

Towns Fund Projects

We continue to make significant progress, with 3 schemes now being advanced to the construction stage.

Following on from my previous update in regards to the Towns Fund, Planning Permissions are now in place for the Campus for Future Living, the Cultural Skegness scheme, the Leisure and Learning Hub at Mablethorpe and the Sutton on Sea Colonnade. A start on site ceremony was held on the 8th February for the Campus for Future Living, with further start on site ceremonies being planned for the Colonnade on the 4th March and the Leisure and Learning Hub on the 9th March. For the Skegness Foreshore, several shortlisted schemes have been identified and are now being advanced to fully worked up proposals.

LG Challenge

On Tuesday (7 February), the Partnership welcomed ten Local Government officers from all over the country to Boston as we hosted the first LG Challenge since 2020.

The LG Challenge is an annual programme run by the Local Government Association that sees ten contestants participate in challenges at five local authorities in order to develop innovative solutions to real challenges facing Councils, and develop their skills, with the chance to be awarded a £10,000 Bruce-Lockhart scholarship.

Our challenge to Team Thrive and Team Catalyst was: ‘How can the South & East Lincolnshire Councils Partnership lead the way for flood resilience in the sub-region, and through innovation maximise the benefit for communities and businesses across all coastal economies?’

In answering this question, we asked for two things:

1. A 12-month action plan, which
2. Identified two strategic priorities of which the Partnership should prioritise their attention

We saw the LG Challenge as an opportunity to utilise the perspective of a fresh pair of eyes on a topic of great importance to all of our communities across the Partnership. Over the course of two days the contestants were supported through meetings with a variety of officers and Members in order to build on their understanding of the topic, and understand the opportunities for innovation.

This culminated in teams presenting their proposals to a judging panel led by Claire Holloway (Head of Corporate Governance, Local Government Association) alongside Rob Barlow and Councillor Craig Leyland.

Team Thrive identified priorities of local voice & national influence, and local capacity & skills development, whilst Team Catalyst focussed on opportunities linked to green tourism and carbon reduction. Both presentations identified clear opportunities for innovation in the region.

Recent Planning Outcomes

Sutton on Sea Colonnade and Pleasure Gardens redevelopment works to get underway following final planning approval - Following the approval, initial works to prepare the site are due to get underway soon, with an aim for the new development to be completed and operational by the end of May 2024.

The project, which was shaped alongside feedback and consultation with local residents and businesses, is part of the Connected Coast Town Deal and has been approved by the Government to receive £4.2m of Town Deal funding, with the remaining costs funded by East Lindsey District Council.

The proposed development is designed to deliver economic growth to the area and provide residents and visitors with state of the art facilities, with the final plans for the Colonnade including a café and restaurant, a Changing Places toilet and a first-floor viewing platform and exhibition space within the main pavilion, as well as two new craft studios beneath seasonal overnight lodges.

The enhancements to the Pleasure Gardens will also create new sensory play facilities, additional seating areas, and space for pop-up events and markets. There will also be increased planting and community gardens, a new dunes landscape and additional walkways, as well as the popular paddling pool, anchor water feature, and tennis courts remaining available for public enjoyment.

Work begins on £8.6m Campus for Future Living in Mablethorpe - Construction to bring the pioneering health and education facility The Campus for Future Living has officially started in Mablethorpe.

Contractors Lindum Group cut the first piece of turf for East Lindsey District Council's flagship Town Deal project at a celebration event on Wednesday, 8 February.

The £8.6m project, supported by the Connected Coast board, is the first council-led Town Deal project to start being delivered to level up the district and transform communities.

The programme of works is scheduled for completion in spring 2024.

Cutting the first piece of ground was Victoria Atkins MP for Louth and Horncastle, watched by Cllr William Gray, Campus Political Lead for East Lindsey District Council; Chris Baron chairman of Connected Coast; Professor Mark Gussy from the University of Lincoln and local and national partners including representatives from the Marisco Medical Practice, Mablethorpe and Sutton on Sea Town Council, Health Education England, Medical Technologies Innovation Facility, Linkage Trust and NHS Lincolnshire ICB

Skegness Travelodge – Councillor Steve Kirk (Portfolio Holder for the Coastal Economy) was on Radio Lincs on 12th January 2023 and reported *“East Lindsey District Council decided last year to sell the land subject to planning permission due to the wider benefits the foreshore site could bring to the visitor economy in Skegness.*

“Travelodge has shown an interest in opening a hotel in Skegness for many years and now this scheme will finally make that happen as well as bring another national name, Starbucks, to the

resort. This scheme will give holidaymakers another choice of where to stay for their family holiday, it will create jobs for our residents and support our coastal economy.

“Skegness is very much open for investment and we have some exciting Town Deal schemes being delivered in Skegness and the coast, including public realm improvements, new attractions and facilities which will get more people choosing to spend their money here. I believe all the investment we are achieving will bring Skegness closer to our ambition of it being a 52 weeks a year economy and the benefits that will bring for our residents. ”

Green Homes Grants

Additional funding has been secured to support more properties with grants for energy efficiency improvements. The Partnership is already undertaking works on around 200 properties across the sub-region (circa 100 in East Lindsey) under the Local Authority Delivery (LAD3) scheme but now has capacity to support more households. The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (ESNZ) - formerly BEIS - has confirmed the current LAD3 scheme will be the last round of support for properties with a mains gas connection so it is an opportunity to help additional properties before the funding stream closes. Works could include measures such as loft, cavity or solid wall insulation, smart heating controls, low-energy lighting, Solar PV and even low-carbon heating systems such as Air Source Heat Pumps. This work is in addition to the 230 properties (circa 110 in East Lindsey) currently being delivered under the Home Upgrade Grant (HUG1) for properties without a mains gas connection.

The Council's Green Homes Grants Team has been shortlisted for the Local Authority Retrofit Programme category at the Retrofit Academy Awards 2023 for its work to improve 192 properties across East Lindsey under the first phase of delivery in 2021-22. The presentation ceremony will be held at one of the biggest events of the year for professionals in the built environment, Futurebuild, at the ExCel Centre in London on Tuesday 7 March.

Warm Spaces

£10,000 National Grid funding to support warm spaces this winter has now been distributed throughout East Lindsey. The funding has enabled support to be given to 28 community venues/hubs who have opened as a warm space this winter. Each venue will provide further monitoring information by the end of March.

Community Lottery

The weekly South and East Lincolnshire Community Lottery draw continues to take place every Saturday. There are 75 good causes now live on the platform selling tickets, from across the Partnership. To date through ticket sales a total of £7546 has been raised since 26th November for local good causes within the Partnership area.

Crowdfunding

The South & East Lincolnshire Crowdfund is now live, meaning projects from across the Partnership can access the platform and begin raising funds for the community-led projects. In addition to funds raised by the crowd - A £30,000 fund is available in each local authority area, with a maximum contribution of £5,000 per project (capped at 50% of the project value). Projects eligible for funding need to achieve one or more of the following outcomes: -

- Improve the mental and physical health and wellbeing of the local community
- Enhance lives through events and activities
- Build stronger communities
- Help to tackle barriers and challenges many of us experience in life, such as poverty, ill health, distance from services, social isolation/loneliness 8
- Invest in and maintain facilities we rely on for activities to take place
- Increase physical activity levels
- Connect and integrate people into their local community

A further creator workshop is due to be held on Wednesday 22nd February, tickets can be booked via the following link [South & East Lincolnshire Crowd - Project Creator Workshop Tickets, Wed 22 Feb 2023 at 10:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Household Support Fund

East Lindsey District Council continue to work with Lincolnshire authorities to deliver the Household Support Fund, now in its third phase. The scheme provides help for households struggling with increases in essential living costs with small grants towards food and energy.

By the end of January, the communities team had spent £377,059 - 75% of the local discretionary allocation, prioritising households who did not benefit from other Government cost of living support payments.

Over winter we have worked with partners to help reach households in most need and community support network and local food banks to help households in crisis. We are now accepting applications for energy grants from low-income, in-work households across the partnership and continue to try and help the 'just about managing' in our communities.

Recycling

The recycling hasn't increased from Q3 last year to Q3 this year but the good news is that over 600 tonnes of very high quality paper and card was collected in Q3 this year that would have been mixed up with all the rest of the recycling in Q3 last year