

Minutes of the Joint Town Deal Board for Mablethorpe and Skegness
(Connected Coast Board) held via Zoom on Friday 14th August 2020 at 3:00pm.

Present:

Sarah Louise Fairburn

Chris Baron

Councillor Craig Leyland

Ivan Annibal

Councillor Adrian Benjamin

Robert Caldwell

Freddie Chambers

Adrian Clarke

Councillor Tony Tye

Martin Collison

Deborah Campbell

Councillor Helen Matthews

Jacqui Bunce

Mark Humphreys

Robert Parker

John Henry Looney

Councillor Colin Davie

Councillor Carl Tebbutt

William Price

Pat Doody

Pete Holmes

Councillor Steve Kirk

Andrew Stevenson

Peter Watson

Councillor Sid Dennis

Chair

Deputy Chair

Leader, East Lindsey District Council

Rose Regeneration

Mablethorpe & Sutton on Sea Town Council

Association of Drainage Boards

Lindum Group

Tech Partnership (Grimsby Institute)

Skegness Town Council

Collison Associates Ltd

Environment Agency

District Councillor for Sutton on Sea

Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group

CEO Magna Vitae

MicronClean

Sustainable Direction Ltd

Lincolnshire County Council

Mablethorpe & Sutton Town Council

CLA

GLLEP

BEIS East Midlands

Portfolio Holder for Coastal Economy, ELDC

University of Lincoln

Distract

Visit Lincs Coast Chair

Not in attendance:

Justin Brown

Claire Draper

Lisa Fairlie

Lincolnshire County Council

Mellor Group

Platform Housing Group

Officers in attendance:

Robert Barlow (Chief Executive), Lydia Rusling (Head Economic Development and Growth), Martin Kay (External Funding Lead, Organisational Improvement & Development), Craig Fiske (Commercial Officer).

1. Apologies for absence:

Apologies for absence were received from Ruth Carver (LEP), Caroline Killeavy (CEO YMCA), Matt Warman (MP for Boston & Skegness) and Victoria Atkins (MP for Louth & Horncastle).

2. Minutes of Meetings

Minutes of last meeting were approved by the board.

3. Updated Towns Fund Guidance, Programme Management, Covid-19 Contingency/Arup support- Lydia Rusling

We are preparing two Town Investment Plans, one for each town and the surrounding area - Skegness and Mablethorpe. These will be submitted at the end of October. Lydia highlighted the Towns Fund Guidance for the TIP and the process, including 2 months to discuss heads of terms and 12 months after to submit detailed business cases. Current contracts for support (capacity funding) will conclude at the end of October.

Discussions with ARUP have started and they are willing to support with contingency planning and prioritisation of projects. They provided positive feedback in relation to our programme plan and our community engagement.

Arup has developed a website with resources, contacts and support: <https://townsfund.org.uk/>

Action: Agreed Arup's support for project prioritisation/assessment, programme plan (as highlighted in Board papers) and an additional set of meeting dates to ensure the Board and Place Reference Groups were engaged with the Town Investment Plans as they are developed prior to submission at the end of October.

Sarah Louise Fairburn: We need to buddy-up certain members of the board and PRG's to individual projects where they have a suited skill set.

Action: Board members to contact Lydia when project list is circulated.

4. Flagship Project Updates:

Presentation on the Further Education Campus in Skegness- Adrian Clarke

Positive feedback has been received. The site has been identified and a public procurement process is underway in order to hire a design team who will have experience in building FE campuses. A positive meeting was had with fellow educational providers in the area with further ones to come and the potential for a local educational group to be formed. Park and ride is still in the plans for the college. Need to push quickly on now to RIBA stage 2.

Skegness Gateway- Lydia Rusling

A developer has shown interest in the Skegness Gateway. The masterplan for the area will include 800 new homes and is keen to get feedback from this Board on plans, including the FE Campus. This work has also been highlighted to support with connectivity – Park & Ride, Digital, and Business.

Action: Skegness Gateway briefing to be circulated to Board for feedback.

Feedback from the Board: Positive, and important to demonstrate to government that the private sector is investing in the area.

Presentation on the Campus for Future Living in Mablethorpe- Ivan Annibal

Moving onto RIBA stage 2 preparation work and contractor appointment. Robust costings have been received and pre-app discussions are happening around planning.

Commitment from Health Education England, MOU with Nottingham Trent Medical Innovation Centre, and working with/in discussions with Community Catalysts, Local Clinical Commissioning Group and also the University of Lincoln. Mansfield Town Deal has welcomed the sharing of ideas around the campus which would strengthen the bid.

Action: Lydia- statement regarding dentistry in Mablethorpe following MyTown and community feedback.

Feedback: Positive, but need to link with NHS work and broader agenda (food, exercise, social factors).

Action: Conversation with county over park and ride.

5. Accelerated Funding- Cllr Steve Kirk

ELDC has been invited to submit proposals for accelerated funding for both Skegness (£750,000) and Mablethorpe (£500,000). This is for capital projects that can be started by the end of this financial year. The PRG's have been consulted to decide which projects should be taken forward in each town. In Skegness, the pedestrianisation of part of the esplanade including re-routing of traffic was chosen. In Mablethorpe, the demolition of the colonnade and re-working of the vicinity area was chosen. ELDC full council supported these projects.

Action: Plans for demolition of colonnade sent to Environment agency to obtain permit.

Questions from the board:

Will there still be access for emergency services- e.g. lifeboats? Yes they have been engaged in the process from the beginning to maintain access.

Is the current infrastructure okay to cope with the diverted traffic? Yes- traffic studies show south parade can deal with the increase in traffic.

6. Distract/HETA: Engagement and communications- Martin Kay

Distract- a 20 week communication plan has been drawn up with Distract to help promote the Connected Coast and engage the local community. They have done a great job so far with various ways on bringing the Towns Fund to life including: A new website, Blogs, Webinars, social media engagement and a digital symposium with much more to come. Engagement with their content is into the hundreds of thousands in a very small space of time. They have also helped with communication with the Board, PRG's and wider community to keep everyone informed on a regular basis of any updates. Interactions with community are being noted and are currently be analysed.

Action: Connected Coast Website link to be shared along with Distract update report.

HETA- are working on the storyboards. Visuals have be linked with simple text to engage the community and inform them about what is going on to create new ideas and potential further investment into the coast.

Feedback: Positive. Action: Share storyboards when finalised.

7. Reviewing the evidence base and long-term vision- Martin Collison

The original evidence base has been supplemented with the ever changing situation we are in and includes feedback from the community about their towns. Key concerns that were highlighted: flooding and coastal change, health outcomes, low wages, poor qualifications, poor diversification of business, seasonal economy, digital, transport infrastructure. Positives that were highlighted: coastal assets, increase in wanting to access the coast, potential for the coast, low cost of housing, space, a council wanting growth. The vision will try and address both the positives and negatives as well as focusing on a green, long-term and sustainable approach to economic recovery. It is hoped the vision will help with investment, not only for now but beyond the Towns Fund. Private and public groups will be looked at for funding streams for the next 25 years and beyond.

Agreement from board that the longer term vision beyond the towns fund is critical for sustained growth along the coast. Linking projects across Lincolnshire, the coast and our towns is also vital for transformation. Discussion around green and environmental projects and the investment needed was highlighted.

8. Investors Model: Martin Collison

This model will try and make investment in the coast as easy as possible for potential investors. It will allow for the linking of public sector sites with the private sector development to create great opportunities within each town. Investor's model will allow for the public and private sector to work more closely on larger scale schemes after the Towns Fund for continued development. Model in Lincoln referenced as a great success.

Board members agreed this would be a good model for the coast.

Action: If any board/PRG members are interested in this to contact Lydia. A smaller working group will be established and facilitated by David Rossington at Investors in Lincoln to ensure development and integration within the Town Investment Plans.

9. Town Investment Plan structure- Ivan Annibal

The first part of the town investment plan is reviewing the evidence base, looking at the vision, renewing the theory of change and aligning with the supplementary guidance around Covid recovery/clean growth.

The second part is looking for clear projects in each Town to submit in the plan with detailed pro-formas and plans for each. It is suggested that a cut-off date is needed for new ideas so we have enough time to analyse ideas in detail for the final plan.

10. Towns Fund Projects Discussion- led by Lydia Rusling, Martin Collison, Martin Kay

Police training facility- in depth proposal submitted with costing, aligning connectivity with FE campus. Providing new skills and facilities to the area.

East Midlands Railway- regenerate Skegness train station. Pro-forma (including costings) has been completed and visuals shared.

Green agenda and cycling/walking- link the green space on the coast with the increase in cycling/walking. Manage green/environmental issues along the coast and how cycling/walking can benefit from solving these issues.

Culture and Heritage- identified art, cultural and heritage offerings that would help the Towns. Plans are being discussed over the coming weeks with support from Magna Vitae and Heritage Lincolnshire.

11. AOB

None.

Meeting ended at 5:05pm.

Next meeting: 30th September, 2pm