



Connected Coast Chair's Update: March 2024

Skegness Learning Campus

Construction has now begun on the Skegness Learning Campus, Connected Coast's flagship Town Deal project for Skegness.

The new campus, supported by £14M funding from the Towns Fund through Connected Coast, is set to make a huge impact in the community, offering further and higher education tailored towards vocational skills training to meet local needs.

Having gained planning permission from East Lindsey District Council last year, works are now underway on the Wainfleet Road site, led by contractors Hobson and Porter.

With a focus on delivering quality education, the purpose-built college will provide further education courses in many different subject areas, including construction, engineering, hospitality, tourism, digital, and more.

The campus will in turn bring enhanced employment opportunities and a broader range of curriculum tailored to economic changes and demands. Over the coming years, the project aims to help over 1,000 residents into employment, supporting growth in the local economy and enriching the community.



The Learning Campus has the potential to be an economic game changer for the area, allowing people to gain the skills and knowledge they need to get the jobs they want.

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Station Leisure and Learning Centre



A 'topping out' event has marked a significant milestone in the construction of the new Station Leisure and Learning Centre as it enters the final stages of completion.

The event took place on Friday 15th March and saw a number of partners come together to make the occasion, which included a tour of the building so far.



*Chris Baron, speaking at the event,
with Councillor Fry*

With modern fitness facilities and opportunities for learning, the centre is set to be a real asset to the local area, and will make a significant impact in supporting people's physical and mental wellbeing in Mablethorpe. The facility includes a four-lane, 25m swimming pool; a changing village, modern fitness suite, studios as well as a new play area and car park. The centre will also provide new learning and skills opportunities.

The current Station Sports Centre is scheduled to close on Thursday 11th April to allow for the demolition of the building. There will then be a short period of closure to allow for staff training at the new facility and to complete works.

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Magna Vitae will be holding an event for residents, members, and staff past and present to say farewell to Station Sports Centre. In addition, a programme of community activities is also being arranged to ensure people have access to facilities during the short closure. Station Sports Centre members will also have access to other Magna Vitae facilities in Louth, Skegness and Horncastle during the closure.



Attendees at the event viewing the swimming pool (left), and an overhead view of the new pool (right)

East Lincolnshire Expo

On Wednesday 7th

February, the Connected Coast team, together with Heritage Lincolnshire and East Midlands Railway, hosted a stand at the East Lincolnshire Expo. The event provided an opportunity to share an update on the investment and the projects being delivered for Skegness and Mablethorpe. In addition, attendees were invited to share their ideas around the Long Term Plan for Towns.



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Here are some of the suggestions which were put forward during the day.

Safety and Security

"Youth clubs to stop kids hanging around giving them somewhere to meet."

"Skegness Grammar Road – needs tidying up."

"Lighting on streets and shops fitted with solar panels to stay on at night."

High Streets, Heritage, and Regeneration

"Steam clean all footpaths."

"More things to be open in winter."

"Skegness Museum for Heritage."

Transport and Connectivity

"Better cycling routes that link Skegness to further towns."

"EV chargers in town."

"Solar lighting for walkways."

You can also add your ideas [here](#) *More information about the Long Term Plan for Towns can be found further in this update.



Chris Baron, Chair, and Paul McCooey, Board Member Connected Coast and Chair of Skegness Area Business Chamber

I was also pleased to give a presentation about Connected Coast and the work we are carrying out at the event. It was good to hear people's questions and thoughts about the significant opportunity we have through the investment in Skegness and Mablethorpe.



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Tower Gardens

The work at Tower Gardens in Skegness is nearing completion, with a community planting day organised by Skegness Town Council taking place on the 26th of March. This will be an opportunity for members of the public to see the changes that have been made and contribute to the sensory planting around the bandstand. Subject to weather conditions, the Tower Gardens project should complete within April.



Skegness Town Centre Transformation



The project to enhance the appearance of Alisons department store continues apace. Further down Lumley Road, the first of a row of four new shopfronts is due to be installed this month. Further improvement projects for town centre businesses in Skegness are being developed ready to start in the 2024-25 off season and Heritage Lincolnshire welcomes further expressions of interest via their [website](#).

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Mablethorpe Town Centre Transformation

The Town Centre Transformation in Mablethorpe continues to progress well. Final plans are being developed for the installation of new functional balconies in the town centre. Plans are on track to see the first phase of work (replacement shopfronts) delivered before the high season with a second phase of canopy demolition and balcony building taking place from autumn 2024.

Long Term Plan for Towns



£20M in Long Term Plan for Towns Funding was announced for Skegness in 2023. This is in addition to funding from the Towns Fund and the Cultural Development Fund.

To access the funding, a vision for Skegness has to be developed. Connected Coast has set up a subgroup for Skegness – chaired by Chair of Skegness Area Business

Chamber Paul McCooley – to lead on the development of this vision.

The vision – which will be submitted to government by 1st August - has to be built around three priorities. And crucially, it must be informed by feedback from local people.

So, we need your help.

We need you to tell us your ideas around these themes:

- **Safety and Security**

Examples of things this might include: CCTV, lighting, ideas to tackle anti-social behaviour.

- **High Streets, heritage, and regeneration**

Examples of things this might include: creating and maintaining parks and green spaces, high street cleaning projects, improving markets, preserving and improving heritage sites.

- **Transport and connectivity**

Examples of things this might include: improving transport links, cycling and walking routes, safer routes, new pedestrian walkways, electric charging.



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You can share your thoughts here: [Long Term Plan for Towns - Connected Coast](#)

We'll also let you know about events that will be taking place where you can share your thoughts.

The Long Term Plan for Skegness will be shaped by you – **please do have your say.**

Levelling Up

Alford Manor House, Alford Windmill and Spilsby Session House are all set to be revitalised thanks to Levelling Up funding.

Now, East Lindsey District Council is seeking expertise - including a funding consultant and a structural engineer, amongst a number of other roles - to help to deliver these exciting projects.

If you, or someone you know, has knowledge and experience in heritage sites and the challenges they pose, and are from the South and East Lincolnshire area, you can get in touch at LUF.Projects@e-lindsey.gov.uk

Are you a Funding Consultant? Come Level Up with us!	Are you a Structural Engineer? Come Level Up with us!
	
Start a conversation today - LUF.Projects@e-lindsey.gov.uk  POWERED BY LEVELLING UP	Start a conversation today - LUF.Projects@e-lindsey.gov.uk  POWERED BY LEVELLING UP

UK Shared Prosperity Funding

Round Five of the Communities and Place and Supporting Local Business strands awards - along with Round One of the People & Skills strand - have been successfully awarded. There



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will soon be an announcement of the full £1.9million South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership People & Skills programme.

Through investment from the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, Lincolnshire Community Foundation has created the GRASSroots scheme. This distributes funding to Parish Councils, Village Halls and community projects. The GRASSroots scheme in East Lindsey has awarded funding to more than 40 projects across the sub-region already, including Stickford Community Centre, Woodhall Spa Cricket Club and Alford Corn Exchange. Further funding via the GRASSroots scheme is set to be awarded soon after a great demand was seen from local communities, particularly in East Lindsey and South Holland.

Case Study: South & East Lincolnshire BEAM (Overcoming Barriers to Employment)

South & East Lincolnshire BEAM is a project which supports economic activity and reducing homelessness by supporting a cohort of individuals presenting as homeless to secure employment and private sector tenancies.

Since being awarded a grant from UKSPF in 2023, there have been 28 referrals to the project; 3 in Boston, 13 in East Lindsey and 12 in South Holland with more anticipated in the coming weeks and months.

An example of the work the team has been doing includes the story of Paul. After a number of unstable tenancies, Paul found himself sleeping on his father's sofa without a home to call his own - but was referred to the team for support. After engaging with BEAM, Paul was offered social housing but the expensive moving costs meant that he was struggling to find a way to move into his new home. BEAM supported Paul with community donations of more than £1,000 which meant he was able to purchase essential furniture, such as white goods, to ensure he had everything he needed to make his home habitable and to take the strain off him as he started a new chapter in his life.

*Would you like to find out more about anything in this update? Please do get in touch with us: Connected.Coast@e-lindsey.gov.uk

Chris Baron
Chair, Connected Coast Town Deal Board



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