

Greater Grimsby Board

**Monday 21st March 2022
Virtual Meeting via Teams**

2.30 p.m.

Agenda

1. Apologies and Introductions

2. Declarations of Interest

3. Minutes

To receive the minutes of the Great Grimsby Project Board meeting held on 28th September, 2021 (copy attached).

4. Grimsby Town Centre Update

To receive a presentation on the above.

5. Exploratorium Update

To receive a verbal update on the above.

6. Skills Action Plan Framework

To receive an update on the above (copy attached).

7. Greater Grimsby Task Force Leads

To consider an update on the above (copy attached)

8. Levelling Up White Paper and Position on Devolution

To consider a verbal update on the above.

9. Any Other Business and Next Meeting Date

Greater Grimsby Board

Minutes of Virtual Meeting 28th September, 2021 at 1.00 p.m.

Attendance:

- Chair - David Ross (The David Ross Foundation)
- Neale Coleman
- Darren Cunningham (Phillips66)
- Pat Doody (Greater Lincolnshire LEP)
- Councillor Philip Jackson (North East Lincolnshire Council)
- Lord Lamont
- Susan Lea (University of Hull)
- Lia Nici (MP for Greater Grimsby)
- David Talbot (CATCH)
- Emma Toulson (Orsted)
- Rob Walsh (North East Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group)

Also in Attendance: –

- Peter Campey (Cities and Local Growth Unit)
- Damien Jaines-White (North East Lincolnshire Council)
- Maggie Johnson (North East Lincolnshire Council)
- Steve Ryder
- Kishor Tailor (Humber LEP)
- Clive Tritton (North East Lincolnshire Council)
- Liz Wade (North East Lincolnshire Council)
- Dafydd Williams (ABP)
- Sharon Wroot (North East Lincolnshire Council)
- Paul Windley (North East Lincolnshire Council)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence from this meeting were received from Martin Vickers MP, Lord Kerslake, Martin Smithhurst and Julian Free.

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 19th March, 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

4. Levelling Up Fund

The Board received and noted a report providing an update on the submission of a Levelling Up Fund bid in relation to transport and highways in the borough and proposed future Levelling Up Fund bids for Grimsby and Cleethorpes.

5. Current North East Lincolnshire Regeneration Delivery

The Board received a report summarising the breadth of regeneration work currently in delivery or in the pipeline across North East Lincolnshire.

Mr Jaines White provided an update on specific projects around Grimsby town centre, namely progress with phase one of the Town Deal, Future High Streets Funding, the Towns Fund and the Transportation Hub.

On the Towns Fund, the Board supported the submission of a business case to MHCLG for the Activation and Community Engagement Fund.

The Board expressed concern around progress with the Onside project and escalating costs. Councillor Jackson provided an assurance that the project had been subject to ongoing robust challenge and he was confident that an appropriate funding model was in place.

RESOLVED –

1. That the report be noted.
2. That the submission of a business case to MHCLG for the Activation and Community Engagement Fund be supported.

6. Education and Skills

The Board considered a report outlining the current situation in terms of education and skills provision for North East Lincolnshire and making recommendations about immediate priorities to focus on.

The Board discussed the issues highlighted in the report and it was agreed that a local leader was required to pick up the issues and make sure that they were progressed. Mr Ryder volunteered to do so. Mr Talbot was happy to provide support and Mr Coleman

provided a commitment to continue to work together on this issue as it was the heart of the Government's levelling up agenda.

RESOLVED –

1. That the skills priorities set out in paragraph 7.2 of the report now submitted, be agreed;
2. That a report be received within the next 6 months evidencing those priorities, identifying measurable outcomes, developing an action plan to realise those outcomes and establishing a dashboard for ongoing monitoring and evaluation.

7. Economic Development Strategy

The Board received and noted the North East Lincolnshire Economic Strategy.

Mr Taylor suggested decarbonisation opportunities and innovation as two areas that could be enhanced within the strategy.

Mr Walsh confirmed that the strategy had now been adopted by the Council, having been informed by engagement, but it remained a live document.

8. Greater Grimsby Task Force – Prospectus, Priorities and Roles

The Board considered a paper setting out the next steps in terms of the progression of the Greater Grimsby Board into a Greater Grimsby Task Force.

The Board discussed engagement around town centre regeneration, particularly around community buy-in, and were keen to develop further opportunities such as pop-up activities.

RESOLVED -

1. That the draft Task Force Prospectus which builds on the priorities agreed at the meeting of 19 March 2021, set out in appendix 1 of the report now submitted, be agreed.
2. That the approach to developing roles and responsibilities for each priority as set out in paragraph 3.3 of the report now submitted, be agreed.
3. That a task force and prospectus launch in the spring/summer of 2022 be agreed.

9. Humber and Grimsby Unlocking Potential

The Board received and noted an update from Mr Coleman on potential unlocking opportunities arising from the governments forthcoming White Paper on levelling up. This was with a view to making a case for more support for North East Lincolnshire and included looking at the potential for the private sector to have a strong leadership role and connect into the key roles of government. Meetings had been held with the levelling up unit to discuss opportunities and these had been well received.

10. ORE Catapult Update

The Board received a presentation from Stuart Barnes and Ben George of ORE Catapult providing an update on the organisation's role as a leading technology innovation and

research centre for offshore renewable energy. Grimsby was central to that role and their vision was to make it to the Silicon Valley of off-shore wind. This would involve establishing a National Clean Maritime Demonstration Hub, expected to be operational by 2023, providing a valuable resource hub and offering training and skills programmes. The Board also received an update on a proposed 5G Testbed.

The Board welcomed the presentation and noted the importance of off-shore wind, particularly in terms of the levelling up agenda and the transformation of the area.

There being no further business, the Chair declare the meeting closed at 3.07 p.m.

Board: Greater Grimsby Board
Date: 21 March 2022
Report Title: Skills Action Plan Framework

1.0 Introduction

This paper sets out the current position in the development of a North East Lincolnshire Skills Action Plan Framework as agreed at the Board meeting of September 2021. It seeks the Board's support on the way forward.

2.0 Recommendations

1.1 It is recommended that the Board:

- i. Comment on the attached Skills Action Plan Framework;
- ii. Continue the process of engaging with external skills partners on the Skills Action Plan Framework;
- iii. In line with the recommendations of the Greater Grimsby Task Force paper, begin the process of identifying a Task Force skills lead to initiate the delivery of the Skills Action Plan Framework supported by the Council's Strategic Skills Lead, once appointed;
- iv. Once identified, ask the Task Force Skills Lead to convene a skills sub group and identify lead sub group members for each of the three core skills priorities as set out in section 3.0;
- v. Ask the Task Force skills lead to report back to future Board meetings on progress.

3.0 Background

At its meeting on 28 September 2021, the Board agreed that the following skills priorities were key to realising inclusive economic growth in North East Lincolnshire:

1. ***Participation: Engaging Our Communities***
2. ***Progression: Productive People & Businesses***
3. ***Performance: Maximising Potential***

The Board asked that an action plan framework setting out further detail on progressing those three priorities be brought to a future meeting. A draft framework is provided in Appendix I.

4.0 Skills Action Plan Framework

The skills action plan framework is attached for comment. It is not a delivery plan, rather it is an overarching framework document designed to identify area of focus, key outcomes and likely partners. It is designed as a template to take to our partners to mutually agree the detailed delivery plans for each strand of work. It draws on previous work and discussion with key stakeholders in recent months.

The skills action plan framework is structured in three parts.

Part 1 - the structural foundations that are required to implement the action plan across all the priorities to put in place the foundations to lead on the local skills agenda.

Part 2 – considers the three skill priorities already agreed (Participation, Progression and Performance) and proposed sub priorities and indicative actions to take forward. Delivery can only be assured through our partnerships. Ownership and accountability of the process must be through the lead organisations. Regular reporting, challenge, support and development will be required in seeking to deliver differently and begin to see change and progress of the joint actions being taken.

Part 3 – provides the key indicators and evidence to allow a dashboard to be established which will show progress towards the plans aspirations over time.

5.0 Task Force Skills Lead

The ambition set out in the attached skills action plan framework is significant. The Council is not a significant deliverer of skills programmes. The Council cannot deliver the programme of activity and change envisaged by the skills action plan framework. It will need to be delivered through partners. However, the Council has identified the need to appoint a Strategic Skills lead who can assist the Board in co-ordinating activity and reporting.

In line with the separate Task Force paper, it is envisaged that the Greater Grimsby Board will have a Task Force lead on skills. That lead will have responsibility for reporting back to the Board at future meetings on progress in implementing the plan and to update the outcomes dashboard.

It is expected that the Task Force lead, working with the Council's Strategic Skills Lead, will convene a sub group of the board focused on delivering the Skills Action Plan Framework. It may be appropriate for that sub group to identify leads for each of the three priority areas given the scale of work within each priority.

6.0 Conclusions

Subject to agreement of the principles set out in the attached Action Plan Framework, further discussions will now be held with skills stakeholders regarding the ownership, implementation and detailed planning of the proposed actions.

The Board is asked to comment on the proposed skills framework and to begin the process of identifying a Task Force Lead for Skills who will work with the Council's Strategic Skills Lead once that latter appointment has been made.

Board: Greater Grimsby Board
Date: 21 March 2022
Report Title: Task Force Priority Leads

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To consider next steps in terms of recruitment of Task Force leads for a Greater Grimsby task force.

2.0 Recommendations

2.1 It is recommended that the Board:

- Agrees the principles of the proposed Task Force as set out in section 5.0 below, agrees the role of Task Force leads as set out in section 6.0 below and asks officers to progress the recruitment of Task Force leads as set out in section 7.0 below.

3.0 Background

3.1 At the Board meeting on 28 September 2021, the Board considered its role in relation to a Greater Grimsby Task Force in addition to its governance role for the Towns Fund. It agreed that the Task Force priorities would be as follows:

- The Diversification of Grimsby Town Centre into a successful and sustainable offer;
- Delivering a Low Carbon Energy Cluster on the Humber;
- Delivering growth through our ports and the Freeport;
- Enhancing transport connectivity;
- Developing our tourism, heritage, culture and arts offer;
- Enhancing productivity in sustainable food production;
- Developing our approach to training and skills to ensure that growth is inclusive.

4.0 Recent Activity

4.1 Since the last board meeting, progress has been made on a number of key fronts in relation to the above priorities. For example:

- Business cases have been developed for the six key towns fund projects.
- The seafood sector, as part of the Greater Lincolnshire Food Valley has been successful in an application through the Neighbourhood Renewal Funding, to develop skills in the seafood sector.
- The Freeport company submitted its detailed full business case to government on 31 January 2022.
- A skills action plan framework has been developed, presented elsewhere on this agenda.
- A Humber Energy Board has been established to work pan Humber to drive forward the Energy Estuary.

4.2 Additionally, the Levelling Up White Paper has been published which has provided clarity on the route to achieving devolution but has also identified key new initiatives which are relevant to the Greater Grimsby Board, including Opportunity Humber, designed to provide Humber businesses with a single voice in government.

4.3 It was important to consider the White Paper in considering how best the Task Force should proceed. However, with that context now in place, there is a need to make progress on the Task Force.

5.0 Task Force Principles

5.1 Grimsby's status as the first Town Deal has provided a platform for a direct conversation with Government. The Greater Grimsby Board has played a vital role in both championing the Town Deal and bringing influence to bare on national stakeholders.

5.2 The work taking place across North East Lincolnshire has strong governance. For example, the Economic Strategy is owned by the Development and Growth board which is made up of sector leads representing each of our key economic sectors. The Place Board provides strategic leadership across NEL to promote and enable inclusive integrated services. The work of the Council is overseen through the decisions of Cabinet and the wider democratic process.

5.4 It is vital that the Greater Grimsby Task Force builds on those existing structures and provides a voice and influence beyond the confines of NEL where it can. The fundamental role of the Task Force is to extend the influence of work going on in the borough. To do that, there needs to be clarity on where intervention by the Task Force will add value to existing work streams.

5.3 Therefore, the Greater Grimsby Task Force should work to the following principles:

- It's core aim is to bring influence beyond NEL's boundaries, at a regional level, at a national level and within government to further the development of the above priorities;
- Task Force leads will act as ambassadors for priority areas;
- The task force needs to add value to, rather than duplicate, governance structures already in place;
- Given the scarcity of resources to deliver against current commitments, it should reduce not add to the resource burden.

6.0 Role of Task Force Leads

6.1 At the meeting in September 2021, it was agreed that Task Force leads should be identified to progress the above Task Force priorities. As set out above, the timeframe for progressing leads has been delayed to ensure fit with the Levelling Up White Paper. It is envisaged that those task force leads will:

- Work with key local, regional and national stakeholders who will have a role in delivering against each commitment;
- Given capacity challenges, consider what additional resources partners can bring to maximise momentum;
- Develop the narrative of, and commitments in, the Task Force Prospectus ahead of any future Task Force launch;
- Identify actions to realise the aspirations of the Task Force Prospectus, previously agreed by the Board;

- Bring twice yearly updates to the Board on each of the above and additionally identifying any key areas where the influence of the Board could be useful beyond the confines of North East Lincolnshire.

6.2 It may be appropriate to appoint interim leads to realise momentum across the above programme in advance of permanent recruitment.

7.0 Recruitment of Task Force Leads

7.1 In respect of the future prosperity of Grimsby Town Centre, it is recommended that the Task Force lead be the Leader of the Council. This reflects the direct role which the Council has in delivering the Towns Fund and Future High Streets Fund, the aspiration of a future Town Centre transport hub along with the ownership which the Council has in terms of key town centre sites.

7.2 In respect of other Task Force Leads, it is envisaged that these could be either existing Board members or newly identified individuals with particular knowledge, experience and influence in the field. An expected requirement would be that any task force lead does not have a direct role in delivery in NEL which would cause a conflict of interest. Ideally, Task Force leads will have regional or national recognition in relation to their specific priority.

7.3 It is proposed that the following approach is taken:

- Nominations for Task Force Leads submitted to the Chair – by mid April 2022;
- Review of submissions by a sub group of the Board by end of April 2022;
- Recommendation of task force leads made to a Board Meeting in May 2022;
- First meeting of Task Force Leads by mid June 2022, with a view to an updated Grimsby Task Force Prospectus and launch of Prospectus in the summer.

8.0 Towns Fund Governance

8.1 The proposed establishment of a Greater Grimsby Task Force needs to complement the Board's current governance role in respect of the Towns Fund. Whilst formal decision making for the Towns Fund sits with the Council's Cabinet, all Towns Fund programmes are expected to have an overarching board whose role it is to champion and challenge delivery of the Towns Fund programme. The Board has previously re-affirmed its governance role in respect of the Towns Fund and that role will continue in parallel with any Task Force activity.

9.0 Conclusions

9.1 Subject to the agreement of the Board, we will now progress with the recruitment process for Task Force areas leads in line with the above principles.