



Connected Coast Board
3rd March 2026 at 14:00 in person / hybrid at:
Skegness College, Wainfleet Road, Skegness, Lincolnshire, PE25 2FJ

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 10th December 2025 - 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 (incl Police Training Academy, Skegness Station & Colonnade)
- 7. Sub Group Updates (Pride in Place)**
 - a. Mablethorpe – AB
 - b. Skegness - PMc
- 8. Young People Engagement Report - JB**
- 9. Other Programme & Project Funds Update - JB**
- 10. Combined County and Local Government Review – verbal update - PP**
For update
- 11. Summary of meeting and actions CB**
- 12. Any Other Business**
- 13. Dates of future meetings**
29th May 2026 at 10:30am
Further dates/frequency of meetings to be agreed



Connected Coast Board

3rd March 2026

Paper 6b – Projects Update

1) General

Connected Coast partners attended this year's **East Lincs Expo** on Wednesday 11th February at Southview Park Hotel, Skegness. The stand provided information about the Towns Fund projects and information about Pride in Place including postcards and business cards. The event received good footfall throughout the day and an encouraging level of awareness amongst attendees of the funding programmes being supported in both Mablethorpe and Skegness. A range of feedback was collated throughout the day in line with the Board's ongoing commitment to continue to capture community feedback on future funding opportunities.

Practical completion has now been achieved on seven of the thirteen projects within the original investment plans for Skegness and Mablethorpe. The last project is currently forecast to complete by March 2027 (Skegness Foreshore), which is well within the extended delivery window to March 2028.

The Council has received a revised Memorandum of Understanding from MHCLG which sets out the requirements for future performance and monitoring returns to Government on the combined £55million Towns Deal and Levelling Up Fund Round 2 delivery under the newly created Local Regeneration Fund. The next returns window is expected to open in April 2026. Future reporting will be required to report on programme level expenditure and outputs only. Changes to projects do not require prior approval from MHCLG. For monitoring returns, local authorities will be asked to select all the output and outcome indicators they wish to report against from a list of 45, which best reflect the scope of their investments. Officers will work with project leads to assess which of the revised indicators best align with the impact of their projects ahead of the next return.

2) Skegness Projects

i) Skegness TEC Campus

On Friday 23rd January 2026, the official launch of Skegness College took place. Chris Baron gave a speech and together with Richard Tice MP unveiled a plaque to commemorate the official opening. The event included tours of the campus by staff and students and delegates from a wide range of partner organisations. Student enrolment numbers have increased by 50% from 2024/25 as a direct result of the new build facilities and increased course offer. The project has now reached final claim stage, to include up to £100K of additional grant funding from the Multi User trail underspend.

ii) Skegness Interchange

The tender exercise for Phase 2 of the programme has concluded and a preferred contractor has been selected with works due to recommence on site by the end of March. The procurement approach has been taken to reduce contractor lead times and deconflict the external works and the peak Skegness Summer period. A full-and-final settlement agreement has been successfully negotiated for both the Skegness and Boston Towns Fund projects, closing out significant financial liability claims. The settlement represents a commercially sound outcome, avoiding ongoing contractual disputes and mitigating expected further adjudication and legal proceedings.



Department for Transport have approved additional funding of £1,088K for the completion of the Skegness Towns Fund project which ensures all of the intended investments will be undertaken and the full Towns Deal grant can be awarded against eligible works.

The Fire Strategy was approved by Network Rail following the additional Fire Analysis requested, as a result only relatively minor design changes need to be made. The remedial works required for the Red Star building to be compliant with the Fire Strategy and therefore operational were completed 22/01/2026.

iii) Town Centre Transformation – Skegness

All of the funding bar the last 4% of the grant pot is allocated and the remaining parts will be in contract by the end of the financial year. Successes include the transformation of Alisons and Tower Cinema and the improvements at Tower Gardens. Work is now underway at Tower Cinema, you can read more here: [Tower Cinema Facelift Will Transform its Appearance - Connected Coast](#).

Some key statistics about the project so far:

- 3753 square metres of commercial floorspace have been improved in Skegness
- So far £356,195 match funding has been invested by local businesses against an allocation of nearly £1.5m in Town Deal funding
- Nearly 70 jobs have been created or safeguarded in the town
- 45 Businesses have been supported to improve performance
- 4 vacant properties have been brought back into use

iv) Skegness Foreshore

Progress on the Scarbrough Esplanade works has stalled pending agreement of the match funding position with Arts Council England under the Cultural Development Fund programme. There remains commercial interest in other vacant lots on the Foreshore which is being progressed by the Council's Property Services team under commercially confidential discussions.

v) Completed Towns Deal projects in Skegness

Culture House (Towns Deal), Multi-User Trail, Police Training Academy

3) Mablethorpe projects

i) The Campus for Future Living

In the main building, there is a weekly timetable of wellbeing centred drop-in activities and services. The Wayfinder Café is busy, upstairs CLIP community college is delivering training and skills and LIRCH have community researchers using the facilities.

Thanks to ELDC's planning committee, ACIS have now made the changes to allow the delivery of health services from the subsidiary block. This change of business class was required to meet the evolving needs of the members and services. There are no internal changes to the building, so accommodation remains available for professionals or students based locally. This change has ensured we have the flexible space to meet local needs. The Campus has worked with the NHS trusts estate and legal team and followed rigorous process to enable the campus site to accommodate NHS services.



As a direct result of that work, Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (LPFT) will shortly be joining the Campus to deliver community mental health service from 4 consultation rooms. This is a significant step and shows long term commitment to the Campus and area to the development and delivery of community based mental health services. This development aligns to the new NHS 10-year strategy in terms of closer working with 'neighbourhood' teams, developing partnerships and delivering sustainable and responsive services. Social prescribers and community connectors working from and with the Campus, will also be well placed to support people. The Campus operator and NHS Trust are towards the end of the due diligence process including CPSE and hope to welcome staff on site shortly.

Other developing partnerships - the Campus team are working closely with

- Lincolnshire Training Hub. Pharmacy students have delivered Health checks on a drop-in basis to the community. These checks were well received are now planned as a regular feature, supporting both the Community and students from Lincoln medical school undertaking training in areas such as Pharmacy, Paramedic and Nursing.
- Nottingham Trent University, Medical, Technologies Innovation Facility (MTIF) through their place-based impact accelerator programme (EMERGE), connecting to pioneering medi-tech innovators. The Campus is supporting in areas such as engagement and participation as well as provide practical support around the delivery of medi-tech trials. This work will ensure public and patient engagement is embedded in activities and projects to best address health inequalities.
- The Director of Public Health has requested a tour of the Campus and to find out more about the innovative and exciting work taking place, strengthening links with Lincolnshire Public Health team.
- Heath Innovation East Midlands colleagues have visited to explore potential opportunities around use of the Campus for the development and testing of medi-tech applications.
- One You Lincolnshire is planning the delivery of a 12-week weight management programme from the Campus, supporting GP practices in the reduction of obesity and weight related medical conditions.

Wider Community Support

- Citizen's Advice are now providing a drop-in and booked advice clinic on a weekly basis from the Campus
- Children's Links are running a weekly woman to women support group from the Campus
- The Campus hosts a weekly 'Bro Pro UK' men's mental health support group
- As well as the Council's own, monthly drop-ins hosted by our Age Friendly team

ii) Station Leisure and Learning Centre

South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership has announced the award of joint leisure contracts to Parkwood Leisure, covering the operation of their facilities in Boston, East Lindsey and South Holland. The decision, following a competitive tender process, will see Parkwood Leisure continue their work at the Geoff Moulder Leisure Complex and Princess Royal Sports Arena in Boston and at the Castle Sports Centre site in Spalding. In East Lindsey they will, from October 2027, take over the management of four leisure facilities currently operated by Magna Vitae, the Meridian Leisure Centre in Louth, Skegness Pool and Fitness Suite, Station Leisure and Learning Centre in Mablethorpe and Horncastle Pool and Fitness Suite. You can read more in the press release [here](#).

Performance at the Centre remains strong with memberships still well in excess of the initial targets (over 1,400 active memberships against initial projections of c650). The management team continue to review



membership options to provide flexible terms to encourage new users. The Steering Group meetings continue on the last Thursday of every month and provide an active stakeholder group to engage with further conversations around the Pride in Place investment for Mablethorpe. Use of Magna Tag is increasing through active promotion and additional party bookings.

iii) Town Centre Transformation - Mablethorpe

All of the project funding in Mablethorpe has now been allocated and all but the last £75,000 needs to be delivered. Successes include the transformation of a block on the High Street which shows what difference public investment can make in the centre of the town.

Some key statistics about the project so far:

- 1784m² of commercial floorspace have been improved in Skegness
- So far £96,720 match funding has been invested by local businesses against an allocation of £450,000 in Town Deal funding
- Nearly 30 jobs have been created or safeguarded in the town
- 17 Businesses have been supported to improve performance
- 3 vacant properties have been brought back into use

iv) Sandilands

- The visitor café is progressing at pace now following some delays due to ground conditions and changes to the foundation design.
- The timber frame is now up, with roof timbers being installed and wall sheathing being added in preparation of the cladding install
- Scaffolding is erected to allow further work on the roof and at high level and on walls etc, and to allow access for installation of the PV solar array
- National Grid substation legals nearly at completion with the substation being installed soon
- EV charging bays ready to be plugged in to new NGED substation when installed and live
- The Rangers Base is also progressing with services and utilities installed, sewage treatment plant installed, the surfacing progressing, and the roller shutter doors are also installed. Will be handed over in Feb 2026.
- Car park design and procurement ongoing
- Wetland itself is establishing and looking more like a wetland!

v) Seaview Colonnade

The Seaview Colonnade has been shortlisted for two awards at the Greater Lincolnshire Construction and Property Awards 2026, hosted by the Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce – receiving a Highly Commended award.

- Development Project of the Year (Over £5 million)
- Tourism and Leisure Project of the Year

Unfortunately, the commercial discussion that was advised to the Board at its previous meetings has come to an end; however, the cessation of that negotiation has led to new discussions with a different potential lessee. Those discussions are in their infancy and remain commercially sensitive. The Council will continue to operate the space whilst the new discussions continue.



Events currently planned at the Seaview Colonnade:

Internally organised events:

- 21st and 22nd March - Paws Together - <https://fb.me/e/7LhWvM54B>
- 6th – 11th April – Easter Bunny Hunt
- 10th April - Easter Fun Day: The Big Hop - <https://fb.me/e/6rDmireE7>
- April – Murder Mystery Evening – TBC

Displays;

- [Shelf life](#) – Now – 12th Feb
- [Memory in a bottle](#) – opening 2nd Feb – 14th March
- Then & Now engagement sessions for the “Then and Now” exhibition from 17th March – 25th April
- Shipwrecked – 28th April – 27th May
- Lincolnshire Health Photography Festival – 3rd June – 4th July (if funding granted for them)
- The Coastal Collective – 14th July – 7th September – working with neighbouring coastal sites, tying but keeping individual for Sutton at Seaview Colonnade but encouraging a wider visit across East Lindsey coastal line

Externally organised events:

- 7th March – Coast watch Recruitment Day
- 4th - 5th April - Easter Craft Fair - <https://fb.me/e/3tBV55GUj>
- 23rd & 24th May – Craft Fair
- 27th & 28th June - Alford Craft Market
- 4th & 5th July – Craft Fair
- 25th & 26th July – Craft Fair

vi) Mobi Hub

Target date for legal completion – 27th February. Verbal update to be provided to the Board meeting.



Paper 7a

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 Higton, 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.



Paper 7b - Minutes of the Skegness Neighbourhood Board Meeting

**Held on 13 February 2026 at 10:00am
Microsoft Teams**

Attendees:

Paul McCooley, Claire Foster, Jacqui Bunce, Michelle Gant, Maria Cotton, Dr Batul Dungarwalla, Jon Burgess, Sara Munton, Chris Baron, Tracey Stringfellow, Emma Tatlow, Michael Dow, Claire Draper and Luisa Stanney

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 Larnar, 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 and 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 must 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.



Connected Coast Board
3rd March 2026

Paper 8 – Youth Engagement

1. Background

The Connected Coast Board has previously raised a desire and intention to provide better connection with and representation of young people to help improve the awareness and development of future funding and engagement activities which are able to better respond to the interests, ideas, priorities and aspirations of those people living in our coastal communities. This paper provides Board Members with an outline of the recent consultation activities undertaken with young people and a summary of the key lessons learned which are intended to help guide future engagement activities.

2. Context

Based on the latest available population data the proportion of young people aged 0-17 living in Skegness is approximately 18% (3,836) of the total population. In Mablethorpe the number of young people aged 0-17 is c39% (1,095) of the total population. Other coastal villages (e.g., Sutton-on-Sea, Ingoldmells, Chapel St Leonards) appear in population tables but do not have publicly available age-breakdowns, so a complete coast-wide total cannot be calculated from accessible sources. This does however demonstrate that young people are a key demographic within our coastal communities with almost 5,000 young people currently living in the two main towns which have secured investment through the Towns Deal and Pride in Place programmes. It is also important to recognise that both towns serve a much wider coastal and rural hinterland in terms of the amount of young people able to access and benefit from the local services and facilities being delivered through our funding partners.

Through the Pride in Place consultation for Skegness to date, the Council has gathered the following direct feedback from young people:

- **In 2025:** we heard from 306 people under the age of 25. This was due in large parts to engaging Skegness Grammar School and working with them to create a survey that was incentivised for their young people. This was very robust data, the findings from young people are on page 29 – 40: [Skegness-consultation-and-engagement-FINAL-REPORT.pdf](#)
- **In 2024:** we directly engaged over 100 young people by commissioning YMCA to run an outreach session and working with King Edward VI school in Spilsby. Pages 58 – 71 here: [Long-Term-Plan-for-Towns-Skegness-Consultation-Report-July-2024.pdf](#).

Additional responses were also captured through attendance at local events (e.g. East Coast Pride) and engagement activities (e.g. feedback boards in Hildred's Shopping Centre and other town based locations) where there was no mechanism to capture respondent's age. This does however demonstrate part of the current commitment to provide additional opportunities for young people to engage in the consultation activities that are being developed and implemented to encourage widespread community feedback and participation.

Appendix A provides an extract of groups and organisations working with young people in Skegness, which is taken from the initial stakeholder mapping undertaken to support the Pride in Place consultation and engagement plan in Skegness. It is recommended that this remains a live, iterative document and that Board Members are encouraged to help the Council to identify additional groups which can be included in this list, with a need to broaden the reach of this stakeholder mapping to include Mablethorpe and other coastal towns/villages.



3. Key learnings

Based on their experience of developing bespoke consultation plans with our coastal communities to date, The Engaging People Co have provided a summary of the following areas of lessons learned to help shape the local Board's ongoing engagement activities with young people:

- Engagement is most effective when it is carried out by people who are already working with young people in the area or who are experts in that field as they already have the trust, connections, and networks with young people;
- It works especially well when the consultation is an add on to an interactive event or activity that gets footfall. This includes working with youth groups, charities, clubs, and organisations as well as schools and colleges;
- One of the simplest and most effective ways to deliver young people engagement is through providing questions and support (usually funding) and commissioning organisations to deliver the engagement. For example, I have worked with youth groups in other areas who have carried out a specific survey for young people, put on a pizza and feedback evening, asked youth members to create their own films / vox pops, carried out workshops at a leisure centre, carried out creative workshops including a Lego session etc. When we did this in Kings Lynn we commissioned a couple of arts based charities and a youth group as well as churches to carry out some specific work and youth responses ended up being a huge amount of the feedback;
- The other way that has worked well has been working with schools and asking to go in and speak to students as part of their 'enrichment' work for younger people;
- Another really effective way that has worked has been to train and pay student interviewers for peer to peer research. The students get some new skills and payment, and we get really good quality feedback from trusted sources;
- What has worked best as an approach has been:
 - Map out groups/organisations working with young people;
 - Have a clear premise/set of questions for them (I've designed a very easy to use toolkit previously);
 - Ask them what they can deliver for us to achieve this goal and what support (i.e. funding they need to do this). The huge bonus of this approach is that we're making an impact by channelling funding into the community to support youth work – and you're usually not talking a lot of money;
 - Work with the schools and see what opportunities there are to speak to young people;
 - Commission students as community interviewers to carry out paid peer to peer research (we could do that through Skegness College).
- Generally, as a rule of thumb, empowering groups etc is the easiest way to reach lots of young people in a meaningful way.

4. Additional areas of interest

The Council has previously received a fee proposal requesting c£14K per annum to fund 0.4 of an FTE post within an external partner organisation to create a new Youth in Leadership Officer as a conduit for seeking and receiving the views of younger people. This demonstrates that there is a potential cost and resource implication for the Board(s) to recruit a dedicated young person's representative onto the Board. Additional challenges exist in terms of ensuring and supporting the role to be representative of a diverse range of young people's views across their respective communities.

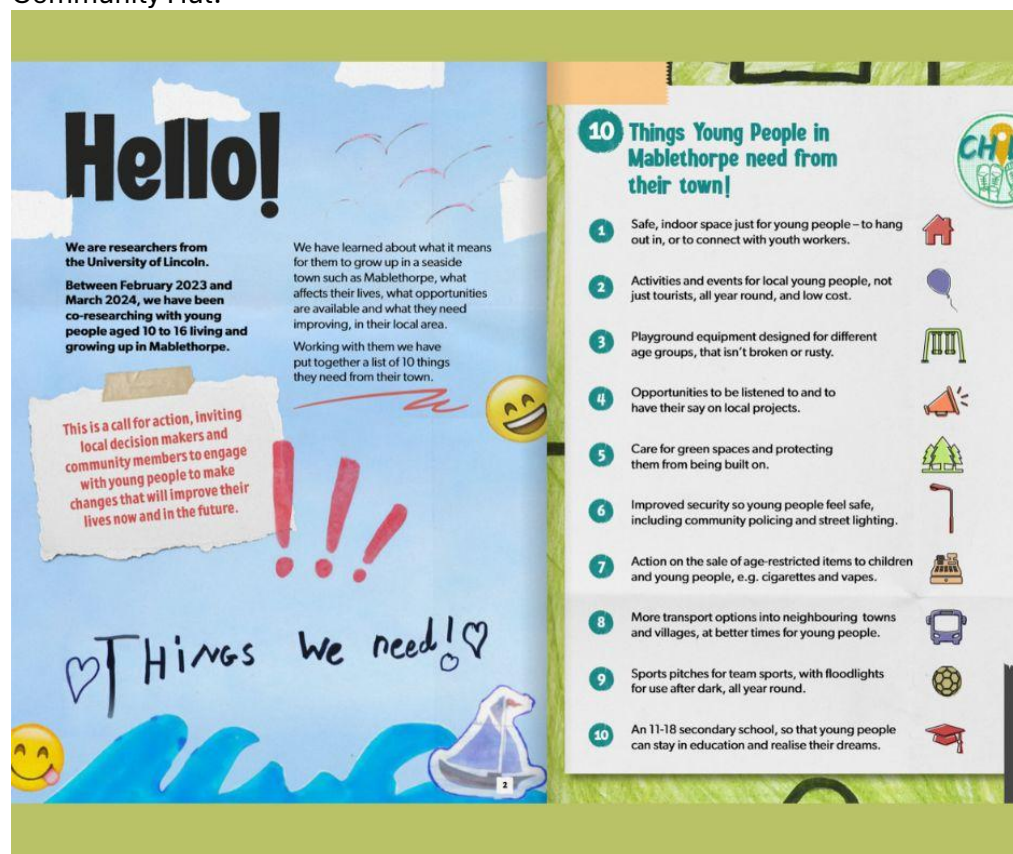
Lincolnshire County Council, led by Ana Coney, are currently developing and delivering a Skegness Aspiration Project, which seeks to understand the challenges facing young people and families in Skegness and encourage partners to work together on a place-based approach that improves access to employment, long-

term economic stability and social mobility. Paul McCooley has attended a recent meeting in January 2026 to support this group and the development of the project, which has four priorities:

1. Improve opportunities for parents to be successful in preparing their children for school (0-4 year olds):
Increase in parental take up in pre-school provision
2. Improve and develop pathways into work post 14 learning: Increase parental engagement with family learning and building wider connections with local employment. EET figures improve, NEET figures decline
3. Wider enrichment opportunities: Reduce barriers for parental uptake and engagement with a range of social and cultural opportunities.
4. Tackle health inequalities (mental and physical): Increase engagement and uptake with services, including physical activity opportunities.

The opening of the new Skegness TEC campus has also provided a major positive impact on student enrolment. The upgraded facilities and expanded course offer has resulted in a 50% increase in Further Education (FE) enrolments. This investment therefore provides a major catalyst and opportunity to undertake additional engagement activities with students and young people to help us shape future investment plans in Skegness. It is therefore recommended that the Boards work closely with Skegness TEC staff and other local education providers to directly involve and engage local students and young learners in future consultation activities.

In Mablethorpe a Youth Leaders Forum has been established which is supported by existing Connected Coast Board and Mablethorpe Sub Group Members. The starting point for this group has been a ten point list from the CHILL project in 2024, copied below. It is generally recognised that the aspiration for a secondary school in the town requires significant policy and funding intervention but good progress is being made on the other themes which provide a focus for additional investment and some early quick wins under the Pride in Place programme for Mablethorpe. Priority 1 has been achieved with the establishment of the Sherwood Youth & Community Hut.





A follow up survey to the 2024 consultation is currently available for young people to contribute their views, as being promoted by Lincolnshire County Council.

[East Lindsey Coastal Youth Council Survey We need you views and ideas – Fill in form](#)

In addition, Lincolnshire Community & Voluntary Partnership has recently undertaken a programme of bespoke consultation in Mablethorpe, Theddlethorpe and Withern. It created new engagements with local residents (654 of which were from Mablethorpe) to share their experiences, challenges and aspirations through informal conversations, focus groups and creative engagements. The programme included direct engagement with people and groups under 18 so provides a further opportunity through the work of partner organisations to develop ideas that benefit their neighbourhoods.. A summary of the LCVF programme is available online [here](#).

The Engaging People Co also have experience of working with other specialist organisations in other areas to undertake specific consultation activities with students and young people. One example commissioned a dedicated conference for students from a number of schools them to come up with ideas for their area, which generated lots of positive suggestions and additional press coverage: [Future-focused learning that empowers your students | 8billionideas](#).

Recommendations

It is recommended that Board Members:

- Note the key learnings provided in relation to the consultation activities undertaken with young people to date and acknowledge the importance and opportunity of seeking to work with and alongside groups and organisations that are already actively engaged with young people in our coastal communities.
- Contribute to updating the stakeholder map (at Appendix A) of local groups and organisations working with young people across our coastal communities – including the Pride in Place investment boundaries for Mablethorpe and Skegness.
- Encourage and endorse that future funding under the Pride in Place programmes for Mablethorpe and Skegness is prioritised towards continued young people engagement.
- Use the additional networks being provided and established via the Pride in Place programme to continue to explore best practice and associated learning from other settlements participating in engagement activities with young people.



Connected Coast Board
3rd March 2026

Paper 9 - Other Funds Update

a. Levelling Up Fund Round 2: Programme Update

i) Spilsby Sessions House

Good progress being made and a further planning application to approve some of the internal ceiling works has been consented, which reduces some of the risk profile on the current contracted works. A £28,500 increase in previous £1,006,000 Heritage at Risk funding has been secured to help maintain as many original aspects of the building as possible. The relationship with Historic England has also seen practical and supportive impacts on site.

Current estimates are for a building handover Spring 2027.

The main contractor has worked with local schools to effect on site visits during the construction phase which has been welcomed. Trustees have also engaged with Historic England surveys on the work being undertaken and its value to the community.

There remains an estimated £325,000 (ex VAT) funding shortfall in the funding required to complete the internal fit out of the building as an entertainment venue, with additional funding options being explored.

ii) Alford Manor House

Good progress being made with an expected handover date in Autumn 2026.

Significant and positive progress being made in securing the remaining funding to complete the thatching which will increase the overall level of match funding secured by the project.

Project has received recent visits from lead ELDC Councillors and Trustees have secured a separate grant of £40,000 to support the creation of a sustainable programme of events to accompany the full site re-opening.

b. Cultural Development Fund

Discussions continue with Arts Council England to enable them to conclude their consideration of the contract variation proposal to divert additional grant funding into the Culture House with the associated non-progression of the Pier Field chalets component of the original application.

c. East Lindsey Investment Fund

- ELIF GRASSroots is now fully allocated with a total of 72 grants awarded at a total of £890,999. Co-Investment/match for grants equates to £621,053.
- The Pride in Place Grant Schemes are now fully allocated with the following disbursed:
 - Pride in Place Essentials – 17 projects have been awarded funding which equates to an overall allocation of £60,735 with co-investment/match funding equating to £22,850.
 - Pride in East Lindsey – 9 grants have been awarded funding which equates to £888,154 with an allocation of co investment/match funding equating to £544,793
- Social Isolation grant scheme is fully allocated for this years apportionment with 19 grants disbursed through the fund equating to a total of £30,956.
- Free digital drop-in sessions across East Lindsey to help people access and navigate online services are available. Sessions can be found - <https://lincsdigital.org.uk/events/> with 630 residents supported to date and 2,725 issues helped resolve and has exceed expectations and aspirations to continue

- The launch of the first community wellbeing map, a new digital resource developed to support health and wellbeing of residents across the district to discover the wide range of local activities, venues and services that promote mental and physical health is live. This can be found - <https://www.e-lindsey.gov.uk/SpilsbyWellbeingMap> Further maps are being developed in other areas across the district and will be circulated once complete.
- 2 projects have been supported through civic crowdfunding scheme with a further two projects committed and raising funds. If all 4 projects are successful this will mean we have supported over £20k.
- Consultant appointed to undertake 14 conservation area appraisals across the district with delivery due to complete Dec 26. Undertaking an options appraisal on remaining funds under Heritage.
- Recruitment for the caravan occupancy work has been launched with 4 posts now live and interviews due to take place around 13th February.
- Launching first wave of events and training sessions for tourism business engagement at the end of February. Booking system needs to be finalised but comms will be circulated.
- £80k has been allocated towards a new grant scheme in Horncastle which aims to revitalise and regenerate Horncastle Town Centre through reinstatement and repair of historic shopfronts and upper floors. This is also receiving funding through UKSPF to support the project. Expression of Interests can be submitted by following the link - <https://heritagelincolnshire.org/current-projects/horncastle-town-centre-grants-scheme>

d. UKSPF Update

The 2024 Autumn Budget renewed the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), with significantly reduced funding for a final, transitional year, with the stated policy intent of phasing out UKSPF. A [Mayoral Growth Development Fund](#) and the area-based Pride in Place Programme have been announced, succeeding UKSPF.

With an 11-month Programme, Councils across the country have reported difficulties in delivering UKSPF. The short delivery window renders capital interventions at any scale or meaningful employment and skills interventions a real challenge. Both sit at the heart of the UKSPF policy intent. This is why, in December 2025, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government granted a six-month extension to the Programme (to September 30th 2026). This comes with no new funding. However, ELDC will deliver as originally planned, with there being no variation to most grant contracts. We intend to use the extension for three purposes:

- A short technical extension (two weeks) to the Horncastle River Enhancement (new nature reserve) project on account of a more complex than anticipated series of pre-commencement planning conditions on the site delaying defrayal of capital grant (2% of Programme value).
- Allocating end-Programme underspend to additional interventions that address areas of the Investment Plan where we're less strong (People and Skills) – This repeats last year's strategy (max.5% of current Programme value).
- Enabling all projects to report any post-project impact data during the extension period.

Barring small underspend projects and the above, ELDC's UKSPF Programme will close on 13th March 2026. In the three years since we started (March 2023), East Lindsey's UKSPF Programme has:

- Attracted £6.8m in private, public and third sector cash investment as 'match' - A total three-year investment of £14.6m in East Lindsey's businesses, residents and community facilities.
- Created or renovated of 71 Community facilities across the East Lindsey [Appendix One], largely through the popular Lincolnshire Community Foundation-administered GRASSroots Scheme.
- Led by Grants4Growth/Advice4Growth, supported 106 East Lindsey businesses to share in a cash investment of over £4m, with 104 receiving high quality business growth Action Plans. 205 local jobs have been created, directly or indirectly, through UKSPF Investment.



- Supported 263 residents to gain new qualifications, licences or skills and supported 67 from economic inactivity into employment.

e. NPO Arts Council Funding update

The Council has been successful in securing an extension of the current Storytellers NPO for 2026/27, which see a 5% uplift in the previous annual allocation for each of the three Council areas. The Council has also submitted its application to extend the NPO for a further year into 2027/28 which Arts Council England have confirmed will be the final year of the currently supported programmes.

f. Town of Culture

With the support of the Skegness Neighbourhood Board, the District Council has commissioned some time limited support (up to £5K) to submit a bid for Skegness to be included in the competition to become the UK's first Town of Culture in 2028. The competition is a national programme designed to celebrate the unique culture, creativity, and identity of small and medium-sized towns across the UK. Any town in the UK, generally 75,000 people or fewer can apply to deliver a major cultural programme in 2028, with the winning town receiving up to £3.5 million. A single accountable organisation must act as the lead applicant.

Expressions of Interest forms must be submitted by 31st March 2026 addressing three core criteria:

1. Your Story – What makes the town's identity distinctive?
2. Culture for Everyone – How culture will be inclusive and accessible.
3. Making It Happen – Delivery, planning, partnerships, and resources.

Selected longlisted towns receive around £60,000 to develop a full bid.

Appendix A – Groups and organisations working with Young People in Skegness

Named organisation	Contact
Skegness Infant Academy Skegness Junior Academy	[REDACTED]
Seathorne Primary Academy	[REDACTED]
Beacon Primary Academy	[REDACTED]
Ingoldmells Academy	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
The Richmond School	[REDACTED]
Magdalen Church of England / Methodist Primary School, Wainfleet	[REDACTED]
St. Peter & St. Paul CE Primary School, Burgh le Marsh	[REDACTED]
Chapel St Leonards Primary School	[REDACTED]
Skegness Grammar School	[REDACTED]
Skegness Academy	[REDACTED]
Queen Elizabeth's Academy, Alford	[REDACTED]
John Splendluffe Technology College, Alford	[REDACTED]
King Edward VI Academy, Spilsby	[REDACTED]
Skegness TEC	[REDACTED]
Boston College	[REDACTED]
Inspire U The Pavillion, Wainfleet Road, Skegness PE25 2EL	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
YMCA	[REDACTED]
Skegness Imps (junior football)	[REDACTED]
Scouts	[REDACTED]



Sea Scouts		