



Connected Coast Board

29th May 2026

10:30am via Teams

AGENDA

- 1. Welcome, introductions and apologies for absence – CB**
- 2. Declarations of interest - ALL**
For noting
- 3. To agree the minutes of the previous meeting held on 3rd March 2026 - ALL**
For approval
- 4. Matters arising - JB**
For noting
- 5. Communications - MG**
For noting
- 6. Towns Deal Update - JB**
 - a. Programme Update
 - b. Project Updates
- 7. Pride in Place programme update - JB**
 - a) Programme update
 - b) Minutes of the last Skegness Neighbourhood Board -
 - c) Minutes of the last Mablethorpe Sub Group -
- 8. Other Programme & Project Funds Update - JB**
 - a. Levelling Up Fund Round 2
 - b. Cultural Development Fund
 - c. East Lindsey Investment Fund
 - d. NPO Arts Council Funding
 - e. UK Town of Culture 2028
- 9. Summary of meeting and actions CB**
- 10. Any Other Business**
- 11. Dates of future meetings**

Further dates/frequency of meetings to be agreed



Connected Coast Board
Minutes of Meeting Held on 3 March 2026 at 2pm
Venue - Skegness College, Wainfleet Road, Skegness & via Teams

Attendance:-

Present: Chris Baron (Chair); Jon Burgess, Michelle Gant, Cllr Steve Kirk, Cllr Adrian Findley, Susan Lowe, Joanne Davison, Clive Hillcoat, Alice Eyre, Ann Hardy, Tom Mukherjee-Neale, Ron Zaunbrecher, Chris Lilley, Paul McCooey, Freddie Chambers, Jacqui Bunce, Maria Cotton, Claire Draper and James Brindle.

1 Welcome & Apologies for Absence

CB welcomed everyone to the Meeting. Apologies for absence were received from Robert Parker, Claire Foster, Tracy Stringfellow, Emma Tatlow and Cllr Carl Tebbutt.

2 Declarations of Interest

The Chair restated his standing declaration relating to Ready for Linden, confirming there were no changes since the last meeting. Claire Draper declared an interest in Magna Vitae and it was noted that James Brindle held a related organisational connection. The Board acknowledged these declarations, with no concerns raised regarding participation in any agenda items.

3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting held on 10 December 2025

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved as a true record.

4 Matters Arising

The Board received an update on the ongoing commercial negotiations for the former Skegness College building. The property team continued dialogue with the prospective operator, with no issues of concern identified at this stage. A further update would be provided at the next meeting.

Draft designs and indicative costs for project signage and permanent plaques had been prepared. These would be implemented across completed Towns Fund projects to provide consistent visibility and branding.

The February interim Board newsletter was issued as part of the enhanced communications approach. Members were invited to provide suggestions for content in future editions.

Progress continued on recruitment for the Skegness Neighbourhood Board Project Manager, with interviews expected to take place later in March.

5 Communications

The communications update covered activity from November 2025 to February 2026. The opening of the new Skegness College campus generated extensive media interest across local and regional outlets, supported by strong attendance at the launch event.



The Board noted the positive reception to the December Chair's Update and the newly introduced monthly e-newsletter for Board members. Early feedback suggested that the regular updates improved visibility of programme milestones.

Digital engagement continued to rise, with strong social media performance, particularly around Pride in Place content. Website analytics showed increased traffic to project pages, especially those for Seaview Colonnade and Sandilands.

Connected Coast hosted a stand at the East Lincs Expo and supported the Skegness College launch event, with good attendance and constructive engagement with local residents, stakeholders and businesses.

6 Town Deal Update

(a) Programme Update

Seven of the thirteen Towns Fund projects across Skegness and Mablethorpe had reached practical completion. The remaining schemes continued to progress well, with the Skegness Foreshore project forecast to complete by March 2027 within the extended delivery window.

Government changes to monitoring requirements were noted. From April 2026, the Towns Fund and Levelling Up Fund Round 2 would report under the Local Regeneration Fund, requiring programme-level reporting against a revised indicator set.

The Board reconfirmed its support for reallocating up to £100k from the Multi-User Trail underspend to the Skegness College S278 works, acknowledging that this did not alter the approved outputs.

(b) Project Updates

Skegness TEC Campus - The new Skegness TEC campus represented a major milestone for post-16 education in the area. The official opening on 23 January was well attended and widely covered in the media. Early indications showed a 50% increase in student enrolments compared to the previous academic year, attributed to improved facilities, expanded curriculum options and enhanced employer engagement. The project was progressing through its final claims stage, including the confirmed virement from the Multi-User Trail underspend.

Skegness Interchange - Work on the Skegness Interchange had resumed momentum following conclusion of the Phase 2 procurement process. Construction was expected to restart by the end of March. A full-and-final settlement with the previous contractor resolved outstanding liabilities and improved financial certainty. Additional DfT funding was secured, the Fire Strategy was approved and remedial works on the Red Star building were completed to enable continued safe use during construction.



Town Centre Transformation - Skegness - The transformation programme continued to deliver tangible improvements in Skegness town centre. The Board noted the cumulative achievements, including nearly 4,000 sqm of commercial floorspace improved, substantial match funding secured and multiple vacant buildings brought back into use. The creation or safeguarding of almost 70 local jobs highlighted the positive economic impact of the scheme.

Skegness Foreshore - Although progress on the Esplanade cultural elements remained paused pending Arts Council match-funding decisions, wider commercial interest in the Foreshore continued. Negotiations were ongoing with prospective operators for other plots and officers continued to engage with partners to maintain momentum.

Campus for Future Living, Mablethorpe - The Campus continued to evolve as a community-focused health and innovation hub. A range of activities were already taking place across wellbeing, health, education and community research. LPFT's planned delivery of mental health services would significantly enhance local provision. The Campus was developing strong partnerships with universities, local colleges and health organisations to bring forward pilot work and support local workforce development.

Leisure & Learning Hub, Mablethorpe - Membership levels remained strong at over 1,400 active users, significantly exceeding initial projections. The future transition of operations to Parkwood Leisure in 2027 was seen as an opportunity to maintain service quality. Retention initiatives already in place included flexible membership options, targeted outreach and removal of joining fees to support inclusion.

Town Centre Transformation - Mablethorpe - Delivery of Town Centre Transformation works continued with all funding allocated and final public realm elements being implemented. Progress included the improvement of 1,784 sqm of commercial floorspace, strong business participation and the revitalisation of previously underused retail units.

Sandilands - National Trust - The Sandilands project had made significant progress, with contractors resolving previous drainage challenges. Work continued on the café building, including roof installation and preparation for PV systems. The Rangers' Base was nearing handover and installation of EV charging infrastructure was ready. The wetland habitat continued to establish positively.

Seaview Colonnade - Footfall and engagement remained strong at Seaview Colonnade. The site had received external recognition and was delivering a robust programme of events. Although earlier commercial negotiations had concluded, new discussions with a prospective operator were underway. In the interim, the Council would continue to manage activities and programming.

MobiHub - Mablethorpe - Legal completion for the MobiHub project had been achieved. The Board noted that community expectations were high and often ahead of formal delivery milestones. Officers would circulate an updated timeline covering site clearance, seasonal constraints and anticipated future phases once confirmed.



7 Sub Group Updates (Pride in Place)

(a) Mablethorpe

Officers updated the Board on Government requirements for MP endorsement relating to Pride in Place Board membership and boundary. Work was underway to prepare boundary options by July to allow submission of the final programme plan by November. Members expressed concern that the current boundary excluded parts of the LN12 area, which could restrict local representation. Engagement activity was progressing strongly, including brand development, website creation and preparation of toolkits. Members highlighted the need to ensure that printed communications were used to reach residents with limited digital access.

(b) Skegness

The Board considered the updated Pride in Place guidance, which placed greater emphasis on community-led decision-making, participatory budgeting, enhanced safety measures and ensuring that at least 51% of Board members live or work within the geographic boundary. The importance of demographic representation was reaffirmed. To support delivery, the Board approved creation of Programme Manager and Programme Coordinator roles, shared equally with Mablethorpe.

Twenty-eight Expressions of Interest had been received and assessed. Projects scoring 21 or above would progress through a proportionality-based business case process. A support session for applicants was scheduled for 25 February. The rollout of Street Scene operatives was discussed, with members emphasising the need for clear branding, strong public communications and a monthly work plan addressing priority hotspots.

8 Young People Engagement Report

The Board reviewed the comprehensive youth engagement paper. Population data indicated that young people form a significant proportion of local residents, with 18% of Skegness (3,836 individuals) and 39% of Mablethorpe (1,095 individuals) aged 0-17. Engagement during 2025 involved over 300 young people through activities at Skegness Grammar School, with more than 100 additional participants involved in 2024 via commissioned YMCA outreach and school-based work. Further feedback was gathered at public events such as East Coast Pride.

The Engaging People Co provided analysis of successful youth engagement methods, highlighting the effectiveness of working through trusted local organisations - youth groups, schools, sports clubs, charities and arts groups. Interactive activities such as creative workshops, sports sessions and informal gatherings consistently generated high participation. Peer-to-peer engagement delivered by trained and paid student researchers was shown to be highly effective in gathering candid insight.

The Board noted wider work underway, including the Skegness Aspiration Project, which focused on early years development, pathways into skilled employment, enrichment opportunities and health inequalities. In Mablethorpe, a Youth Leaders Forum had been established to progress priorities identified through the CHILL project. Engagement led by the Lincolnshire Community & Voluntary Partnership also reached over 650 local residents, including substantial numbers of young people.

The new TEC campus, with a 50% uplift in enrolment, created significant opportunities for further youth engagement. The Board agreed that future Pride in Place delivery should prioritise engagement with young people and ensure funding was available to support this.



9 Other Programme & Project Funds

Progress continued on Spilsby Sessions House, with planning consent for internal ceiling works reducing project risks. An additional £28,500 in Heritage at Risk funding had been secured. Handover remained expected in Spring 2027, although a funding shortfall for internal fit-out work remained under review.

Alford Manor House continued to progress positively with expected handover in Autumn 2026. Additional grants had been secured to support heritage restoration and cultural programming.

The East Lindsey Investment Fund programmes were fully allocated, delivering support across grassroots community projects, Pride in Place grant schemes, social isolation interventions and conservation area appraisals. Digital engagement and wellbeing initiatives continued to demonstrate strong impact.

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) Programme had entered a transitional year, with an extension granted by Government for reporting purposes. Achievements included £6.8m in match funding secured, 71 community facilities supported, 106 businesses assisted, 205 jobs created and 263 residents supported into qualifications or employment.

Arts Council NPO funding for the Storytellers programme had been extended and an application had been submitted for 2027/28. Work continued on preparation of a Town of Culture 2028 Expression of Interest for Skegness.

10 Combined County & Local Government Review

The Board noted the ongoing public consultation on the Combined County and Local Government Review. Board Chairs may invite representatives from the Mayoral Office to attend meetings as observers to support alignment with regional delivery priorities.

11 Any Other Business

CB raised a request for the accountable body to confirm the treatment of interest being accrued by the Council on programme funds paid by Government. JB/MC agreed to raise this with the Council's S151 Officer for clarification.

The National Trust shared the tender pack for the Sandilands café operator, which would be circulated with the minutes. Members noted continuing challenges with hybrid meeting audio quality and agreed to explore alternative layouts and improved microphone arrangements.

The Board also discussed ongoing work to prepare the Town of Culture 2028 Expression of Interest.

Recorded thanks went to Sandra Watson for her service to Connected Coast. Sandra had now left ELDC.

12 Date of Next Meeting

Friday 29 May 2026 at 10:30am. Further dates and future meeting frequency would be confirmed.



Connected Coast Board

29th May 2026

Paper 6b Towns Deal – project updates

Skegness College

The college continues to make excellent progress across several key areas, with strong recruitment trends, growing employment, and meaningful engagement with the local community all contributing to a positive outlook. This year has seen a record number of attendees at open events, reflecting increasing interest in the opportunities available at the college. Current recruitment data remains particularly encouraging, with 344 live applications currently recorded. Several curriculum areas are driving this growth, most notably within the construction trades, which currently account for 114 live applications. Other high-demand subject areas include Hair and Beauty and Health and Social Care, highlighting continued interest in both vocational and service-led career pathways.

Overall student achievement is also tracking positively, with best-case projections placing outcomes at 4.1% above the national average. This reflects the continued commitment of staff and students to high standards of teaching, learning, and support. The college has also expanded its workforce and now employs 33 staff members, many of whom are recruited locally. This not only strengthens the college's capability but also reinforces its role as a key employer within the local area.

Engagement with the local community remains a central focus, with a number of recent initiatives designed to inspire learners and build strong partnerships:

- A STEM outreach event welcomed local primary school students, offering them hands-on activities designed to spark interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.
- Two Careers Insight events, delivered in partnership with the *Careers and Enterprise Company* and *Pathways CTM (Empowering Careers Collectively)*, brought together approximately 30 employers and over 100 visitors. These events provided valuable opportunities for students to connect directly with industry professionals.
- The college has introduced a dedicated School Liaison Officer, who is actively developing relationships with feeder schools to support progression and awareness.
- During Careers Week, local employers including *Micronclean*, *Butlin's*, *MKM Building Supplies*, and *Walnut Care* delivered guest talks, sharing industry insight and career pathways with students. The college extends its thanks for this ongoing support and welcomes interest from additional employers who wish to contribute in future.

Students are also playing an active role in the wider community. Business learners have begun a collaborative project with the Rotary Club and Skegness Day Centre, focusing on inclusion and community support. This initiative is proving instrumental in broadening students' experiences while demonstrating the meaningful impact they can have within diverse local groups.

There are several exciting developments on the horizon, including expanded opportunities in:

- Higher Education (HE)
- Apprenticeships
- Adult learning
- Hospitality and Catering

These areas will continue to strengthen the college's offer and provide further progression routes for learners of all ages. Overall, a successful academic year to date which continues to prosper in the development of the student community and working partners.

Skegness Interchange

- Progress on the old station building is advancing well. The full mechanical and electrical (M&E) strip out has been successfully completed, and demolition works are largely finished, except for the chimney removal. This is due to commence shortly, following endorsement from Network Rail.
- A few relatively minor repairs have been identified following the removal of the ceilings in the existing station building, these are not novel or complex, and considered typical for this type of refurbishment. EMR's engagement with Network Rail on these issues has been productive and we have agreed a pragmatic approach to the initial structural repair requirements. This has helped to reduce the delays, enabling the project to remain on programme despite encountering a few challenges.
- Further structural assessments are currently in progress to confirm the old station building's capacity to support the planned M&E loads. The assessment report is anticipated next week, enabling EMR to commence the M&E first fix shortly afterwards.
- Additionally, the installation of the flooring in rooms 21-23 of the Red Star building is nearing completion.
- The lease agreements for Shine to run the community cafes at both Skegness and Boston are with solicitors.
- On site works currently programmed for end of December 2026 completion.



Left to right: The main corridor (old station building) and old ticket office facing entrance (old station building)



Left to right: Old entrance facing ticket office (old station building) and flooring Installation 21-23 (Red Star)

The Inspiration Train recently arrived at Skegness Interchange and on Friday 9th May, children from local primary schools were invited to visit the museum on rails. During the day, the team from EMR spoke to the children about the work that is taking place to improve the interchange, supported by the Towns Fund. The Inspiration Train is touring the UK and explores the railway's 200-year history through exhibitions and hands-on activities.



Skegness Foreshore & Culture House

Arts Council England have agreed a proposed contract variation with the District Council which will enable the programme delivery to progress based on an enhance fit out of the vacant frontage units within the Embassy Theatre, rather than any further works to be undertaken on the former Pier Filled chalet site. It also releases the ability for the Council to progress with the design and delivery of the proposed public realm and amphitheatre works to the Scarborough Esplanade.



The project team are currently reviewing the programme and cost plan to recommence the pre-construction RIBA stage design works for each project and confirm a revised timeline for delivery.

Works to the Theatre are self contained and not therefore required to be undertaken during the dark period in the new year. Works to Scarborough Esplanade still require planning consent and on site works would not be undertaken during the peak summer season due to the high visitor footfall in this area. Adjacent business owners will be consulted on the design proposals as part of the planning scheme submission. Arts Council England have also requested additional project monitoring and design involvement as part of the contract variation.

Arthur Troop Police Training Centre

At the previous Connected Coast meeting, the Board requested a breakdown of the job outputs reported to date against the project. Provided below is a summary of the additional evidence which has been provided by Lincolnshire Police. The original full business case target was to create 60 FTE permanent jobs and safeguard 30 FTE permanent jobs.

# of full-time equivalent (FTE) permanent jobs created through the projects*	Following completion, the premises were used from 6th April 2021 by Cohort 28 – 30 Student Officers – for their Initial Training Programme over the following 20 weeks. The programme included classroom learning and practical exercises in the local community. During that period, the proceeding intake, Cohort 27 (also 30 Officers) joined them at the Training Centre for aspects of their Initial Training Programme – The facilities allowing two intakes of Officers to be trained side-by side and so make maximum use of the Training Staff and guest speakers. From September 2021, the 28 Student Officers on Cohort 29 started making use of the facilities . During 2022 use of the facility expanded to include Professional Development for our Detectives (“Investing in Investigators” CPD) alongside the 29 Student Officers on Cohort 31. In total four cohorts of Police Officers undertook their initial training at the centre in 2021 and 2022, which equates to 117 FTE Officers 3 FTE trainers were recruited into the centre and 1 x 0.5 FTE administrator.
# of full-time equivalent (FTE) permanent jobs safeguarded through the projects*	The Probation Service had received a notice to quit from their previous accommodation in Skegness and had no alternative provision. Probation have retained 27 staff members working from the centre, plus 3 programme facilitators and 2 “Unpaid Work” staff members who work out of there as and when needed. We also have 3 CRS providers (1 staff member each) working from there approximately twice a week, they help us support people on probation by helping with ETE, Housing, Benefit claims etc

Town Centre Transformation

i) Skegness

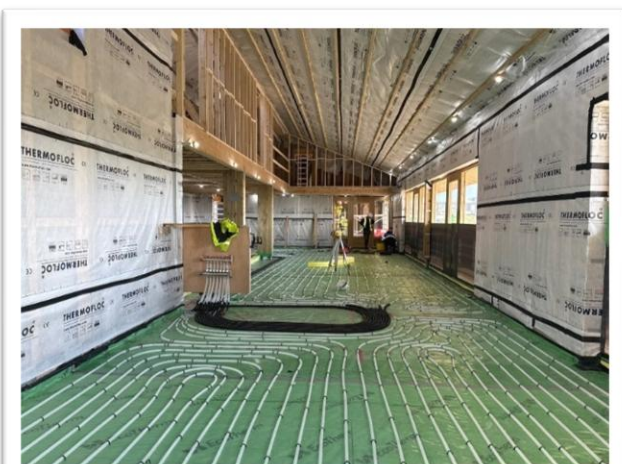
The wayfinding and public realm masterplan study has been completed. A presentation on the key findings can be arranged for a future Board or sub group meeting. Further coordination required on provision of future wayfinding signage across respective town, district and county council and to align any potential investment through the Pride in Place programme for Skegness. Works are continuing on Tower Cinema, with opportunities for promotion to be coordinated with the Council's delivery support team. All project funds are fully committed with all works expected to be under contract and complete by the end of the current calendar year. HTL working with ELDC to cashflow remaining expenditure.

ii) Mablethorpe

The programme funds are fully committed with all works expected. A remainder of relatively minor shop front repairs and enhancements and public realm works will be commissioned over the remaining contract period which is expected to be fully spent by December 2026.

National Trust, Sandilands

Sandilands Visitor Café building and associated works is progressing well, with the main building nearly fully watertight, with solar panels installed, external doors and windows, and the concrete floor poured internally. Cladding is nearly complete and much of the utilities and infrastructure including new National Grid substation have been installed. External works are also progressing now to tie the building into the rest of the site, and the flood bunds required for a 1 in 200 year overtopping event. Car park works are to commence on the 18th May, for approximately 2 weeks so the car park will be out of action and closed to visitors during that time but the toilet block will remain open.



Seaview Colonnade

The Council is working closely with its partners at Magna Vitae on plans for the organisation to take on management of the facility from late May. This new arrangement will build on the existing offer and introduce a vibrant programme of high quality events, exhibitions, and activities for both residents and visitors. The already popular food and drink offer from Seven Districts Coffee will continue to operate from the site, with Magna Vitae working closely with them to ensure it remains available for visitors.

Council resurfacing works on the adjacent Broadway car park are now complete and contractors have been appointed to undertake additional repairs to the paddling pool substructure in order to bring the facility back into use over the summer season.

The Council have continued to plan and operate an events programme from the building to the end of May. Linked to this, Arts Council funding via the Storytellers National Portfolio Organisation will deliver the Vintage on Sea event again in Sutton on Sea on the 20th June to drive additional footfall into the town.

Station Leisure and Learning Centre

- The team delivered a great pre-diabetes pilot. Showing those at risk of diabetes the power of exercise and how this can support their lifestyle changes. A further programme will be delivered in the upcoming months
- HAF programme continues to be a roaring success and is growing from strength to strength.
- We delivered free taster sessions and crash courses over the half terms for our learn to swim programme. This proved successful, and we will continue to do this to support programme growth
- Biggest change, as of 2nd May, Magna Vitae will be taking over the Whistle Stop Bistro, as, due to rising delivery costs, the leaseholder has withdrawn.

MV Set Targets	Jan	Feb	Mar	YEAR END AV
Total Number of Gym Members Actual	1391	1482	1470	1,448
Total Number of Gym Members Target	1548	1588	1608	1,581
Total Number of Swimming Lesson Members Actual	140	142	141	141
Total Number of Swimming Lesson Members Target	216	211	216	214

KPIs based on Business Plan	Jan	Feb	Mar	YEAR END
SLLC No. of Visitors (total target 126,702)	14,236	14,017	14,709	124,211
SLLC No. of Swims (total target 19,128)	4,260	4,399	4,296	42,280
SLLC No. of Swimming Lessons (target 114,117)	1,013	986	1,322	7,050
SLLC No. of Visitors on Magna Tag	333	606	320	5,695
Employed	26	26	24	25

Campus for Future Living

The Campus for Future Living's is celebrating one year anniversary since the official launch in June 2025 and there will be a community celebration open to all from 1.30pm event on Wednesday 10th June. The Campus steering group will be delighted to welcome any members of the Connected Coast Board. The steering group (ELDC / ACIS / Lincoln Institute of Rural & Coastal Health) met in March 2026 and were provided with comprehensive update on business development, operational changes and partnerships.

Provided below is a summary of the main partnership developments:

- Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust has now formally leased the 4 consultations rooms. This is a significant achievement and will mean NHS community mental health services will be delivered in Mablethorpe. This achieves the projects aim to bring services and support closer to the community.
- A new Operations and Partnerships Manager has joined the team, leading operational delivery and partnership building. This will enhance the capacity of the team to develop the site and provide on the ground.



- Significant progress on the Campus Brochure which will provide comprehensive detail on all aspects of what the Campus has to offer (including memberships model, facilities and accommodation). Details will be circulated to the board and updated at: <https://www.campusforfutureliving.co.uk/>
- Business rates valuation has been received – the site has been valued more than initially expected and affects the level of rates relief that can be applied. This has been formally raised with ELDC as the ACIS business plan for the Campus was built on a significantly lower figure therefore the position presents a financial challenge.
- In response to feedback from campus members and community groups, the main block now has a ‘information hub’ which provides an informal, friendly environment and resources.
- The engagement and experience strand of development is delivering monthly activity which has led to strong footfall and sales in the Wayfinder café with exceeded targets (sales Jan: +35%, Feb: +43%).
- Expansion of partnerships continue with visits and discussions with Derby University, Loughborough University, Nottingham University, LV Ear Care, MiNT Academy, Rehbox, Community Catalysts, Storytellers NPO, DWP.
- The Leader of Lincolnshire County Council and senior representatives from Public Health will be visiting the site on 26th June (ELDC and ACIS will host visit).

Mobi-Hub

Legals have been completed by all parties to enable the project to progress with the intended site acquisition and the retention and relocation of the existing operator within the town. It is proposed that the relocated operator will host an opening ceremony at their new depot facility in the summer this year which will provide an opportunity to go public on the work with some wider joint comms around the options around the future use of the current site.

Officers are continuing work on clearing the site and develop options for the ongoing use, post-acquisition. Any meanwhile use on the town centre site will not be practical due to the nature of the site clearance which will be about preparing the site for future redevelopment, not providing bare ground that could be used as a public space.

Multi-User Trail

completed project (no update provided)



Connected Coast Board
29th May 2026

Paper 7a: Pride in Place programme update

New Pride in Place team

Bonnie Mitchell and Saskia Zablockyj have recently been appointed to deliver the Pride in Place programmes for Skegness and Mablethorpe. Bonnie is the Programme Manager and will lead the delivery of the Pride in Place programme, working closely with Saskia as Programme Coordinator. Bonnie and Saskia will support the Neighbourhood Boards for both towns. They will work with partners, stakeholders, and the community to support regeneration priorities, strengthen local pride, and ensure projects align with the agreed long-term vision and Pride in Place Plans for each town. They will also coordinate programme activity, oversee delivery and performance, and ensure robust governance, compliance, and effective use of grant funding.

You can get in touch with Bonnie and Saskia via:

Bonnie.Mitchell@e-lindsey.gov.uk

Saskia.Zablockyj@e-lindsey.gov.uk

Skegness

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to confirm the Government's funding offer for the Pride in Place programme was received on the 17th April. The Chair of the Skegness Neighbourhood Board and Council's Section 151 Officer have both signed the MoU which has been returned and acknowledged by MHCLG. This is expected to enable the release of the first year's funding for Skegness to the accountable body.

Following an open call for projects, 19 projects were invited to submit a more detailed business case for consideration. 16 projects have subsequently responded with further detail. The next Skegness Neighbourhood Board meeting on the 2nd June will consider the decision making process to enable the Board to provisionally agree and allocate funding to an early project pipeline in Year One, in line with the Regeneration Plan and Investment Plan principles agreed. The applications encompass a variety of projects such as community facilities, digital access, green spaces, and more. Following further assessment by the Board, the successful proposals will receive funding through the first tranche of Pride in Place funding which is expected from the government this spring. A press release can be found [here](#)

In addition, East Coast Pride has published a landmark survey of LBTQIA+ life in Lincolnshire, supported by Pride in Place funding. The Board is the Research Partner of East Coast Pride, providing civic leadership, local reach, and commitment to evidence-led community planning. The survey captured the views of 385 respondents and more information can be found [here](#)

Mablethorpe Pride in Place

Appointment of new Chair / Board – Guidance for Phase 2 towns provides an expectation for local authorities to run a public call to appoint the Chair of the Neighbourhood Board. It is proposed that the public call will be launched in May via the new Pride in Place website for Mablethorpe. Guidance requires that the Chair of the Neighbourhood Board cannot be a locally elected official. The appointment is made by the local authority but requires the endorsement of the MP (Victoria Atkins – Louth & Horncastle).

Boundary – The Council have advised MHCLG that the preferred investment boundary for the Mablethorpe programme will seek to amend the PiP investment area to replicate the administrative Town Council boundary for Mablethorpe – picking up Sutton on Sea and Trusthorpe. This replicates the approach taken to the



Mablethorpe Area Investment Plan and has been previously supported by the Connected Coast Board and Mablethorpe sub group. It has also been endorsed by the MP's office. MHCLG leads have advised verbally that this approach is sensible and to therefore work on the assumption in the meantime that this is likely to be agreed. The Council must submit the boundary amendment as a formal request by the 17th July, once additional confirmation of the new Pride in Place Board has been progressed. There is no mechanism to submit the boundary request early or separately.

Specialist technical support – The Council have appointed [Thrive Economics](#) via a competitive tender to help the Neighbourhood Board produce the Regeneration Plan and Investment Plan for Mablethorpe by the end of November. This commission will be funded out of the £150K capacity fund grant received for Mablethorpe. Consultant lead is Dom Chapman [REDACTED]

Communications – A website is currently in development and will be launched alongside new social media channels in the coming weeks to engage local people and collect thoughts and ideas from the community.

Community Engagement – A community conference is planned for June 4th as the first step in the community engagement for Mablethorpe. Community leaders, champions, and councillors have been invited to the event that aims to capture feedback from attendees and set out how people can lead their own 'community conversations'. The event is taking place from 10:30am and will be split in to two sessions. In the morning elected officials will be briefed on the programme. After lunch, a separate session will be ran with local community leaders and representatives. Invites have been coordinated in consultation with the chair of the Mablethorpe sub-group, the Council's communities team and the Leisure and Learning team

Anyone interested in finding out more please contact Bonnie.Mitchell@e-lindsey.gov.uk

A separate breakfast meeting will be scheduled with local businesses after the community event. The Council has also received an approach from the Local Trust organisation to host a visit from Baroness Hillary Armstrong in June. Baroness Armstrong is Chair of the [Independent Commission on Neighbourhoods](#) (ICON) and keen to meet with local residents to understand more about their perception of the town on how to support local communities to deliver their aspirations. Further detail is being arranged in consultation between the Council and Local Trusts to arrange the consultation sessions with the local community.

Early Adopters – The Council has submitted an expression of interest to MHCLG to secure for some further financial support for Mablethorpe to help develop a local community led model for delivery of the Pride in Place programme. This is in line with the expectation that the structure of the Board is evolved by Year 3 of the programme to be a community led vehicle – e.g. registered charity or Community Interest Company. 50 expressions of interest have been received under the call, with MHCLG looking to work with 14 areas under the early adopters initiative. A decision on the pilot areas selected is expected by early June.



Paper 7b - **Minutes of the Skegness Neighbourhood Board Meeting**
Held on Friday, 13 February 2026 at 10:00am
Microsoft Teams

Board Members:

Paul McCooey, Chair – Duncan & Toplis, Claire Foster – Fomer Deputy Boston College, Jacqui Bunce – NHS Integrated Care Board, Dr. Batul Dungarwalla – Lincolnshire CVS, Sara Munton – Deputy PCC, Chris Baron – Former Director of Butlins, Tracey Stringfellow – Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire, Emma Tatlow – Active Lincolnshire

Advisors & Support Team:

Maria Cotton, Jon Burgess, Michael Dow, Luisa Stanney, Claire Draper, Michelle Gant

Executive Summary:

The Board approved the previous meeting minutes, noted the updated Pride in Place guidance and its governance implications, approved the programme management resourcing model and recruitment arrangements, and endorsed the next steps for Expressions of Interest (EOI). Members also noted the Towns Fund update and agreed a small number of follow-up actions relating to communications, delivery planning and future meeting arrangements.

1 Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and confirmed that the meeting was quorate. He also explained that attendance had been streamlined due to the increased sensitivity of discussions relating to project assessment and future delivery of Pride in Place.

2 Apologies

Apologies were received from Steve Larnier, Cllr. Findlay, Marc Jones, Pranali Parikh and Jessie Shorrocks from the Greater Lincolnshire Mayor's office.

3 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were raised.

4 Minutes of Previous Meetings & Matters Arising

The minutes of the meetings held on 6 November, and 18 November 2025 were approved as accurate records. No additional matters arising were raised.

Street Scene operatives appointed using Pride in Place funding were noted, with start dates to be confirmed. Members stressed the importance of communicating early successes publicly through PR activity and appropriate branding.

5 Updated Guidance Review

MD presented the updated Pride in Place policy guidance. He outlined the key differences from the former Plan for Neighbourhoods, including a strengthened emphasis on community power, participatory budgeting, structured community involvement and enhanced safety and security interventions. He noted the requirement that 51% of Board Members must live or work within the defined neighbourhood boundary and that Boards reflect local demographics. He also highlighted the expectation that Boards move towards a community-led delivery model by Year 3.

Members discussed the implications for future governance, Board recruitment and engagement with local communities.

The Board noted the updated Pride in Place guidance.

6 Programme Management Support

JB presented the Programme Management and Resourcing Plan, proposing dedicated Programme Manager and Programme Coordinator roles to support the delivery of the Skegness Pride in Place programme. These roles would be shared 50:50 with Mablethorpe. He summarised the four-year cost profile and confirmed HR evaluation work was underway.

Members discussed the importance of visibility, strong engagement skills, community presence and ensuring clear reporting structures. An amendment was agreed to ensure job descriptions refer to making recommendations rather than decisions.

The Board approved the funding model, approved the job descriptions (subject to amendments), agreed recruitment may proceed and confirmed the Chair would join the interview panel.

7 Review of Expressions of Interest Submissions

JB and MD presented the outcome of the EOI assessment process. A total of 28 EOIs were scored against Board-approved criteria including alignment, impact, sustainability, deliverability and value for money. Projects scoring 21 or above were recommended to progress.

MD outlined the proportionality framework, consisting of reduced business justifications, enhanced business justifications and full business cases according to scale, risk and complexity.

Members discussed alignment, the need to avoid duplication, opportunities for collaboration and the importance of sustainability requirements in all templates. An applicant support session was proposed for 25 February.

The Board noted the scoring outcomes and endorsed the assurance routes and next steps.

8 Skegness Towns Fund - Programme Update

JB provided an update on the Towns Fund programme. Overall delivery remained strong, with the foreshore project awaiting Arts Council confirmation. Skegness remained low risk for deliverability and an underspend on



the multi-user trail would be brought forward for decision at a later date. The Board noted the Towns Fund update.

9 Any Other Business

Members discussed expectations for the newly appointed Street Scene operatives, stressing the need for a clear monthly work plan. A privately led paddle court proposal was noted.

MC updated Members on the development of a Town of Culture Expression of Interest. The Board also discussed wider place-based alignment across funding streams.

Finally, the Board extended their thanks to Sandra Watson for her support over several years who had recently left ELDC.

10 Date of Next Meeting

A scheduling poll will be issued to identify meeting dates up to mid-summer.

OUTSTANDING ACTIONS FOR 2026

BOARD MEETING	ACTION	TO BE COMPLETED BY
13.02.26	Confirm start dates for Street Scene operatives	COMPLETE
13.02.26	Amend Programme Manager & Coordinator job descriptions to reflect “recommendations” not “decisions”	COMPLETE
13.02.26	Proceed with recruitment for Programme Manager and Programme Coordinator roles	COMPLETE
13.02.26	Develop and deliver early PR activity to communicate initial programme successes	
13.02.26	Prepare and deliver applicant support session for EOI applicants	COMPLETE
13.02.26	Ensure sustainability requirements are embedded in all business case templates	COMPLETE
13.02.26	Develop clear monthly work plan for Street Scene operatives	APRIL REPORT TO BE SHARED FOR REVIEW.
13.02.26	Continue development of Town of Culture Expression of Interest	COMPLETE.
13.02.26	Issue scheduling poll for meeting dates up to mid-summer	



Paper 7c - MINUTES OF THE MABLETHORPE SUB GROUP MEETING

held on 19 February 2026 at 10:30am (Teams)

Present:-

Adrian Benjamin, Kristina Willoughby, Carl Tebbutt, Chris Baron, Naomi Baker, Michelle Gant, Chris Lilley, Jon Burgess, Maria Cotton, Deborah Highton, Chris Reid, Cllr R Robinson, Alice Ullathorne, Tom Mukherjee-Neale and Luisa Stanney

1 Welcome & Apologies

AB welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Freddie Chambers, Emma Taylor (ASIS), Matthew Hogan, James Brindle and Gareth Rowland.

2 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

3 Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 December 2025

The minutes were approved without amendment.

4 Town Deal Project Updates

JB introduced the project update and it was noted that several project sponsors were present to provide detail.

Mobi Hub - JB confirmed he would circulate an updated timeline once he had spoken with Matthew Hogan. Members noted community expectations were running ahead of legal progress, with assumptions that completion had already occurred. JB confirmed no negative updates had been received.

Station Leisure & Learning Centre - NB provided a detailed update on visitor and membership data, noting normal fluctuations following the first year of operation. Actions to strengthen retention included flexible membership arrangements and removal of the joining fee. Naomi also confirmed the subsidy scheme must continue to operate through the established steering group.

Campus for Future Living - The Sub Group noted the update circulated in advance. Planning consent had been granted for technical changes to the ground-floor use. JB agreed to request meeting minutes from Professor Guthrie's group for circulation.

Town Centre Transformation - AU reported that funding was fully allocated and final public realm elements were progressing, including lamppost banners for the summer season.

Sandilands - MC highlighted progress following recent wet weather, which allowed contractors to identify and resolve drainage issues. The Visitor Centre and Rangers' Base were progressing well for an August opening.



Seaview Colonnade - KW highlighted strong footfall and an expanding events programme. JB confirmed that whilst the previous commercial negotiation had ended, new discussions had begun. The site continued to receive industry recognition.

5 Mablethorpe Pride in Place Programme

JB updated on the Government guidance requiring the MP to approve the Chair of the new Board. Work was underway to establish a Mablethorpe Neighbourhood Board, with timelines for the investment boundary (July) and final plan submission (November). Two shared posts would support the programme.

Members raised concerns about the boundary not covering the whole LN12 area, making Board recruitment harder. JB and MC agreed to raise this with MHCLG and the MP.

MG outlined early engagement work and development of a brand, website and toolkit. Members stressed the importance of reaching harder-to-reach residents, including through printed magazines.

6 Any Other Business

Members discussed the Sutton on Sea paddling pool, event coordination, long-term arts programming and the bandstand proposal, with the Environment Agency highlighting constraints around attaching structures to sea defences.

7 Dates of Sub Group and Board Meetings

An online poll will be issued to determine the next meeting date within 6–8 weeks.



Connected Coast Board
29th May 2026

Paper 8: Other programme funds update

Levelling Up Fund Round 2

i) Spilsby Sessions House

Spilsby Sessions House has been awarded further grant money from Historic England. The project was first allocated £1.006 million in August 2025 as part of the Heritage at Risk Capital Fund programme to allow the repairs to the roofs, conservation to the windows and some high-level brick works. Now, Historic England has granted an additional £28,500. This will be for the removal of existing auditorium ceiling under the main roof, whilst retaining and storing some of the decorative features, to be reinstalled when the new ceiling is built. The ceiling work was approved by East Lindsey District Council at planning committee in early February this year. This extra funding will help the continued work which is ongoing so that the Spilsby Sessions House can be reopened for the community to enjoy.

There remains a funding deficit to complete the internal fit out, which the project team are working alongside the Trustees to identify potential funding opportunities to secure the operational phase.

You can read about the project [here](#)

ii) Alford Manor House

The project is progressing well both on time and on budget. Contractors are working on handover arrangements to enable the Trustees to take on the completed facilities in August 2026 upon practical completion.

Cultural Development Fund

Arts Council England have confirmed their support for a requested contract variation which will enable additional fit out of the Embassy Theatre frontage units for cultural and creative industries. It will also release the funding secured for the Scarborough Esplanade pedestrianisation and public realm works. The Council's delivery team are working on a reversed build programme and cost plan to recommence the pre-construction works on each project.

East Lindsey Investment Fund

East Lindsey District Council has confirmed an extension to the ELIF programme, allocating a further £10million of its own cash into the scheme. The Investment Fund has supported all kinds of improvements so far. This includes investing in essential equipment, resources, training and upgrading facilities, including community, heritage and historic sites and green spaces. The fund also supports tourism, cultural and arts events and businesses to encourage growth, investment and job creation and retention in East Lindsey. The four priority themes will remain the same as ELIF1 which are:

- **Pride in East Lindsey Grant Schemes: £2m**

The Council recognises the importance of the sense of ownership and pride the community feels for their place and environments. A £1m grant scheme, which was launched in September 2025 was significantly over-subscribed. It is proposed to extend this scheme for another two years with an allocation of an additional £2m to support community organisations, parish and town councils, public sector partners, charity and voluntary sector to bid for grants to deliver projects and initiatives ranging from £2k to £50k.



- **Community Development Initiatives: £1.5m**

A wide-ranging set of activities focused on addressing East Lindsey challenges such as ageing population, affordable housing, supporting the vulnerable and healthy living have been supported over the last year. It is proposed to continue this valuable work with an allocation of a further £1m over the next two years. In addition, a grant scheme of £500k is proposed to support parish councils in bringing forward projects that matter to the communities within the parish areas.

- **Tourism and Events programme: £2m**

Activities and projects under this theme support increase in footfall and spend in the economy by promoting our towns, the Wolds and coast as places to visit, live, work and invest in. It is proposed to allocate additional £2m to maintain and enhance our natural and built environment, heritage buildings, visitor destinations, tourism infrastructure and cultural assets along with a year-round programme of events.

- **Business Support and Enabling Growth: £4.5m**

Supporting priority economic sectors and businesses through development of skills, learning and employment opportunities, enabling growth and attracting Investment are key priorities for the Council. Local Plan and flood defences to protect our coastal communities and coastal economy are key enablers for growth in our area. It is proposed to allocate £2.5m to deliver employment sites, prepare Local Plan and match fund Lincs 2100 strategy in partnership with County Council, Environment Agency and Lindsey Marsh Drainage Board. In addition, it is proposed to launch a £2m growth fund to enable infrastructure development for bringing forward delivery of strategic residential, employment, education, leisure and tourism sites, matched by private sector investment.

NPO Arts Council Funding

Emilie Nunn has been appointed as the Council's NPO manager, having previously supported the programme development and delivery in earlier phases of the programme. The Council are working closely with Arts Council England and Magna Vitae to align local resources and deliver future culture led investment across the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership.

UK Town of Culture 2028

Skegness Neighbourhood Board has submitted a bid for Skegness to be the UK's first Town of Culture. The Town of Culture competition has been set up by the government to celebrate and showcase the significant creative and cultural offer of towns across the country.

Three finalists – one small, one medium, and one large town – will be chosen. The winner will be crowned UK Town of Culture 2028 and receive a £3 million prize. The two runners-up will each receive £250,000 to deliver elements of their bid. A bid has been submitted that includes a suggested programme of joyful, vibrant and varied activities, with things to do for local people all year round. You can read more [here](#).

The key milestones include:

- **March 31, 2026:** Deadline for local authorities to submit their initial Expressions of Interest to the government.
- **Spring 2026:** Announcement of the shortlisted towns. Each finalist receives a £60,000 grant to develop their full application.
- **Autumn 2026:** Final bids submitted for judging.
- **Early 2027:** The winning town is announced, securing £3 million to deliver a six-to-twelve month cultural programme in 2028.