

Greater Grimsby Board

Minutes of Virtual Meeting 29th September, 2020

Attendance:

- Chair - David Ross (The David Ross Foundation)
- Beatrice Andrews (Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy)
- Ruth Carver (Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership)
- Neale Coleman
- Councillor Philip Jackson (North East Lincolnshire Council)
- Lord Lamont
- Susan Lea (University of Hull)
- Lia Nici (MP for Greater Grimsby)
- Kishor Tailor (Humber Local Enterprise Partnership)
- David Talbot (CATCH)
- Martin Vickers (MP for Cleethorpes)
- Julie Walmsley (VCSE)
- Rob Walsh (North East Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group)
- Paul Windley (North East Lincolnshire Council)

Also in Attendance: –

- Peter Campey (Cities and Local Growth Unit)
- Richard Di Cani (Arup)
- Damien Jaines-White (North East Lincolnshire Council)
- Clive Tritton (North East Lincolnshire Council)
- Dafydd Williams (ABP)
- Liz Wade (North East Lincolnshire Council)
- Ben George (Ore Catapult)
- Chris Hill (Ore Catapult)
- Henrik Wareborn (Velocys)
- Andrew Morris (Velocys)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence from this meeting were received from Darren Cunningham, Pat Doody, Julian Free, Lord Kerlake, Stephen Parnaby and Martin Smithurst.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest from any Board member in respect of items on the agenda for this meeting.

3. Minutes

The minutes of the Greater Grimsby Project Board meeting held on 15th July, 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

4. Governance Framework

The Board considered a draft assurance framework setting out the governance and decision-making structure of the Greater Grimsby Board in relation to the Towns Fund.

Mr Jaines-White provided a brief presentation explaining the governance requirements with regard to the Towns Fund. He summarised the content of the framework and set out next steps, including the completion of Board member profiles and a stakeholder engagement plan.

There was broad agreement from the Board, but it was felt that the decision-making role of the Board needed to be more clearly defined.

Resolved – That authority be delegated to the Chair, in consultation with the Leader and Chief Executive of North East Lincolnshire Council, to sign off the final assurance framework document.

5. Skills

The Board received an update from Liz Wade, Interim Skills Lead, on the development of a strategic skills strategy, following on from discussions held at the previous meeting.

Ms Wade reported on the outcome of a review that had been undertaken in May/June to inform the strategy. This had found that there was very good provision for skills and training within North East Lincolnshire but with some opportunities for improvement. She then detailed the longer-term approach to workforce needs based on 'build and create'. Recovery and renewal skills priorities were set out and next steps outlined, which included scenario testing to establish the new economic baseline, continued integration into the Town Centre Masterplan and Investment Plan, opportunities for influence and funding against priorities, wider sector and partner engagement, and the provision of a living skills action plan.

The Board welcomed the update and raised the following issues:

- The impact of the Covid pandemic on older workers, particularly women over 50

- The potential for support at a strategic level to address the issue of fragmentation within the skills sector which was currently making access difficult for employers
- The potential role of LEPs to help translate and demystify plans.
- Employers required assistance with advertising apprenticeships.

6. Low Carbon/Energy

The Board received presentations on key low carbon investment opportunities currently being pursued in North East Lincolnshire.

Mr Wareborn and Mr Morris detailed work being undertaken by Velocys to provide a world-leading sustainable aviation fuel solution via the Altalto site being developed in Stallingborough. It was noted that planning consent had been granted for the site in June 2020 and the company was in close contact with the Treasury in order to progress the project. It was felt that public support from the Board would be helpful. The Chair agreed to further discuss this outside the meeting.

Mr George and Mr Hill outlined opportunities provided by the offshore renewable energy catapult and the establishment in Grimsby of a national centre of excellence for innovation in operations and maintenance. They both responded to questions from the Board around funding for the project.

Mr Talbot updated the Board on plans to establish a Green Energy Hub in Grimsby to help to support the energy sector's needs.

Mr Tritton then provided an update on the development of UK offshore wind industry clusters and the work being planned to further develop the Humber cluster.

The Board welcomed the presentations and noted that there was a real opportunity for North East Lincolnshire to be at the centre of low carbon developments.

7. Grimsby Town Centre Masterplan

The Board received a presentation providing an update on the development of the Grimsby Town Centre Masterplan.

Mr Di Cani set out the purpose of the masterplan and the vision and principles driving the plan. The masterplan focused on three character areas: Riverhead and Garth Lane; St James and Freshney; and Alexandra Dockside. Key projects within each character area were outlined along with headline messages from the associated consultation.

RESOLVED – That the Grimsby Town Centre Masterplan be endorsed.

8. Town Investment Plan

The Board received a presentation on the emerging Town Investment Plan, seeking support for priority projects included within the plan, ahead of eventual submission to government.

It was noted that the plan was due to be considered by Cabinet on 14th October prior to anticipated submission to MHCLG on 16th October.

RESOLVED – That the projects outlined within the Town Investment Plan be supported and that authority be delegated to the Chair, the Leader of North East Lincolnshire Council and the Chief Executive of North East Lincolnshire Council to finalise the Town Investment Plan for submission to Government.

9. Any Other Business

The formal requirement to appoint a Vice Chair of this Board was noted and it was agreed to confirm this appointment as the first item of business at the next meeting.