



Greater Grimsby Board

Minutes of Meeting

24th April 2026 at 10.00 a.m.

Attendance:

- Chair - David Ross (The David Ross Foundation)
- Melanie Onn (MP for Grimsby and Cleethorpes)
- Martin Vickers (MP for Brigg and Immingham)
- Councillor Philip Jackson (North East Lincolnshire Council)
- Councillor Stan Shreeve (North East Lincolnshire Council)
- Sharon Wroot (North East Lincolnshire Council)
- Jonathan Evison (Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner)
- Mark Webb (Efactor)
- Julie Walmsley (Sector Support)
- Chris Carr (Carr and Carr Builders)
- Deb Williams (Historic England)
- Lauren Little (Orsted)

Also in Attendance: –

- Emily Bolton (Our Future)
- Ed Robinson (Our Future)
- Crytal Ness (Our Future)
- Amil Boudjabeur (MHCLG)
- 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 Carolina Borgstrom (North East Lincolnshire Council), Emma Toulson (Orsted), 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 27th February 2026 were agreed as a correct record.

4. MHCLG Pride in Place Programme 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.

Mr Boudjabeur noted that the Regeneration Plan had now been endorsed and the Memorandum of Understanding had been returned. Two funding installments were due to come through in the next week. Overall, MHCLG were impressed with the level of engagement work and cross-collaboration was encouraged across the programme. A community delivery webinar was due to take place in July and a regional forum for accountable bodies was due to hold its first meeting on 6th May 2026.

The Chair welcomed the opportunity to host the regional event and felt that we had some great examples of local initiatives that could be showcased. He enquired whether other areas were doing things that we were not.

Mr Boudjabeur commented that Grimsby was a unique case across the programme and was doing a lot that others weren't. He emphasised the importance of collaboration and to keep the community engagement work going. He was also keen to adopt a positive feedback approach of "you said, we did" across the whole of the programme.

Concern was raised about the danger of Grimsby falling behind other programmes. Mr Boudjabeur provided reassurances on that point and noted that other areas had conditions attached to their funding whereas Grimsby hadn't. He noted that £150k capacity funding had already been provided which could be utilised for quick wins.

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.

There was an enquiry about the possibility of utilising interest from the funding to assist with sustainability of projects. Mr Boudjabeur felt that was a fair point and noted that projects could be rolled into later years of the programme.

RESOLVED – That the update be noted.

5. Pride in Place Programme – Memorandum of Understanding and April submission

The Board received the Pride in Place Programme Memorandum of Understanding and the Grimsby submission.

RESOLVED – That the Pride in Place Programme Memorandum of Understanding and the Grimsby submission be noted.

6. Pride in Place Sub Group / Our Future update

The board considered a report from Our Future on the work of the Pride in Place Sub Group. The report sought approval to launch the first round of community-led grant funding and provided an update on broader fund design.

Ms Bolton noted that the Grimsby Pride in Place Fund was proposed to be called the Growing Together Fund and three potential funding pots were being developed. Mr Robinson provided detail on the 'Give It A Go' fund, the first participatory funding pot to be utilized.

The Board was keen to ensure that projects were financially robust and sustainable. Whilst there was a need to move quickly, it was important to avoid poor decisions. It was noted that Key Fund had been engaged to support this process. A set of eligibility criteria had also been developed. It was suggested that Key Fund could conduct an evaluation of the projects that they would fund and match that to decisions taken by the community.

The Board suggested that a governance checklist be provided to ensure that issues such as conflicts of interest were managed.

The Board enquired about the use of local organisations, for example, for legal support, and provided a clear preference for the use of local companies and suppliers in delivering the programme.

There was an enquiry as to whether the community decision-making process could be observed. It was noted that the dynamic of these events was important but officers would look into options, such as a video walk-through of the process so that the decision-making mechanism could be observed without being present in the room.

RESOLVED –

1. That the launch of the Give It A Go funding round be approved, with the public launch to follow the May local elections.
2. That the selection of 'Growing Together Fund' as the name for the Fund (which will be announced publicly after 7th May) be noted.

3. That progress on the development of interim funding arrangements and associated governance agreements be noted.
4. That the design and legal work underway to establish the longer-term independent Fund entity including potential additional costs for capacity budget, be noted.

7. Town of Culture application update

The board received an update on the Town of Culture application for Grimsby.

The positive impact of the application was welcomed by the Board.

RESOLVED – That the Town of Culture application be noted.

8. Town Centre Progress update

The board received a verbal update on progress with the regeneration of Grimsby town centre.

The Chair enquired about progress with the development of Victoria Mills and felt that it was a clear focus needed to kept on such an important building.

Ms Onn enquired about the Ice Factory development. It was noted that this fell under the responsibility of ABP. The board felt that an update should be requested from ABP, perhaps in conjunction with the involvement of Historic England.

RESOLVED – That an update be requested from ABP on progress with the development of the Ice Factory.

There being no further business, the Chair declared the meeting closed at 11.48 a.m