

## **Greater Grimsby Board**

### **Minutes of Virtual Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2022 at 2.30 p.m.**

#### **Attendance:**

- Chair - David Ross (The David Ross Foundation)
- Darren Cunningham (Phillips66)
- Pat Doody (Greater Lincolnshire LEP)
- Julian Free (University of Lincoln)
- Professor Stephen Hardy (Hull University)
- Councillor Philip Jackson (North East Lincolnshire Council)
- Lia Nici (MP for Greater Grimsby)
- Jason Pappriil (Engie)
- Martin Vickers (MP for Cleethorpes)
- Julie Walmsley (Community and Voluntary Sector)
- Rob Walsh (North East Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group)

#### **Also in Attendance: –**

- Richard Askham
- Damien Jaines-White (North East Lincolnshire Council)
- 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 Lod Lamont, Lord Kerlake, David Talbot, Louise Brennan, Ruth Carver, Emma Toulson, Simon Bird, Susan Lea, Peter Campey and Neale Coleman.

#### **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 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

### **4. Grimsby Town Centre Update**

The Board received an update on progress with implementation of the Town's Fund projects within the Grimsby town centre.

Mr Jaines White summarised the principles and core areas set out in the now completed Grimsby Masterplan. He then outlined key milestones and progress with the six Towns Fund projects as follows:

- Activation and Community Enterprise Fund – now launched and the first application had been approved.
- St James Quarter – the new square was now in place, the development of St James House continued to be progressed and was due for completion in June 2023.
- Riverhead Square – due for completion in July 2023
- Public Realm and Connectivity – due for completion in August 2023
- Central Library – the new hub was due for completion in October 2024
- Garth Lane – this project for town housing was due for completion in early 2026.

The Board reported concerns about the viability of further housing in the town centre, the impact on local schools and the suitability of the land at Garth Lane. The Board stressed the importance of community engagement with this project in particular.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

### **5. Exploratorium Update**

The Board received an update from Mr Askham on a proposed Exploratorium project.

Mr Askham explained that the project aimed to promote the off shore renewables industry through the provision of a box park Exploratorium in the town centre using government funding. While this was a temporary siting, he added that there was the potential through sponsorship to retain the Exploratorium, if successful. It was envisaged that the Exploratorium would form part of the school trip diary and it would form a visual trigger for the regeneration of the area.

The Board sought clarification on a number of points, including its location, funding and accessibility.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

### **6. Skills Action Plan Framework**

The Board considered a report setting 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.

The Board commented that providing clarity and confidence over closing the skills gap was important to investors. Getting into schools was a key issue, noting that the focus needed to be on years 8 and 9.

The Chair commented that the support and drive on the skills agenda from this Board was not in question but he added that there was a need to start hosting events, such as skills conferences, to get employers and providers talking to each other.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Skills Action Plan Framework be noted.
2. That the process of engaging with external skills partners on the Skills Action Plan Framework be continued.
3. That, in line with the recommendations of the Greater Grimsby Task Force paper (see next item), 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, be commenced.
4. That, once identified, the Task Force Skills Lead be asked 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 of the report now submitted.
5. That the Task Force skills lead be asked to report back to future meetings of this Board on progress.

## **7. Greater Grimsby Task Force Leads**

The Board considered a report setting out next steps in terms of recruitment of Task Force leads for a Greater Grimsby task force.

The input of Board members on who could play the role of lead for each of the priority areas, was welcomed.

RESOLVED –

1. That the principles of the proposed Task Force as set out in section 5.0 of the report now submitted be agreed.
2. That the role of Task Force leads as set out in section 6.0 of the report now submitted be agreed.
3. That officers be requested to progress the recruitment of Task Force leads as set out in section 7.0 of the report now submitted.

## **8. Levelling Up White Paper and Position on Devolution**

The Board received an update from Mr Walsh on the impact of the Levelling Up White Paper and progress with devolution discussions locally.

Mr Walsh noted that the expectation was that by 2030 every part of the country that wanted a devolution deal would be given the chance. Whilst Greater Lincolnshire was not included in the first tranche, this did not mean that its ambition was diminished. All three upper tier authorities continued to work on a potential deal and were engaging with

the district councils and the Greater Lincolnshire LEP. Businesses would need to be engaged as a first step. It was noted that there would be overlap with the work of this Board on matters such as the skills agenda.

Councillor Jackson commented on collaborative work being progressed with North Lincolnshire Council and Lincolnshire County Council which demonstrated how keen the authorities were to work together. However, he felt that there was more work to do to ensure that district councils and MPs were fully engaged.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

There being no further business, the Chair declare the meeting closed at 3.58 p.m.