



Greater Grimsby Board Assurance Framework 2024

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1. INTRODUCTION

What is the Assurance Framework?

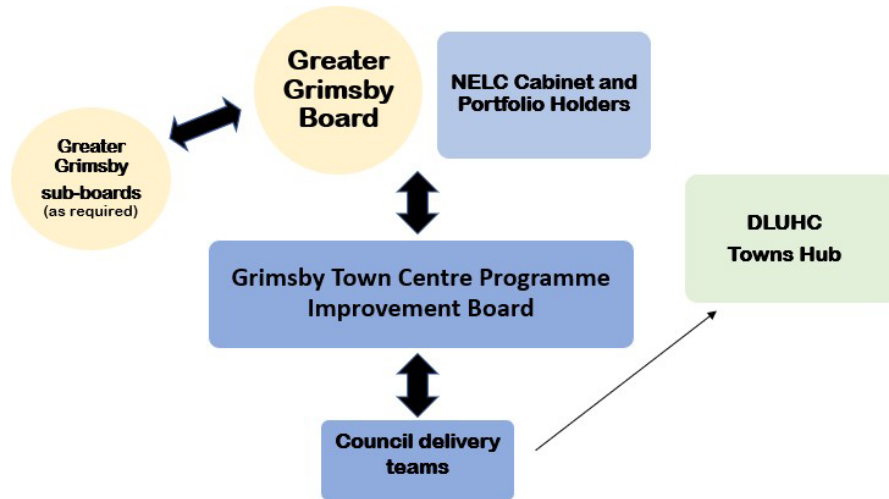
- 1.1** This 2024 Assurance Framework sets out the governance and decision-making structure of the Greater Grimsby Board (the Board) in relation to the Towns Fund and Long Term Plan for Towns. Its purpose is to:
- Enable accountable decision making
 - Ensure value for money
 - Provide for effective monitoring and evaluation
- 1.2** The Framework is underpinned by a suite of documents, including terms of reference, policies and procedures which apply to all the activities in which the Greater Grimsby Board are involved.
- 1.3** The Board works closely with North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) as the Accountable Body for the Grimsby Towns Fund and Long Term Plan for Towns Programmes in fulfilling its Assurance Framework.
- 1.4** The Framework is divided into five parts:
- Section 1 - Introduction
 - Section 2 - Greater Grimsby Board
 - Section 3 - Governance Arrangements
 - Section 4 - Policies
 - Section 5 - Appendices
- 1.5** This Framework will be reviewed annually and will be approved by the Accountable Body. Any in-year changes will be made within one calendar month or following the next Board meeting if changes require Board approval.

2. GREATER GRIMSBY BOARD

2.1 Greater Grimsby Board Role

- 2.1.1 The Board will adopt the role of a senior strategic body working in partnership with NELC. It will provide strategic direction to the development and implementation of the Towns Fund and Long Term Plan for Towns programmes for Grimsby.
- 2.1.2 Specifically, it will be the vehicle through which the vision and strategy for the town is defined. It will produce a Town Investment Plan (TIP) to drive long-term transformative change and inform the Town Deal, including the amount of investment secured through the Towns Fund. The Board will sign off each stage of a Town Investment Plan and Town Deal ensuring diversity in its engagement with local communities and businesses.
- 2.1.3 The Grimsby Town Centre Programme Improvement Board, a Council board consisting of senior managers from different Council disciplines, including the deputy S151 Officer will have oversight of the programme delivery on behalf of the accountable body – NELC. The Senior Responsible Officer, the Assistant Director Regeneration will manage programme information and activity between the GGB, its sub-groups and panels and the Council delivery teams, Portfolio Holders and the Council's Cabinet. A Towns Fund Programme Manager will have day to day responsibility for the delivery of the Towns Fund projects on behalf of the Board.
- 2.1.4 Overarching responsibility for steering and overseeing Grimsby's pre-existing Town Deal and the 2020 Towns Fund programme lies with the Greater Grimsby Board. As the Towns Fund progresses, some work may be delegated to specific sub-boards or panels. These sub-boards will be chaired by a member of the Greater Grimsby Board who will report to the main Board on the sub-board activity.
- 2.1.5 The Board will also lead on the Long Term Plan for Towns programme and will be the vehicle for developing the 10 year vision and 3 year Investment Plan for Grimsby (as set out in the Geographical Boundary provided to the Board by DLUHC). The Board will act as the Governance and delivery mechanism to drive forward transformational change around the three themes of:-
- Safety & Security
 - High Streets, Heritage & Regeneration
 - Transport & Connectivity

2.1.6 The organogram below describes the board structure and relationship between the Board and the Council. More information on the governance arrangements can be found in section 3.



2.2 Membership

2.2.1 The Board membership will comprise of a private sector chair and representatives from local government for North East Lincolnshire, local MP's, the Local Enterprise Partnership, local businesses and investors, community and local voluntary community sector representatives and relevant local organisations like the FE colleges.

2.2.2 The current membership of the Greater Grimsby Board is listed below:

NAME	ORGANISATION
Simon Bird	Associated British Ports
Louise Brennan	Historic England
Ruth Carver	Greater Lincolnshire LEP
Julian Free	University of Lincoln
Cllr. Philip Jackson	North East Lincolnshire Council
Lord Lamont of Lerwick	House of Lords
Dave Petley	University of Hull
Lia Nici MP	Member of Parliament
David Ross	CHAIR David Ross Foundation
David Talbot	Catch
Emma Toulson	Orsted
Martin Vickers MP	Member of Parliament
Julie Walmsley	Voluntary, Community & Social Enterprise Alliance
Rob Walsh	North East Lincolnshire Council
Jonathon Evison	Police & Crime Commissioner
Cllr. Stan Shreeve	North East Lincolnshire Council
	VICE CHAIR To be appointed

2.2.3 The Cities and Local Growth Unit (a partnership between the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) Area Lead will attend board meetings in an observer capacity.

2.3 Role of the Board Chair

2.3.1 The role of the Chair of the Board will be to:

- provide high quality strategic leadership to the town's economic regeneration, predominantly the development and implementation of Grimsby's Towns Fund and Long Term Plan for Towns programmes
- to build and manage national and local business and political relationships to facilitate collaborative working towards the achievement of the town's economic plans
- provide leadership and direction to the Board, ensuring the Board is run in a transparent and equitable manner, upholding the Seven Principles of Public Life (the Nolan Principles)
- leading the Board in achieving its objectives, maintaining an overview of activity, and championing and supporting partnership working
- signing the Head of Terms Agreement with government, acting alongside the Accountable Body
- ensuring that decisions are made by the Board in accordance with good governance principles

- promote and ensure compliance with conflicts of interest, data protection legislation and confidentiality

2.4 Role of the Vice Chair

- 2.4.1 The principle role of the Vice Chair will be to deputise for the Chair at meetings of the Board and to support the Chair in his/her role i.e.
- Chair meetings in the absence of the Chair
 - Deputise for the Chair at other relevant meetings
 - Lead on key issues on behalf of the Board as delegated by the Chair

2.5 Responsibilities of the Board

- 2.5.1 The Board is responsible for:
- upholding the Seven Principles of Public Life
 - providing strategic direction to the development of the TIP
 - establishing a clear programme of interventions for the town's development
 - endorsing the final TIP
 - ensuring communities' voices are involved in shaping design and decision making at each phase of the development of the TIP
 - coordinating resources and engaging stakeholders
 - ensuring diversity in its engagement with local communities and businesses
 - overseeing each step of agreeing a Town Deal, and overseeing compliance with the Heads of Terms Agreement with government
 - overseeing the:
 - o development of agreed TIP projects, including detailed business cases
 - o regular submission of monitoring reports to the Towns Hub
 - o accounting for the Town's funding allocation
 - o monitoring and evaluation of the delivery of individual Towns Fund projects

2.6 Terms of office

- 2.6.1 Board members (including the Chair and Vice Chair) are appointed for terms of up to four years, which may be renewed for a further four years on the basis of satisfactory performance and attendance. The Board executive will be responsible for maintaining a register of Board member terms of office and proposing review arrangements to the Board as the need arises.

2.7 Role of the Accountable Body (NELC)

- 2.7.1 NELC will:
- provide the executive who will support the Board and any sub-boards or panels
 - uphold the Seven Principles of Public Life
 - develop a delivery team, delivery arrangements and agreements
 - ensure decisions made by the board are made in accordance with good governance principles
 - ensure transparency requirements are met through publication of information on their website
 - develop agreed projects in detail and undertaking any necessary feasibility studies

- undertaking any required Environmental Impact Assessments or Public Sector Equalities Duties
- develop detailed business cases for projects
- liaise with potential private investors in identifying local projects
- sign the Heads of Terms Agreement with government
- lead and manage the delivery of public sector projects within the TIP
- work with partners on the delivery of joint private and public sector projects
- monitor and evaluate the delivery of individual projects
- submit regular monitoring reports on all TIP projects to the Towns Hub
- receive and account for any project funding including Towns Fund monies

2.8 Member Conduct

- 2.8.1 All Members of the Board, sub-boards or Panel or any other Group will be required to sign up to and act in accordance with the Board Members Code of Conduct, which incorporates the Nolan Principles (see Appendix 1, page 20).
- 2.8.2 If any Member's conduct falls short of the standards set in the Member's Code of Conduct (detailed on page 16) they may be dismissed from any or all, of their roles by a majority vote of the Board. The member in question will not be allowed to participate in this vote. This will also apply if there has been any proven misconduct in a non-Town Deal role or illegal activity that may bring the Town's Fund activity into disrepute.
- 2.8.3 All members must follow the guidance in the Conflict of Interest Policy (page 18) to ensure any conflicts of interest that arise during decision making processes are managed and recorded properly.

2.9 Communication and Engagement

- 2.9.1 The Board will operate in a transparent and objective way for the benefit of Grimsby and its communities. It will publish its membership, governance arrangements, meeting documents (5 days in advance of meetings), draft minutes of meetings (within 10 working days of the meeting), final minutes (within 10 working days of Board approval), decisions and programme performance on a designated Towns Fund webpage on NELC's website which can be found at [Greater Grimsby Board](#).
- 2.9.2 Communities and organisations will be able to access regular updates on the Towns Fund, published on the webpage and a newsletter will be circulated to consultation participants who registered an interest in receiving Towns Fund news. The Grimsby Towns Fund Stakeholder Engagement Plan, developed to support the Town Investment Plan, describes a programme of engagement which will be supported by NELC's Communication Team. It outlines the methods of engagement the Board and the Council delivery teams plan to use to engage with communities and organisations to maintain a regular two-way flow of communication during the delivery of the Towns Fund programme. It explains how information will be shared and how further consultation exercises and events will be scheduled to take place across the lifetime of the programme.
- 2.9.3 The Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be reviewed on an annual basis by the Board.

2.10 Data Protection and Information Governance

2.10.1 The Greater Grimsby Board Assurance Framework will comply with the Council's Information Governance Framework which is aligned to requirements of the General Protection Data Regulation (GDPR) 2015 and Data Protection Act 2018. The Council's Data Protection Officer will support the Board in dealing with any data protection questions. The Council framework can be found at: [Information Governance & Data Protection](#).

2.11 Whistleblowing and Complaints

2.11.1 If a Board member considers any suspicion of any fraudulent or corrupt act this should be reported in line with the Councils' whistleblowing policy found at – [Whistleblowing Policy](#)

2.11.2 If a Board member has concerns and wishes to submit a complaint, this should be reported in line with the Councils' complaints procedure found at – [Complaints Procedure](#)

3. GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS

3.1. Managing Public Money

The accountable body for the Towns Fund activity is NELC.

NELC will work in partnership with the Board in developing and implementing economic regeneration plans for the town, with the Board offering strategic direction to these plans. NELC will take receipt of and defray any programme funds and will provide the executive who will support the Board and any sub-boards or panels. NELC will also provide the programme delivery teams along with the services of its legal, human resource, and financial departments, in the development and implementation of the proposals within the Town Investment Plan. NELC staff adhere to the NELC's policies and procedures and the Deputy Section 151 Officer will take responsibility for ensuring the Board adheres to the Greater Grimsby Board Assurance Framework.

3.1.2. NELC will ensure proper management of any public money relating to the Towns Fund. These considerations include:

- All funding decisions being made on merit taking into account all the relevant information available at the time
- UK subsidy control implications
- Overseeing the development and application of any procurement process
- Ensuring any funding agreements reflect the conditions that need to be in place and that these are upheld
- Retaining copies of all relevant documentation as required
- Ensuring transparency of quarterly and annual accounts
- Maintaining the official record of the Board proceedings and documents
- Reviewing Board decisions are lawful and follow the correct procedures.

3.2 Decision Making

3.2.1 Stage 1. Town Investment Plan

The Board will be responsible for signing off each stage of the development of the TIP, this

includes the decisions relating to the project prioritisation process and final selection of projects for inclusion in the TIP.

3.2.2 Stage 2. Heads of Term Agreement /Town Deal

The Board will be responsible for decisions relating to the agreement of a Town Deal with government (Town Deal 2, as Grimsby already has a pilot Town Deal) and the subsequent development of the detailed business cases for TIP projects. The Board will oversee each step of this process and along with NELC, will have responsibility for reaching a final Heads of Term Agreement with government.

3.2.3 Stage 3. Full development of TIP projects

Following the Heads of Term Agreement, the Board will oversee the development of full business cases for all the TIP projects in line with Green Book requirements. The business case development will be carried out by an accountable lead, a project manager appointed within the Council and a project delivery group comprising of all direct stakeholders including any external partners. This process will be managed by a Programme Manager (see 3.2.5) who will provide progress reports to the Board. Further consultation will take place during full business case development to ensure the community and stakeholders remain active in shaping the projects. Appraisal of the business cases will be carried out prior to submission to government to give the necessary assurance to the Board. NELC's Business Development Framework sets out a process whereby approval must be sought for a Business Case which requires capital, revenue or external funding prior to project commencement. This process ensures an effective route if followed from idea generation through to development of a thorough business case and project delivery, and also ensures that projects receive a healthy level of challenge and are subject to the correct governance processes. Firstly, the Business Case gets assessed through NELC's Business Development Group, which has representation from finance, assets, legal, procurement, economy and internal audit to ensure business cases meet all the necessary expectations. Where considered necessary, external support will be procured to assess technical aspects of a business case. A recommendation is then put forward to NELC's Assistant Director's group before proceeding through Scrutiny and Cabinet. Once the business case has been approved by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) Towns Fund Team, the projects will move onto the delivery stage.

3.2.4 Stage 4. Delivery of TIP projects

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.

3.2.5 NELC will appoint a Programme Manager (PM) to the Grimsby Towns Fund programme who will have responsibility for day to day decisions and delivery oversight of the TIP projects. The PM will report to the Senior Responsible Officer and will be supported by appointed project managers and other regeneration specialists, including legal, finance and communication specialists. NELC will appoint an SRO who will have delegated authority for operational delivery decisions. Collectively these resources will form the NELC delivery team. Each TIP project will be led by an appointed Project Manager who will work with a Project Delivery Group made up of relevant internal and external stakeholders for this project. The Programme Manager will provide update reports to the Grimsby Town Centre Programme Improvement Board who oversees all of Grimsby's capital projects on behalf of the Council. Regular

programme monitoring reports will be provided to the Board, DLUHC, Portfolio Holders and Members. Key programme decisions will require final approval by NELC's Cabinet.

3.2.6 Decisions made by the Programme Management Team will relate to the following work areas;

- day to day responsibility for the management and administration of the Towns Fund programme
- overseeing the delivery of all TIP projects
- ensuring that projects remain UK subsidy control compliant
- overseeing appropriate due diligence (whether internal or external)
- drafting funding agreements letters/contracts, where appropriate (approved by NELC's legal department)
- communicating as required with private sector partners and any individual grant beneficiaries
- performance managing any external grant awards, monitoring milestones, outputs and the terms and conditions
- claim, drawdown, defray and account for funds from DLUHC
- liaising with DLUHC /Towns Fund Team to ensure they receive monitoring updates and progress reports as required
- supporting 3rd party project teams in their delivery of Towns Fund projects, monitoring progress where appropriate through a grant agreement
- reporting on Towns Fund progress to NELC's internal Board and to the Greater Grimsby Board, Portfolio Holders, Scrutiny and Cabinet
- implementation and delivery of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan

3.2.7 A diagram of the reporting and decision-making process for the delivery of the Towns Fund programme is shown at Appendix 2.

3.3 TIP Project Prioritisation

3.3.1 The Board have led the selection process in developing the TIP projects. The process took three stages;

1. Longlist of projects
2. Initial Sifting Exercise
3. Final Sifting Exercise

3.3.2 The first exercise created a long list of projects located within the Towns Fund boundary - 22 projects were identified in total. These projects were derived from a range of sources, for example engagement with stakeholders like local business groups as well as Board members and feedback from MyTown public engagement (2019-20). Relevant projects were also taken from key strategic documents like; the Economic Strategy (2016) Local Plan (2018), the Town Deal Prospectus (2018) and Local Economic Assessment (2020). The second stage was an initial sifting exercise that looked at how these 22 projects fit with a set of more detailed criteria, which is listed below.

- Public engagement responses and
- Alignment with:-
 - Grimsby town objectives

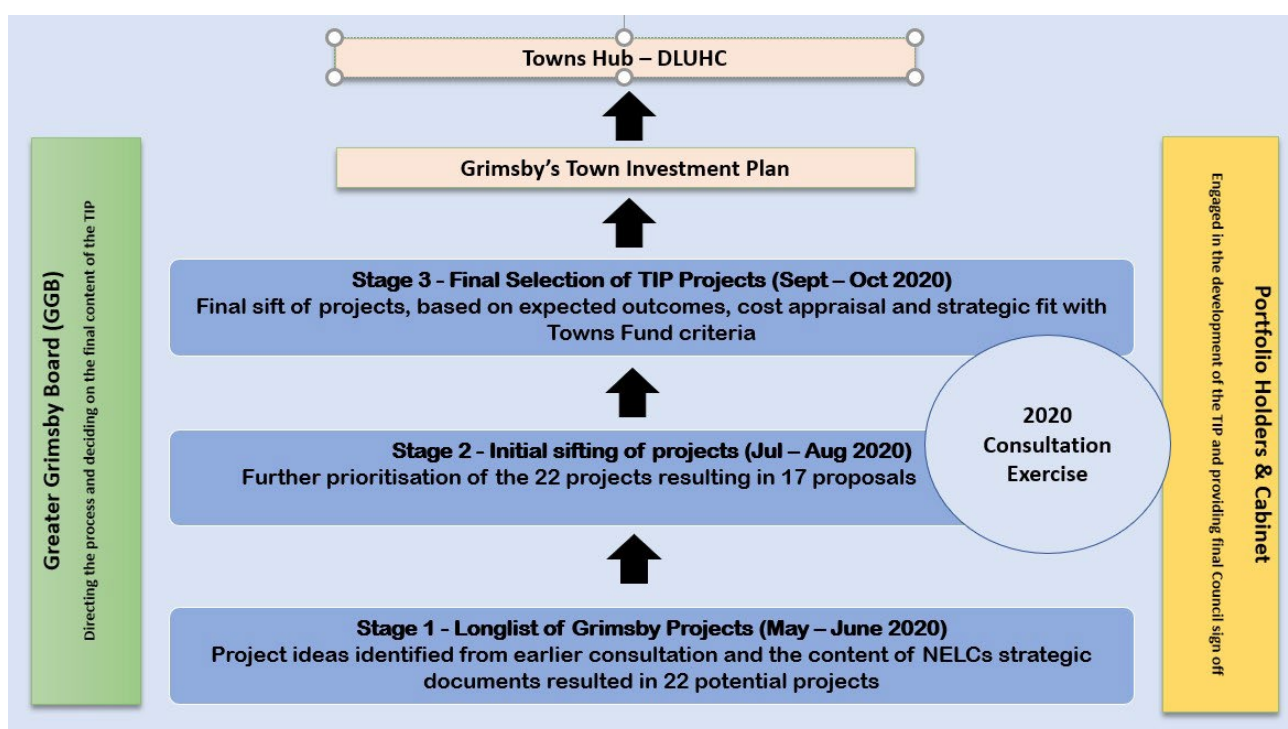
- Towns Fund Intervention Themes
- Regional and national policy
- HM Treasury Green Book criteria
- Stakeholder ‘buy-in’

3.3.3 A scoring matrix was applied to prioritise the projects which resulted in 17 projects moving on to the next stage.

3.3.4 The final sifting exercise which shortlisted the final projects for the TIP, involved an outcomes-led approach, for example how well the projects could demonstrate the Theory of Change, as a result of Towns Fund intervention. The cost appraisal of each project also formed part of the final decision in developing a programme of Towns Fund projects.

3.3.5 This final exercise identified 7 projects for inclusion in the TIP, full information of these will be published on the Towns Fund website following final approval and submission of the TIP to government. At the Board meeting on 29th September 2020 Board members agreed the project proposals for the TIP. The TIP proposals will be put before NELC’s Cabinet for consideration.

3.3.6 The diagram below shows the project selection process described above, in section 3.3.



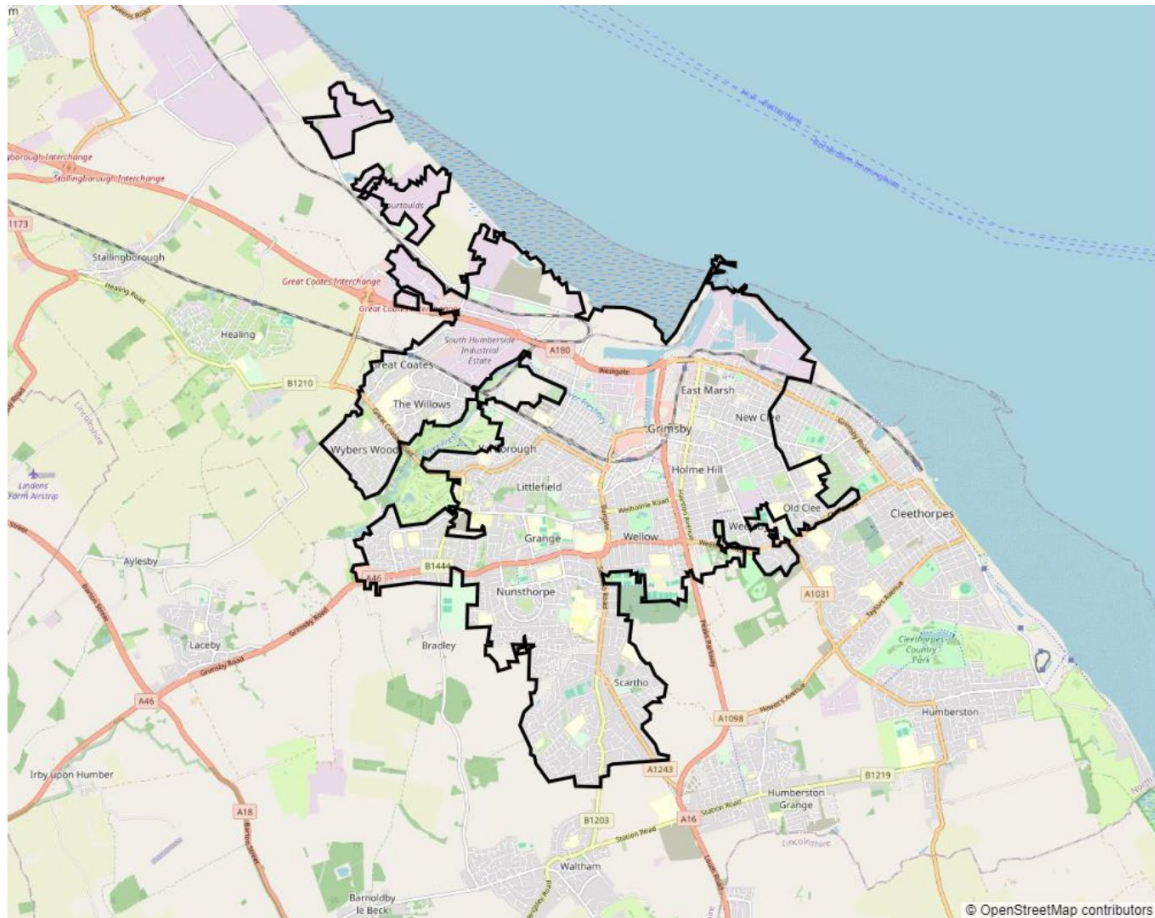
3.3.7 Long Term Plan for Towns – The Board will be responsible for decisions in relation to the Long Term Plan for Towns programme and will be the vehicle for developing the 10 year vision and 3 year Investment Plan for Grimsby (as set out in the Geographical Boundary provided to the Board by DLUHC see below).

3.3.8 The Board will act as the Governance and delivery mechanism to drive forward transformational change around the three themes of:-

- Safety & Security
- High Streets, Heritage & Regeneration

- Transport & Connectivity

3.3.9 Long Term Plan for Towns Boundary Map defining the geographical area covered.



3.4 Scrutiny

3.4.1 The Grimsby Town Centre Programme Improvement Board is made up of Senior managers with oversight of all Grimsby town capital projects, responsible for ensuring they align to the wider business of the Council and its policies and procedures. There is representation from specialist areas like legal, finance and communications, they act on behalf of the accountable body and will scrutinise the performance of the Towns Fund programme to ensure appropriate compliance to Council, DLUHC and Towns Fund policies and processes. Additional scrutiny of the programme will be carried out through programme reviews by NELC's Scrutiny Panel, internal Audit reviews and where appropriate external auditing of the programme which would be a procured service.

3.5 Financial Regulations

- 3.5.1 NELC must conduct its business efficiently and ensure it has sound financial management policies in place, including arrangements to monitor compliance. NELC's statutory Section 151 Officer is also charged with ensuring that proper financial management processes are in place. NELC's financial regulations provide clarity about the financial accountability of individuals. The regulations identify responsibilities of individuals across all levels. Written records are a requirement where decision making has been delegated to members of staff in order to give assurance that tasks or decisions have been performed in accordance with the Financial Regulations.
- 3.5.2 A scheme for further delegations will be put in place by the Accountable Body with specific reference to the delegation of authority for the Towns Fund programme. This proposal will ensure the most efficient and timely management of the programme, in the context of the delivery timeframes.

3.6 Risk Management

- 3.6.1 Risk management is an important part of how NELC achieves its priorities. NELC proactively manages its risks, enabling it to effectively manage current priorities and promptly identify future challenges. Risk management is noted as one of the key pillars of good decision making and therefore a crucial element of good governance. NELC continually develops its risk management processes and the 'Risk and Opportunities Management Policy' defines how risks will be managed by the authority and provides guidance on the processes, procedures, roles and responsibilities for risk and sets the context on how risks are managed.
- 3.6.2 A programme delivery risk assessment will be completed and reviewed quarterly at the Town Programme Board as part of the monitoring process ensuring that identified risks are minimised where possible and do not impact negatively on us achieving our priorities, outputs and outcomes.

3.7 Risk Register

- 3.7.1 NELC's Risk Register will record the Towns Fund programme and will be updated on a regular basis recording a list of any significant risks which may prevent the programme from achieving its priorities, outputs and outcomes. It will hold both strategic and operational risks. The Register identifies the lead individual to manage the risk, identify the controls or mitigation that needs to be in place to continually monitor the risk and record the outcome of any audit review.
- 3.7.2 The register is used for reporting and monitoring of risks at a variety of levels and is configured in risk groups aligned to the directorate structure of NELC. It is overseen by the Audit and Risk section, who will also maintain evaluations of NELC wide and confidential risks. Key risks are also recorded in NELC's electronic risk register and are escalated to the Strategic Risk Management Board as chaired by the Chief Executive and to the Audit Committee if the risk reaches a defined level.

3.8 Procurement

- 3.8.1 As a public sector body, NELC employs rigorous procurement processes which fully comply with the European and HM Treasury regulation on tendering and procurement and is a 'contracting authority' under the Public Contracts Regulations. Any procurement carried out as part of the Towns Fund programme will follow the Council's procurement procedures which can be found at: [Joint Procurement Strategy](#)

POLICIES

Terms of Reference - Greater Grimsby Board

2. Objectives:

- 2.1 The Greater Grimsby Board will adopt the role of a senior strategic body working in partnership with North East Lincolnshire Council. It will provide strategic direction to the development and implementation of the Towns Fund and the Long Term Plan for Towns programme for Grimsby.
- 2.2 Specifically, it will lead on Grimsby's Town Fund and will be the vehicle through which the vision and strategy for the town is defined. It will produce a Town Investment Plan (TIP) to drive long-term transformative change and inform the Town Deal, including the amount of investment secured through the Towns Fund. The Town Deal Board will sign off each stage of a Town Investment Plan and Town Deal ensuring diversity in its engagement with local communities and businesses.
- 2.3 Key activity for will be to:
- develop and agree an evidenced based Town Investment Plan
 - develop a clear programme of interventions for the town
 - coordinate resources and influence stakeholders
- 2.4 Specifically, it will also lead on the Long Term Plan for Towns programme and will be the vehicle for developing the 10 year vision and 3 year Investment Plan for Grimsby (as set out in the Geographical Boundary provided to the Board by DLUHC). The Board will act as the Governance and delivery mechanism to drive forward transformational change around the three themes of:-
- Safety & Security
 - High Streets, Heritage & Regeneration
 - Transport & Connectivity

3. Membership will include:

- Senior Members and Officer representatives from the Council
- Members of Parliament
- Representative from the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

- Local businesses, social enterprises and investors
- Community representatives, including cultural, heritage and arts organisations
- Representatives from relevant statutory agencies e.g. Homes England, Historic England, Environment Agency.
- Police & Crime Commissioner and/or Senior Police representative

3.1 The Board will be supported and advised by representatives of North East Lincolnshire Council and independent experts as needed.

4. Conduct:

- There will be a non-executive Chair from the private/voluntary sector, with a Vice Chair elected from the Board's membership
- The Vice Chair will chair meetings in the Chair's absence
- The Board will make their governance structure, profiles on key stakeholders and any supporting documents publicly available.
- The Board will publish all board papers in advance of the meeting within 5 working days
- The Board will circulate draft minutes following the meeting within 10 working days.
- The Board will publish final minutes once approved within 10 working days.
- The Board's governance standards and policies will be aligned to those of the North East Lincolnshire Council and have been collated into the Greater Grimsby Board Assurance Framework Board which members will adhere to.
- Meeting documentation will be recorded and published as described in the Assurance Framework
- Members will conduct themselves according to the 'Nolan Principles' [Nolan Principles](#)
- The Board will meet quarterly, with the proviso that more frequent meetings may be scheduled when business needs require it.
- The Board will hold 2 meetings per year as physical face to face meetings.
- Declarations of interest in any agenda items of a personal, commercial or financial interest must be declared at the beginning of the meeting and recorded in the meeting minutes. Members declaring an interest will be asked not to participate in discussion on the relevant agenda items.
- Meetings are confined to Board members and advisors except for external presenters and observers which have been agreed with the Chair in advance.
- The Board periodically reviews its existing membership in relation to commitment, skills and experience to ensure it has the right mix of membership to deliver its activity and vision.

- The Board can decide to appoint a member of the Board to establish and chair sub groups to lead on specific thematic areas of interest and report back to the Board on progress.

5. Quorum

- 5.1 The quorum for the GGB and any sub-board meetings is 5 members who are eligible to Vote. Decisions may not be made at meetings which are not quorate, but the members present may discuss any relevant matters on the agenda. The same quorate applies to decisions made by written procedures

Code of Conduct

1. Purpose

This Code of Conduct sets out the standards members of the Greater Grimsby Board and sub-groups and panels are required to meet.

2. Definitions

2.1 The definitions used in this code of conduct for pecuniary interest and those of a 'sensitive interest' are being taken from the [Localism Act 2011](#) and the nonpecuniary interests as listed in the [Schedule to The Relevant Authorities \(Disclosable Pecuniary Interests\) Regulations 2012 \(No.1464\)](#).

2.2 Member means a member of the Greater Grimsby Board or any sub-boards, panel, group or committee established under the Greater Grimsby Board.

3. Code of Conduct

3.1 All members shall have regard to the Seven Principles of Public Life agreed by the Nolan Committee – selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership – in their conduct at all times. These are summarised in Appendix 1.

3.2 Accordingly, when acting in your capacity as a Member:

- You must act in a manner consistent with the Greater Grimsby Board's commitment to equality and diversity and treat your fellow board/group members, members of staff and others you come into contact with when performing your role with respect and courtesy at all times.
- You must act solely in the public interest and should never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person or act to gain financial or other material benefits for yourself, your family, a friend or close associate.
- You must not place yourself under a financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might be reasonably regarded to influence you in the performance of your Greater Grimsby Board role.
- When carrying out your Greater Grimsby Board role you must make all choices based on evidence.
- You are accountable for your decisions and you must co-operate fully with whatever scrutiny is appropriate to your position. You must be as open as possible about both your decisions and actions and the decisions and actions of the Greater Grimsby Board. In addition, you should be prepared to give reasons for those decisions and actions.
- You must declare any private interests, both pecuniary and nonpecuniary, including membership of any Trade Union, political party, business or professional membership organisation or local authority that relates to your LEP duties. Furthermore, you must take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest. This includes registering and declaring interests in a manner conforming with the procedures set out in the section "*Registering and declaring pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests*".
- You must, when using or authorising the use by others of the resources of the town's programmes, ensure that such resources are not used improperly for political or personal purposes (including party political purposes).
- You must promote and support high standards of conduct when serving in your

Greater Grimsby Board role, in particular as characterised by the above requirements, by leadership and example.

4. Registering and declaring pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests

- 4.1 The Council will provide a Register of Interests pro forma for members to complete and return. These must be returned within 28 days of joining the board/group. The pro-forma must also be updated annually when requested by the Council.
- 4.2 Members should review their individual register of interest before each meeting. If an interest has not been entered onto the register, then the member must disclose the interest at any meeting of the Greater Grimsby Board at which they are present, where they have a disclosable interest in any matter being considered and where the matter is not a 'sensitive interest'. Following any disclosure of an interest not on the register or the subject of pending notification, you must return an updated pro forma within 28 days beginning with the date of disclosure. The Council's Section 151 Officer will sign the form to confirm receipt.

5. Declaring an Interest

- 5.1 While in attendance at Board meetings, members should consider whether they have a pecuniary or nonpecuniary interest in the matter under discussion, regardless of whether or not a decision is expected to be made. Unless the interest is 'sensitive' a declaration should be made promptly before the item is discussed, or discussed any further. A declaration must be made regardless of whether or not the interest has previously been registered.
- 5.2 Whenever a conflict of interest, or potential conflict of interest, arises, you will not be:
- entitled to participate in the discussion of that matter
 - entitled to remain in the room for the discussion of that matter
 - counted in the quorum for that part of the meeting
 - entitled to vote on the matter
- 5.3 Notwithstanding the above, at the discretion of the Chair you may be allowed to remain present for the applicable part of the meeting so long as the interest is declared and you do not participate in the vote on the matter.
- 5.4 Where decisions or recommendations are made by written procedure, any member with a conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest should immediately notify the Board Executive and take no part in the voting or discussion. The Board Executive will record this.
- 5.5 The Board executive officer for the group will be able to advise on the policy and whether or not an interest should be declared. Where there is doubt, the presumption should be in favour of declaring the interest.

Conflicts of Interest Policy

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This policy exists to ensure that any conflicts of interest which may arise in the Greater Grimsby Board (GGB) decision making processes are managed and recorded properly. It offers stakeholders confidence in the Board decision making and protects the reputation of the members of the Board and the Accountable Body for the programme, North East Lincolnshire Council.
- 1.2 Additionally, members of this Board, sub-boards, and Panels are required to abide by a Code of Conduct which incorporates the Seven Principles of Public Life (“the Nolan Principles”).

2. Conflicts of Interest Policy

- 2.1 The Greater Grimsby Board will manage any conflicts of interest that do arrive by recording any interests their members have so as not to affect the decision-making process.

3. Maintaining records

- 3.1 The GGB executive will maintain a Register of Interests.
- 3.2 Upon joining the Member will complete a form declaring their interests. They will be asked to update this yearly.
- 3.3 The Members will be asked to update their forms within 28 days of any new interests arise during the year.
- 3.4 The Register of Interests will be signed by Members and NELC’s Section 151 Officer to confirm receipt.
- 3.5 The GGB Executive will publish an up-to-date Register of Interest on the Council’s Towns Fund webpage.
- 3.6 Additionally a register of gifts and/hospitality provided to individual Board Members or the Board as a whole, will be maintained by the Board’s executive.

4. Managing potential conflicts of interest

- 4.1 Potential conflicts of interest, including perceived conflicts of interest, may arise for members when participating in the GGB decision-making processes.
- 4.2 “Declarations of Interest’ will be a standing item at the beginning of the agenda for every GGB, sub-group or Panel meeting. The Board Executive will ask Members to declare any potential conflicts of interest (pecuniary or nonpecuniary) for the meeting at this point, and again when the relevant item is reached on the agenda, regardless of whether this is included in the Register of Interests.

- 4.3 Such declarations will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting along with the actions taken.
- 4.4 Whenever the conflict of interest, or potential conflict of interest, arises, the Member will not be:
- allowed to remain in the room during the discussion on this matter
 - allowed to remain in the virtual/online video meeting, during the discussion on this matter
 - allowed to participate in the discussion on this matter
 - counted in the quorum for that part of the meeting
 - allowed to vote on the matter
- 4.5 Notwithstanding the above, at the discretion of the Chair of the Member may be allowed to remain present for the applicable part of the meeting so long as the interest is declared and they do not participate in the vote on the matter.
- 4.6 If on occasion decisions are made by written procedure any Member with a conflict of interest or potential conflict of interest should immediately notify the Board Executive and take no part in the voting. This will be recorded.
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5. Policy for Members of the GGB Executive

- 5.1 Members of the GGB Executive employed by North East Lincolnshire Council are required to abide by the Council's Code of Conduct.

Appendix 1 - Nolan Principles: The Seven Principles of Public Life

The following principles have been set out by the Committee on Standards in Public Life

Selflessness

Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

Integrity

Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties.

Objectivity

In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

Openness

Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

Honesty

Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

Leadership

Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

APPENDIX 2 - Towns Fund Programme Delivery – Reporting and Decision Making

