

MINUTES OF THE SPALDING TOWN BOARD MEETING
HELD ON FRIDAY 24 MAY AT 10:30-12:30
AT BOSTON COLLEGE CAMPUS, RED LION QUARTER, SPALDING

Present: Robin Hancox (Chair) - Lincolnshire Field Products, Matthew Hogan - SHDC, Lydia Rusling - S&ELCP, Luisa Stanney - S&ELCP, Emma Tatlow - Active Lincolnshire, Charlotte Goy - Destination Lincolnshire, Ivan Annibal - Rose Reperation, Lizzi van Egmond - Business Representative, Councillor Nick Worth - SHDC, Jon Mullen - SHDC, Marc Jones - Lincolnshire Police Crime Commissioner, Michelle Gant - The Engaging People Company, Louis Humphries - SHDC, David Ball - Bridge Farm, Dan Clayton - LCC, Claire Foster - Boston College, Dustin Wood - Spalding Gentlemen's Society, Stuart Elderkin - Pedals, Councillor Rob Gibson - SHDC, David Jones - Pedals, Catherine Duce - Spalding Business Board and Sergeant Mark McTiernan - Lincolnshire Police

Apologies for Absence: Craig Delaney - Spalding Business Board, John Bland - Spalding Civic Society, Sir John Hayes - MP, Petronella Keeling - Spalding Gentlemen's Society, Alistair Main - Lighthouse Church, Tracey Stringfellow - Heritage Lincolnshire, Inspector Matt Dickinson - Lincolnshire Police

1 Welcome

RH welcomed everyone to the meeting.

It was noted that Michael Morris, a Trustee of Active Lincolnshire and Director of Tonic Health, had been introduced to RH via ET and would be invited to all future meetings.

2 Declarations of Interest

RH reminded members to fill in the Declarations of Interest form and return them to LS.

3 To agree Minutes of the Meeting held on 25 March 2024

The minutes were agreed as a true record - proposed by NW, seconded by MJ.

4 Communications Plan - Update from Michelle Gant

RH changed the running order of the agenda as MG had to leave for another meeting.

Since the last workshop, progress had been made with engagement and consultation. The survey was available on line and 93 responses had already been received. The survey would also be mailed out

to those living within the boundary area. There have been social media channels set up which had generated responses, especially on Facebook which had seen a number of comments from different groups.

There were also paper copies of the survey available at the South Holland Centre and at the Boston College Campus in the Red Lion Quarter. Posters, postcards and feedback forms had been delivered, with further material arriving shortly. These could be made available to Board members. Conversation cards had been created and there were a number of events being set up to capture opinions. It was noted that the YMCA would be in the Market Place on Tuesday 28 May from 11am-3pm to capture young peoples' views and Heritage Lincolnshire were holding a workshop (details to be confirmed). Jo Davidson from Lincs PCC had also reached out to schools in relation to safety and security.

MG asked Board members to share information regarding the consultation where possible. The LoveSpalding website was still in development. Ongoing engagement was key and there were plans for a press release once the website was fully launched.

MH questioned the YMCA event and how that would be promoted. MG explained the promotion for the event had been circulated on social media. MG had also written to all of the schools recently, and MG was currently pulling together a list of community groups and would be contacting them via email to offer support with the consultation and to build on conversations.

LR explained a new member of staff, Helen Leak, had been appointed to support the three Town Boards with their engagement and had already visited community and sports groups. RH expressed concern that he didn't want members of the public to feel overloaded with surveys or that the consultation was seen as wasting public money. Press releases had been published but there had already been comments made on social media. MG explained that social media would play a large part in gaining responses from residents and welcomed any feedback from the Board in relation to this.

LvE voiced a concern with using social media, in that people like to comment on the posts but that there was no trail of whether they were then completing the survey. There was no way to track how many people were commenting on social media but not voicing that through the correct channels. MG assured LvE that comments on the posts were being captured where possible.

RH reported that he had been invited to Westminster to meet with representatives from DLUCH and the 55 Chairs of other Town Boards. RH had also met the Chairs of Connected Coast & Boston Town Board. Whilst RH understood that from a practical and financial position, Officers were shared across the 3 Boards, it was important that Spalding Town Board kept its own identity and that the costs charged to Spalding remained proportionate to the head count. The common aim of all the Chairs across the 55 towns was to do the best for to improve their towns, but they relied on their Councils to support the Board. At the time of the meeting at Westminster there had been no indication that there would be a general election and this was a concern until confirmation had been received that the funding would still be available, regardless of the administration.

Board members were extremely committed to Spalding and RH was hopeful that the funding would be ringfenced. During the meeting at Westminster, a number of Chairs had mentioned that their respective Boards had a WhatsApp group to allow for better communication. This was not obligatory, but if members were interested in forming such a group, LS would make the necessary arrangements.

5 Long Term Plan for Towns Funding - Lincolnshire Police Crime Commissioner - Access to Data Proposal

RH congratulated MJ on being re-elected as Lincolnshire Crime Commissioner. MJ had submitted a report to the Board in relation to a previous discussion around access to data.

MJ explained that PCC was a statutory member of the Board and whilst it was a challenge to attend all the Board meetings across the Partnership area, he was fully committed to the process. In the event that MJ could not attend a meeting, Jo Davidson would substitute for him.

In relation to the proposal to access data - this data would be required to evidence the safety and security element of the funding and any subsequent proposals that were put forward for Spalding. MJ stated that there was a Lincolnshire Community Safety Partnership, along with another group that covered the eastern part of the county. Therefore a lot of data was available that related to serious violence, health and CCTV. To provide this data for each individual area of the Partnership would require a specific resource to coordinate the information. MJ suggested that one officer would be sufficient to enable the data to be drawn down and to make it cost effective.

MJ explained that if the 3 Councils contributed a small amount the PCC office would pay the additional fees for the resource and had explored using the proceeds of crime money to offer an additional £10k towards funding the resource. Currently Lincs PCC was the smallest office in the country, but had a statutory duty to support the Boards, which had created extra work. This further funding would enable the data to be collated and assist when pulling together the investment plans.

RH reported that John Bland had not been able to attend the meeting but had sent through an email with his comments on the data proposal. JB felt that Spalding should be getting the support through the Police budget already in place. RH gave a summary of the other issues highlighted in the email which included, but not limited to, ASB, drinking and illegal shops.

RH confirmed that whilst it was a statutory requirement for the PCC to be a member of the Board, there was no statutory requirement to spend £15k on data.

Following a conversation on the proposal it was noted that:-

- MJ was asking for a contribution of £5k per Council to allow access to the best data and information and to pay for the resource to pull the information together.
- MMc advised that the Police have been undertaking a lot of work in Spalding and across the Partnership area to close illegal shops. Other authorities have approached Lincs Police asking for advice and guidance on how this was carried out.
- There would need to be evidence to show what extra security and safety measures were required in Spalding and this data would back it up.
- Other Police Crime Commissioner areas had larger offices and bigger budgets, for example Sussex had 72 members of staff. The priority for Lincolnshire was front line staff and therefore MJ did not have the resources at the moment to provide data for the Board without the extra funding.
- Evidence would suggest that more active policing resulted in less crime. MJ explained that through work carried out in Basildon, Essex, Police have worked with youth workers on the street to engage younger people in activities which also lowered crime. Improved CCTV was

also required in Lincolnshire. If the Board intends on investing in this work, there should be data to back this up and this is where the Data officer would be extremely useful.

- It was noted that South Holland District Council had received £250k of capacity funding. However the first allocation of funding would be minus the capacity funding. Therefore all funding had to be accounted for.
- In relation to the data, this would have to be shaped around consultation feedback.
- If the funding was secured, the PCC could recruit to the post asap. Once the post had been filled, the resource could remain ongoing. The purpose of that being there would be a requirement of data around CCTV and security which formed a big part of the rationale for the spend. Any delays in securing the funding and the interview process/Police vetting would mean a delay in receiving the data. There was no capacity within the PCC office and MJ was offering a solution to obtain the data. If the funding proposal was agreed MJ could divert other activity in the office until a dedicated resource was in post, therefore there would be a commitment to work on the data immediately.
- The £250k of capacity funding was to support engagement, data gathering, administrative services for the Board and consultation events. RH requested that he is kept up to speed with spend. LR reported that there was a piece of work ongoing undertaken by Rose Regeneration (Ivan Annibal) at a cost of £13.5k per Council. Additionally there was ongoing work surrounding communications/engagement and a small proportion of the budget had been used by the YMCA to run youth engagement groups, but that was the spend to data. In relation to the costs of Officer support from the Council - these costs were nil.
- Whilst the investment plan had to be submitted by 1 August, the projects within the themes could be fluid and the finer detail would not be required at that point. The next stage of the project after 1 August would be the intelligence led implementation stage.

The Board agreed that they would prefer to see the results of the consultation first, followed by officers pulling together a scope from those results and the data matched with those areas. LR confirmed that the report still had to be submitted to the Boston Town Board and Connected Coast for approval. The closing date for community consultation was 10 June and the Board would be informed of the results at the next Board meeting.

RH asked the Board to vote on the proposal. The Board voted in favour of adopting the proposal as laid out in the report, but requested a more detailed brief be made available to the Board at the next meeting.

6 Student/Young Person Representative on the Board

LR updated the board in relation to the young person representative. Following on from the previous Board meeting, LR had been tasked with finding a representative to sit on the Board. The Boston Town Board had a youth representative who had been supported by Lincolnshire CVS (the cost of which was met by the Board - £7.5k). Lincs CVS had designed a support and training package for young people which included coaching and mentoring during their tenure, orientation and how to navigate and respond to the Board. LR had asked LCVS for up-to-date costings for all 3 Boards within the Partnership area, but had yet to receive their proposal.

CF had worked with the representative on the Boston Town Board, who had been an active member and had contributed at the recent AGM. The young person had now secured employment at Boston College. CG also sat on Boston Town Board and had witnessed the younger person's confidence and growth improve.

RH felt that as the LTPFT was a 10 year project, 16-26 year olds would be moving into the decision making arena, it would be beneficial for the Board to gain insight from someone in that age range. ET agreed and that the wider demographic and characteristics of the local community should all be represented on the Board.

LR confirmed that the funding was not to pay for the youth representative but was a financial contribution towards the young person's training and mentoring. It was agreed that there would need to be flexibility on how the role was shaped to ensure maximum benefit for the Board. As the representative would be carrying out this role in their spare time, it was also suggested that they should be paid some remuneration to meet their travelling expenses as a minimum.

RG felt that £7.5k for one person did not represent value for money. A full Youth Council could be formed with that amount of funding, which would be a better way of capturing information. This could be done alongside the Democratic Services Team at South Holland District Council. MJ also engaged with a group called Lincolnshire Stronger Voices, who engaged with younger people and was happy to try to get them involved with the process.

LR would prepare a report for the next Board meeting, which would include Lincs CVS' proposal which would give clarity to the Board around a young person representative.

7 Vision & Investment Plan - Update from Rose Regeneration

IA explained the focus being between now and the submission of the plan on 1 August was a fast moving series of activities. The funding was seen as a long term investment pot, so it could be used flexibly. The funding should generate an income which will flow back into the system. There was a DLUHC system to submit the bid and each bid would have a series of forms to complete online.

The challenge would be to produce an investment plan that was distinctive and not just a checklist. The key thing for the Board to remember was that there was a clear emphasis on consultation, therefore it was important for this to take place, as well as having an evidence based approach when looking at the process.

There were three key tasks for the Board - review the evidence, complete the data pack from the DLUHC and being clear that the map submitted was the map that had been agreed. IA had already spoken to several organisations and some Board members, including the NHS, to discuss what they would like to see, but IA did not have the capacity to speak to everyone.

Should the Board wish to speak to IA or LS, they were happy to discuss the brief from their perspective. Regarding timescales, the data pack would be ready to be circulated within the next week and public consultation ended on 10 June. IA then intended to share the big themes which the public have set out. There was an aim for a draft report to be available at the end of June.

Approval of the bid would most likely be successful if high level routes of engagement had been set up; this would effectively give the Board 10 years to spend and invest the money once it became available. However, the general election may create a longer timescale and it could be as late as September that the Board would hear if they had been successful in securing the funding. At that point, it could be December by the time the money would be actively discussed in terms of spending. There was a lot of hard work to be done between now and 1 August to ensure a successful submission.

The funding would be released on a “drip feed” basis and therefore the £20m would not be released in one lump sum; it was more realistic to consider the Board receiving £2m per year. There was a long term revenue scheme which some partners could choose to cash flow projects.

RH took the opportunity to read a message to the Board from Sir John Hayes, MP, who could not attend the meeting as he was at the House of Commons for a final meeting prior to the elections. Sir John sent a message of support and his thanks to the Board for their commitment and looked forward to working with them in the future.

8 BID Update

CD gave update on the BID. The BID was progressing and the notice of ballot had gone out to all of the eligible businesses. The ballot papers would be sent out by the end of the month and the results should be available on 1 July. There were 448 businesses eligible to vote within the BID area who would vote on the levy on businesses in the town.

RH thanked CD for the update and was hopeful for a positive outcome that would make a difference and lend support to the Board and vice versa.

9 Any Other Business

ET mentioned that there was a charity core funded by Sport England who support those who suffer inequalities and who encourage more people to move. The enhanced funding package was available for the top 10% of the country who have been identified as needing the most help. Significant areas in Lincolnshire were on the list due to the levels of inactivity. Within that list, Spalding had been identified as needing support, therefore there was a 12 month development process.

Building on the Sports England funding, the UK Shared Prosperity Funding supported those in South Holland to gain community based skills and create a skilled workforce. There was hope this would evolve within time. There would be investment put into physical play zones, including play areas and a MUGA which is essentially 75% funded by the FA. Boston and Spalding have been identified as high priority areas and there was work ongoing with partners to establish play areas and any possible match funding. Pinchbeck and Sutton Bridge could be good opportunistic areas for play zones, which would be owned by Spalding or match funded. These would be built following public consultation, one activity being football but other activities also need to be identified.

RH thanked ET for the update.

Date of Next Meeting - Monday 17 June 2024 at 5pm.