

Connected Coast Board: Discussion with Towns Fund Hub
Tuesday 3rd August at 10am

Attendees:

1. Jenny Adams, Arup/Towns Fund Hub
2. Kate Willard, Towns Fund Hub consultant
3. Lydia Rusling, Assistant Director and Towns Fund delivery lead
4. Jacqui Bunce, representing NHS bodies in Lincolnshire
5. Chris Baron, interim Chair
6. Janet Stubbs, Woodthorpe Leisure
7. Robert Caudwell, Chair of Lincolnshire Water Board and representative of IDB
8. Gill Alton, CX of Tec Partnership
9. Craig Leyland, Leader of ELDC
10. Freddie Chambers, Lindum
11. Adrian Benjamin, CCT
12. Justin Brown, LCC
13. Deborah Campbell, EA
14. Sharon Warner, BBC
15. Martin Kay, ELDC
16. Cllr Colin Davie (joined after introductions)

Introduction: The Towns Fund is a significant investment into our towns and as a board we are responsible for every penny to be spent wisely. Move to delivery - real pounds, real people, and real projects.

Five themes:

1. ToR reflection: currently relatively sparse. Revisit ToR to focus on delivery. Board need to discuss and take ownership.
2. Secretariat and public sector process: papers on time and helpful, executive summaries, lots of information regarding decisions required. Do the papers encourage constructive challenge and debate, not passive receipt of information?
3. Decision making in the public sector: Ensuring the board is clear on their responsibilities.
4. Skills audit.
5. Stakeholder engagement and communications. Communications strategy for the board to sign off. LA communications officer working with business comms people. Private sector input into engagement and communications. Measure effectiveness. Move to being on the front foot, not just reactive.

CB: managing expectations of local stakeholders and community. Constant drip feed of positive stories. Supportive of skills audit as a dynamic board.

CL: comforting to hear experience of other boards. Good opportunity to refresh knowledge of public/private sector differences - e.g. procurement.

Kate: Board performance - accept it will be good but how do we get to excellence.

LR: Encourage honest feedback from board.

FC: Request for face to face board development session. Construction, joint venture and comms expertise from Lindums.

JBr: Balance of responsibility of the board - delivering schemes and positioning for the future and investment. Help project sponsors to deliver outcomes. Glue between projects - fit with other projects.

RC: Clearer sight of investment programmes from both public and private. Fantastic work done by the team to get bid and project approval. Marrying TF with future funding opportunities.

Kate: Take strategic approach to funding and investment.

JBu: What does good look like? Measuring delivery of aspiration.

GA: Board risk register, not just about individual projects, but goals as a board. Link to assurance framework.

Kate: What is the board's appetite for risk? For discussion at Board Development Session. Requirement of 3 hours.

CB: In person board session prior to next board meeting, incorporating the parameters the board works within.

Kate: Section 151 officer invitation and share role.

Jenny: Shared Town Fund Hub information - <https://townsfund.org.uk/blog-collection/working-together-on-project-assurance-and-signoff>

JBr: Operating context of accountable body and Government involvement. Pete/Mick supportive but under their own constraints.

Kate: Government focus on Place based funding.

CL: Landscape is changing and opportunities that presents.

Action: Arrange face to face board development session prior to next Connected Coast Board meeting (4th November).