarity is being sought and feedback requested quickly.

Comments from BEIS representatives: Important for Government that the level of detail and needs of both Towns aren't compromised by having one plan rather than two. Government will look at the strength of the plan and project ideas within it, and based on that would offer a deal. Having one plan wouldn't compromise Government's thinking. They will take away the proposal to have one investment plan with two deals approach to confirm agreement and policy allows for it. Feedback in the next week.

Meeting ended at 4:23pm.

Next meeting: 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2pm.