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Greater Grimsby Board

Minutes of Meeting

27th February 2026 at 10.00 a.m.

Attendance:

- Chair - David Ross (The David Ross Foundation)
- Melanie Onn (MP for Grimsby and Cleethorpes)
- Councillor Philip Jackson (North East Lincolnshire Council)
- Councillor Stan Shreeve (North East Lincolnshire Council)
- Emma Toulson (Orsted)
- Sharon Wroot (North East Lincolnshire Council
- Mark Webb (Efactor)
- Julie Walmsley (Sector Support)
- Chris Carr (Carr and Carr Builders)

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)
- James Trowsdale (North East Lincolnshire Council)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence from this meeting were received from Martin Vickers MP, Jonathon Evison (Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner), Deborah Williams (Historic England), Julian Free (University of Lincoln) and David Talbot (CATCH).

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 of the meeting of this Board on 20th November 2025 were agreed as a correct record.

4. Pride in Place Sub Group Update

The board received an update from the Pride in Place Sub-Group on the Our Future proposal for the next phase of work and the open house scheduled for 9-10 March.

Ms Bolton outlined the proposal for the next phase of work, building on the plan submitted to MHCLG. The core idea was to establish a new independent, community-led organisation which would administer the fund for Grimsby, owned by and for its residents.

The board agreed to the proposed funding model for the next phase of the Pride in Place programme to expedite programme delivery, leverage existing expertise and relationships, and secure additional funding, while ensuring costs were covered by the capacity fund.

RESOLVED –

That the the proposed funding model for the next phase of the Pride in Place programme be approved, which included:

- Allocation of £100,000 from the Pride in Place capacity fund to "Our Future" for programme delivery, matched by "Our Future's" own contribution.
- Engagement of Key Fund as fund administrator at a cost of £57,000, offset by a £45,000 grant they would bring for Grimsby projects.

5. Town of Culture Application Update

The Board received an update on the Town of Culture application. Mr Trowsdale provided background on the UK City/Town of Culture concept, stemming from Liverpool's European Capital of Culture in 2008. Past UK City of Culture examples included Londonderry, Hull, Coventry, and Bradford.

The board discussed the next steps which included the Council team drafting the expression of interest, with representation from across the council.

A member suggested a Oversight Proposal Subgroup be established to provide a "critical friend" eye on the expression of interest (EOI) ensuring collective ambition and partnership were reflected.

The board agreed to oversee the development of the EOI with the aim for a draft by 13th March 2026, with feedback in the third week of March 2026, and final tweaks by end of March 2026.

RESOLVED –

1. That the Great Grimsby Board provide oversight for the development of the Grimsby Town of Culture EOI.

2. That a subgroup be established to drive the development of the Town of Culture EOI, to be chaired by Ms Onn with involvement from interested board members and Lucy Oxwell Key from Horizon Youth Zone.

6. Town Centre Update

The board received an update on the Town Centre.

Mr Jaines-White explained the original master plan vision (diversification, waterfront, three main zones) was being refreshed to engage with Historic England, Homes England, and the Combined Authority for future funding and development.

Mr Jaines-White highlighted significant progress had been made on the pre-let cinema site. He explained that Horizon Youth Zone had just opened and was highly successful, a legacy of the Town Deal. It attracted over 2000 visitors on the opening day. The centre had a strong community engagement and a focus on arts and culture alongside other activities. The Care Building had also opened and was unrecognisable from its previous state, featuring high-end interior design.

Mr Janies White and Mark Webb confirmed that the derelict St James House building had been fully refurbished and was now open. All offices were let within three months, primarily to local businesses indicating strong confidence in the town centre. Interest existed for the ground floor and first floor conference centre.
A member asked about the return on investment. Mr Jaines-White explained the building was considered economically sustainable and a replicable model for future projects, focusing on long-term sustainability rather than immediate high commercial returns.

RESOLVED - That the update be noted.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 11.50 a.m