

## Greater Grimsby Project Board

### Minutes of Remote Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> May, 2020

#### Attendance:

David Ross	The David Ross Foundation (in the Chair)
Beatrice Andrews	Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy
Simon Bird	ABP
Louise Brennan	Historic England
Ruth Carver	Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership
Neale Coleman	
Richard Di Cani	Arup
Julian Free	University of Lincoln
Councillor Philip Jackson	North East Lincolnshire Council
Damien Jaines-White	North East Lincolnshire Council
Lord Kerlake	
Lia Nici	MP for Greater Grimsby
Martin Smithhurst	Managing Director – Engie
Kishor Tailor	Humber Local Enterprise Partnership
Emma Toulson	Orsted
Clive Tritton	North East Lincolnshire Council
Martin Vickers	MP for Cleethorpes
Rob Walsh	North East Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group
Dafydd Williams	ABP
Paul Windley	North East Lincolnshire Council

#### 1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence from this meeting were received from Darren Cunningham, Rachel Fisher, Lord Lamont, Susan Lea and Gordon Sheret.

## **2. Minutes**

The minutes of the Greater Grimsby Project Board meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2018 were agreed as a correct record.

## **3. Town Deal Update**

The Board received an update on progress with the Town Deal, including the Future High Streets and Stronger Towns funding as well as conversations with government.

Mr Walsh introduced the item and reported that there continued to be good progress, despite the Covid-19 pandemic, with positive support from the Government. While there were acute challenges, the ambition remains to deliver.

Mr Tritton and Mr Jaines-White updated on the following elements:

- Town Deal First Round – continued progress with the South Humber Industrial Investment Programme, including a new business park and associated highways improvement works, a new £8m link road and the creation of a unique and award-winning ecological mitigation site. In terms of housing delivery, works continued on the former Western School site and dialogue was taking place on a range of other sites. Some viability issues were noted with regard to the Grimsby West development. It was reported that an interim Skills Lead had now been appointed. The Grimsby Waterfront theme had been the subject of significant input from the Government. The West Havens Maltings project was moving forward and a planning application was due to be submitted.
- Stronger Towns Fund – this was focused on Grimsby, covering the town centre through to the docks, incorporating Freeman Street, King Edward Street and Victoria Street North. Business cases were currently being developed. Capacity funding had been received and Arup had been appointed to help develop the associated Master Plan.
- Future High Streets Fund – this was a competitive funding process with a maximum £25m ask from each authority. North East Lincolnshire had been shortlisted in round two. An inception meeting had been held with MHCLG, followed by an early outline bid in March 2020. Final detailed work was now being completed prior to further engagement next month and final submission by the end of July. A decision was expected late summer/early autumn.
- Implementation Plans – it was noted that the above was covered in a wider implementation plan, which would evolve to take in other developments such as transport, Covid recovery and free ports.

Mr Di Cani provided an update on the development of the Stronger Towns Fund Master Plan.

Lord Kerslake commented on the impressive progress that had been made on the original deal and felt that it would be good to see what the data looked like. He also commented on the importance of learning and skills and enquired about other Stronger Town Funds bids from LEPs in the area.

Mr Tritton responded that a local economic assessment had been published but there was challenge in terms of providing updated data. He acknowledged that there was work to do on learning and skills but noted that the new Skills Lead was expected to work closely with Arup to address this. On the LEPs issue, it was noted that bids were being

pursued by Brigg, Scunthorpe and Goole as well as six towns in the Greater Lincolnshire area.

The Board discussed Covid recovery and it was noted that the Humber Resilience Forum and both LEPs were being engaged. Local recovery planning arrangements were in place and the Board needed to make sure that there was a focus on the right things. Hospitality and support for SMEs had been the immediate focus but there was also a requirement to monitor the wider strategic position.

Councillor Jackson referred to the paper on 'Greater and Greener Grimsby' and commented that it needed to align to the Lincolnshire Industrial Strategy. On connectivity, he noted the importance of the A46 upgrade and felt that this needed to be included in the asks of government.

Mr Bird updated the Board on discussions with the Humber LEP regarding free ports. The deadline for responses had now been extended to the mid-July but it was noted that there was likely to be a lot of competition for the ten places. He suggested that it may be beneficial to look wider than the Humber ports and include transport links.

Mr Tritton noted that consultants had been appointed to work on our response and the findings could be brought to the Board.

Mr Free provided an update on proposals to establish a Lincolnshire Institute of Technology with a Grimsby hub centre which will be a key element of the Greater Grimsby regeneration, a flagship project for Grimsby Institute and North East Lincolnshire Council. A key challenge would be identifying the high level skills requirements in this area.

Ms Nici commented on the potential to plug into food research skills already in place at Holbeach. She also asked for an update on the development of Heritage Square in Grimsby, including plans for St James House.

Mr Jaines-White responded that works to Heritage Square were due to commence in June, 2020. While there had not been an end-use identified yet for St James House, there was continued dialogue with Grimsby Minster.

The Chair enquired about heritage and culture developments.

Mr Free commented that the University of Lincoln was involved in a lot of work on culture in the southern parts of the county and he offered to provide a contact for any assistance that might be required here. He also commented on cycle path work that had been undertaken in Lincoln that could be of relevance in North East Lincolnshire.

Mr Walsh suggested that an update on the Cultural Development Fund be brought to the next meeting of this Board.

Mr Di Cani welcomed the suggestion regarding cycle paths as he was involved in the tourism and economic development potential of extending a path from the port to Cleethorpes.

#### **4. Next Meeting**

Mr Walsh noted that there was a need to look at broader membership requirements. He hoped that the Board had received an assurance that progress was being made and

suggested that the next meeting needed to be focused on delivery and also clarifying the educations and skills aspect.

The Chair concluded the meeting by thanking Mr Walsh and his team for the progress achieved to date.