Minutes of the Mablethorpe Neighbourhood Board Meeting

Held on Friday, 27 August 2026 at 2.00pm

Venue: Online via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Board Members:
Jacqueline Robinson – Marisco Medical Practise Patient Participant Group (Chair)
Sue Fortune – Lincolnshire Community Fund
Liam Grimes – The Community Table CIC
Naomi Baker – Magna Vitae Trust for Leisure & Culture
Viv Cross – LN12 Youth Forum
Cllr William Gray – Portfolio Holder for Communities and Ageing Better, ELDC
Cllr. Graham Cullen – Ward Member for Mablethorpe
Laura Spurr – Active Lincolnshire

Advisors & Programme Support:
Pranali Parikh – ELDC
Jon Burgess – ELDC
Bonnie Mitchell – ELDC
Michelle Gant – The Engaging People Company
Dom Chapman – Thrive Economics

Observers:
None

Apologies:
Barnaby Prince – Lincolnshire Police
Victoria Atkins MP – Louth and Horncastle
Nicola Craven – National Trust
Claire Woodward – ACIS Group
Maria Cotton – ELDC
Saskia Zablockyj – ELDC

Summary of Minutes:
At the inaugural meeting, the Board approved its Members and agreed to appoint its Chair, Jaqueline Robinson. The Board considered and agreed to adopt the Terms of Reference (ToR) including the Code of Conduct and Declarations of Interest appendices. It was agreed to remove proxy voting from the ToR. The government approved geographic investment boundary for the programme and receipt of a grant determination letter was noted. The Board commenced the process of developing the Vision and Regeneration Plan.

1 Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed Members to the first Mablethorpe Neighbourhood Board meeting and thanked attendees for their attendance following Board Member introductions.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Barnaby Prince – Lincolnshire Police, Victoria Atkins – MP for Louth and Horncastle, Nicola Craven – National Trust, Claire Woodward – ACIS Group, Maria Cotton – ELDC and Saskia Zablockyj – ELDC.

3 Declarations of Interest

Sue Fortune declared an interest as a Director of LN12 Community Interest Company (CIC). Cllr Graham Cullen also declared an interest as a Member of LN12 CIC.

4 Board Operation, Governance and Decision Making

Jon Burgess introduced the item and advised that the covering report and associated appendices had been circulated to Board Members in advance of the meeting. He confirmed that the purpose of the item was to seek formal agreement to the Board membership, the appointment of the Chair, the Terms of Reference, and the Code of Conduct.

Sue Fortune sought clarification on the proposed frequency of meetings, noting that the Terms of Reference referred to a minimum of quarterly meetings. Jon Burgess advised that, during the initial development phase and in advance of the November submission deadline, meetings were expected to take place at least monthly. He explained that some sessions could be delivered as informal workshops rather than formal Board meetings, to support detailed discussion on community priorities and project interventions.

Cllr William Gray asked whether relevant third parties attending Board meetings as observers should be notified to the Chair in advance. It was agreed that prior notification to, and agreement by, the Chair would be required as good practice. It was further agreed that details of any non-voting observers attending for a specific item would be included in the agenda papers circulated to Board Members.

Cllr Gray also requested clarification on the timescales for the ten-year Vision and Regeneration Plan and the four-year Investment Plan. It was confirmed that both documents were required to be submitted to Government by 30 November 2026.

Jon Burgess drew Members' attention to the provision for proxy voting within the draft Terms of Reference. Members discussed the matter and expressed support for retaining the option for an approved substitute or deputy to attend where appropriate, while unanimously agreeing that proxy voting would be removed from the Terms of Reference. It was further agreed that substitutes or deputies could attend meetings where this had been notified in advance to, and agreed by, the Chair.

5 Regeneration Plan & Vision

Thrive Economics presented the approach to developing the ten-year Vision and Regeneration Plan and the four-year Investment Plan for Mablethorpe, Sutton on Sea, Trusthorpe and Sandylands. Members noted that the programme allocation was up to £20m and that East Lindsey District Council would act as accountable body.

Members were advised that the Regeneration Plan would need to set out a clear vision, strategic objectives, evidence base, community engagement findings, priority intervention areas, delivery arrangements, governance, monitoring and future community involvement. The Board noted that consultation work was already underway, including resident, visitor and business engagement, and that early evidence had identified challenges relating to but not limited to deprivation, health, skills, transport connectivity, digital exclusion, the local economy, age profile, housing and flood risk.

Members discussed the need for a vision that reflected Mablethorpe's distinctive coastal identity while addressing long-standing structural challenges. Key themes discussed included stronger community cohesion and trust, improved physical and digital connectivity, better opportunities for young people, improved access to skills and employment, healthier ageing, enhanced transport links, town centre renewal, better use of vacant and poorly maintained buildings, and the importance of long-term sustainability rather than short-term project delivery.

The Board considered whether the November submission should include specific projects. Members noted learning from other places, where delaying project identification had extended the process and reduced early visibility for residents. Members supported keeping open the option of including deliverable year one projects or "quick wins", where these were supported by consultation evidence and sufficiently developed in terms of cost, timescale, outputs and deliverability.

Members identified potential priority areas for further development, including youth aspiration and retention; work readiness, apprenticeships and enterprise; community-led social enterprise; digital inclusion and assisted digital support; transport linked to access to health, education and employment; town centre improvement and diversification; reuse or improvement of vacant buildings; and advocacy around long-term coastal flood resilience. Members also noted the importance of mapping existing funding opportunities to avoid duplication and maximise the impact of Pride in Place investment.

The Board agreed that the emerging vision and intervention priorities should be shaped by the consultation findings and wider evidence base, while recognising the importance of early, visible delivery for residents where suitable quick-win projects could be identified.

Thrive Economics would prepare draft vision options, strategic objectives and proposed success measures for consideration at the next Board meeting; continue to strengthen the evidence base, including digital connectivity, flood risk and local datasets; and present the consultation findings to inform prioritisation. Members agreed to share relevant evidence, including LIRCH research, Links 2100 information, LN12 consultation material, CHILL project findings and intelligence from local funding or delivery programmes.

6 Any Other Business

Jon Burgess advised Members that Government had approved the requested amendment to the geographic boundary for the Mablethorpe Pride in Place programme. Members noted that the approved investment area would include both the original Government-defined boundary and the wider Mablethorpe Town Council area, addressing previous concerns that parts of the town, including Springwell, the southern promenade areas and Queen’s Park, had been excluded.

Members further noted that, following recent government confirmation of the boundary amendment, the independent Chair and Board membership, Government had issued the Grant Determination Letter and was expected to release the remaining Year One delivery funding to East Lindsey District Council as accountable body. The Board noted and endorsed the approved geographic investment boundary, comprising the original Government-defined boundary and the wider Mablethorpe Town Council area, including Sutton on Sea, Trusthorpe and Sandilands.

7 Dates for Future Board Meetings

The Chair advised that, although future Board meetings had initially been expected to take place every two months, meetings would need to be held more frequently during the initial programme development period. Members noted that a further formal meeting was likely to be required in September, with the option of an informal workshop to support development of the vision, evidence base and emerging priorities.

Jon Burgess confirmed that Programme Officers would canvass Board Members for suitable September dates and seek to arrange the next meeting, subject to availability. Members were encouraged to continue local conversations and share intelligence from their networks and community groups to inform the developing plan.

Sue Fortune asked whether Board Members who were unable to attend future meetings could nominate a deputy or substitute, noting the need to maintain momentum during the holiday period. It was agreed that a deputy or substitute could attend future meetings where this had been notified to, and agreed by, the Chair in advance.

8 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in September 2026. Proposed meeting dates would be circulated by officers to confirm arrangements for the next session.

The meeting concluded at 3.53pm.

ACTIONS TRACKER

BOARD MEETING	ACTION	STATUS	RESPONSIBLE
27.08.2026	Update and circulate the adopted Terms of Reference.	To Do	BM/SZ
27.08.2026	Coordinate next meeting and future board meetings.	To Do	SZ
27.08.2026	Share relevant evidence, research and intelligence with Thrive Economics.	To Do	ALL