

# **Greater Grimsby Board**

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

**Virtual Meeting via Teams**

**9.30 a.m.**

## **Agenda**

**1. Apologies and Introduction from the Chair**

**2. Declarations of Interest**

**3. Grimsby Town Centre Regeneration**

To receive a presentation on the above.

**4. Greater Lincolnshire Devolution**

To receive a presentation on the above.

**5. Future Governance Arrangements**

To receive a report on the future governance arrangements for the Greater Grimsby Board (copy attached).

**6. Future Meetings and Frequency**

To discuss the above.

**7. Any Other Business**



# Greater Grimsby Board Governance Arrangements

## **Background**

The current Greater Grimsby Board's (GGB) governance arrangements are set in the GGB Assurance Framework 2020 (as amended October 2022 and November 2023).

The principal purpose of these governance arrangements is in relation to the governance and decision-making of the GGB in relation to the Towns Fund.

As board members will be aware, having adopted the Grimsby Town Centre Masterplan (the Masterplan) and submitted the Town Investment Plan (TIP), North East Lincolnshire secured £20.9m of Towns Fund to support six projects. This followed in-depth engagement with the GGB where support, challenge and guidance were provided in relation to the strategic direction of the Towns Fund programme insofar as it related to Grimsby Town Centre.

## **Current Status**

The GGB has and continues to fulfil an oversight role in terms of providing challenge and support to the Towns Fund projects and, also, the wider development of Grimsby Town Centre.

Since adopting the Masterplan, in addition to the Towns Fund, £17.3m of Future High Street Funding alongside £20m of Levelling Up Funding has been secured for the town centre. Two Towns Fund schemes are advancing well, one has recently obtained planning permission and is in receipt of tenders, one is due to go out to tender, and two are in the latter stages of design and final business case modelling. The Council has also acquired Freshney Place shopping centre and the Horizon Onside Youth Zone is under construction.

Recently, the Government confidentially canvassed the Council regarding a potential High Streets Accelerator Pilot to be launched by the end of November 2023. If accepted on to the pilot, this will provide £237k of revenue funding to work with partners and to develop a long-term vision. Moreover, this would open up opportunities to bid into a further fund of £5m, which is expected to have a maximum of ten eligible bidders. The Council has of course submitted an expression of interest to join the scheme.

Furthermore, in October 2023, North East Lincolnshire was named as one of 55 areas to be part of the Long Term Plan for Towns Initiative which provides £20m on an endowment basis of ten years on a 75/25% capital/revenue basis.

Running in tandem with all the above, a local business led group, the 2025 Group, has started to gain momentum around being local advocates for the town centre. It has secured £66k

from UK Shared Prosperity Fund, over an 18-month period, to focus on what the town will look like by the end of 2025.

### **Future Considerations**

The Towns Fund programme runs to March 2026 and the GGB's continued oversight, challenge, and support for this is welcomed. Specifically, whilst we are in a period of sustained delivery, fulfilling a monitoring and evaluation role of the six projects is a defined role of the GGB as defined in the TIP. For ease of reference the relevant section states, *'The Board will delegate authority to the Council for the day to day delivery and operational decisions for the Towns Fund programme. The Board will be responsible for strategic programme decisions and for overseeing delivery of the programme, monitoring and evaluation of the individual projects and compliance with the Heads of Terms Agreement with Government.'* The full TIP can be found here <https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/assets/uploads/2022/08/Grimsby-TIP-Section-1.docx>.

The High Streets Accelerator Fund has a requirement for a Local Partnership to provide oversight and it is likely the 2025 Group could fulfil this brief, although clearly engaging with the GGB in terms of the long-term vision. It is feasible this could be a refresh of the Masterplan.

Detail is awaited on the requirements of the Long Term Plan For Towns but it is known that a locally focused group, with Council and MP political membership, is envisaged. It is expected that a long-term action plan will be required and it would be a reasonable working assumption that this will flow from the long-term vision described above.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Terms of Reference, membership and rotation/term of membership of the GGB is reviewed. This will ensure it is able to align to the emerging requirements of the Long Term Plan for Plans fund whilst also continuing to discharge its role in relation to Towns Fund.

### **Next Steps**

Subject to the recommendation above, a paper will be circulated for comment and submitted for consideration at the next meeting of the GGB.

Ends.

November 2023