

# **Greater Grimsby Board**

## **Minutes of Meeting**

**11<sup>th</sup> September 2025 at 10.30 a.m.**

### **Attendance:**

- Chair - David Ross (The David Ross Foundation)
- Councillor Phillip Jackson (North East Lincolnshire Council)
- David Talbot (CATCH)
- Sharon Wroot (North East Lincolnshire Council)
- Julie Walmsley (Sector Support)
- Emma Toulson (Orsted)

### **Also in Attendance: –**

- Emily Bolton (Our Future)
- Carolina Borgstrom (North East Lincolnshire Council)
- Zoe Campbell (North East Lincolnshire Council)
- Spencer Hunt (North East Lincolnshire Council)
- Damien Jaines White (North East Lincolnshire Council)

### **1. Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence from this meeting were received from:-

- Jamie Cowling (MHCLG)
- Councillor Stan Shreeve (North East Lincolnshire Council)
- Jonathon Evison (Police & Crime Commissioner)
- Julian Free (Lincoln University)
- Martin Vickers (Member of Parliament)
- Melanie Onn (Member of Parliament)
- David Petley (Hull University)
- Max Burnett (ABP)
- Deborah Williams (Historic England)

The board was not quorate for this meeting however agreed for any resolutions to be emailed to the board to be ratified.

## **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 of last Meeting**

The minutes were notes and agreed.

## **4. Governance Review & Board Membership/Configuration**

The board received an update from Mr. Hunt in relation to the recent governance review which included a member skills audit to identify gaps in board member's skills to identify wider representatives.

The Chair and board members were supportive of a vice chair being appointed and felt that there needed to be a local representative. He suggested that the board included representatives from high street retail, housing and transport/connectivity to set the tone and ambition for the town in terms of the board's priority.

Ms. Wroot raised the regularity of meetings which the board discussed and agreed four meetings a year was sufficient to be scheduled in advance at the start of each year, one meeting be held in public, one meeting to visit a project and the other meetings to remain flexible. The board agreed that the meetings should held on a Friday wherever possible.

Mr. Hunt and Ms. Wroot explained the changes to the revised assurance framework which the board considered and welcomed.

The board discussed and agreed for a representative to attend the MHCLG Plan for Neighbourhood update meetings.

The board also discussed engagement with the Mayor of Greater Lincolnshire, and it was agreed that the Mayor should be updated regularly on the work of the Greater Grimsby Board including the Plan for Neighbourhoods programme as per the requirement of MHCLG.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

- 1) That the new membership included three representatives on the board, one each from housing, high street retail and transport/connectivity of which one would be the vice chair.
- 2) That the revised assurance framework be approved.
- 3) That one meeting be held in public with a closed session if required and the other meeting be arranged to visit one of the projects.
- 4) That the Mayor of Greater Lincolnshire be updated regularly on the work of the Greater

## **5. Plan for Neighbourhoods Sub Group**

The Board received an update from the Plan for Neighbourhoods sub-group chair Julie Walmsley and Emily Bolton from Our Future on progress around the engagement work taking place via the 8 themed mission groups and the Funding and Governance task Group.

The board discussed a proposal to set up be a “new organisation” that would act as the delivery vehicle for the Plan for Neighbourhoods programme with the long-term ambition for the new organisation to be a legacy organisation which would be owned and run by local stakeholders for the people of Grimsby. The Greater Grimsby Board would utilise its skills and expertise to provide the necessary oversight and governance.

The board considered various options around funding intermediaries such as a bank, social invertors and other types of funders, but ultimately it would need to go out to tender.

The Chair highlighted that a funding intermediary needed to be considered carefully due to the fees they may charge. He queried who was accountable and responsible for the new organisation and the board needed to be clear on how the money was being spent and what the return was.

Ms Wroot confirmed that it was early stages and the accountable body (which was the Council) would support around any business case development. She explained the role was about providing support to develop the skills and strengths of the new organisation and ensure that appropriate qualified people were in place to make the decisions and oversee delivery and understood their responsibilities around being accountable.

The Chair offered challenge to get reassurance around the role of an intermediary and that the money was well spent and left a legacy. Councillor Jackson confirmed that with the Council being the accountable body of the fund, it needed to be spent well and benefit Grimsby in the long term. Ms Wroot agreed and suggested there be a robust principle from day one. Ms Wroot requested that officers come back with a strong and clear proposal from the Funding & Governance Task Group on what the evolution of the new organisation looks like and what the assurance looked like whilst appreciating that it would be high level. In the accountable role section Ms Wroot felt there needed to be strong recommendations for the next phase of evolution.

The Chair also suggested that ambitious branding for the new organisation be developed that should be exciting to the community and sends a statement what is happening in Grimsby.

The board agreed to look at a more detailed outline of the proposals at the next Greater Grimsby Board meeting in November in addition to the submission of the Plan for Neighbourhoods Regeneration Plan and 4-year investment plan.

A request was also made for a £7k stipend to be donated to the Mission Group Chairs organisations in recognition of the time they have contributed to the Plan for Neighbourhoods Engagement work. Following discussion by the Board this was not approved because the board felt it would set a precedent for the future.

In addition, a request was made to establish a “quick wins” pot utilising £50,000 of the MHCLG Capacity fund monies to pilot a “Community Pot” partnering with Key Fund to seed fund ideas and initiatives ahead of submitting the Plan for Neighbourhoods Regeneration Plan and 4-year investment plan submission. The board considered the proposal but declined at this stage and requested that officers bring back a more detailed proposal to the next meeting in November 2025.

#### RESOLVED

1. That the updated be noted.
2. That the proposal around the new organisation and Neighbourhood Plan be presented to the next board meeting in November 2025 for approval.
3. That a revised proposal around the “quick wins” pot partnering with Key Fund utilising £50k of MHCLG capacity funding be brought back to the next meeting in November 2025.
4. That the requested for an up to £7k to reimburse the working group chairs’ organisations in recognition for the time they were contributing to the project was not approved.

#### **6. Update on Major Projects**

The board received an update on the key town centre projects by Mr. Jaines-White. The board were encouraged by progress and recognised the achievements and difference being made in the Town Centre. The board requested that for the next update a presentation should focus on what has not gone so well, what the current concerns are and what plans are being put in place moving forward

#### RESOLVED

1. That the update be noted.
2. That a future presentation focuses on what has not gone so well, current concerns and plans being put in place moving forward.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 12.11 p.m.