Minutes of the Mablethorpe Neighbourhood Board Workshop

Held on Friday, 02 October 2026 at 11.00am

Venue: Online Via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Board Members:
Jacqueline Robinson – Marisco Medical Practice Patient Participation Group (Chair)
Sue Fortune – Lincolnshire Community Foundation (joined during Item 6)
Naomi Baker – Magna Vitae Trust for Leisure & Culture
Laura Spurr – Active Lincolnshire
Cllr William Gray – Portfolio Holder for Communities and Ageing Better, ELDC
Nicola Craven – National Trust
Claire Woodward – ACIS Group
Barnaby Prince – Lincolnshire Police

Advisors & Programme Support:
Bonnie Mitchell – ELDC
Jon Burgess – ELDC
Saskia Zablockyj – ELDC
Michelle Gant – The Engaging People Company
Dom Chapman – Thrive Economics
Chris Maunder – Thrive Economics
Maria Cotton – ELDC

Observers:
None

Apologies:
Liam Grimes – The Community Table CIC
Viv Cross – LN12 Youth Forum
Victoria Atkins – MP for Louth and Horncastle
Cllr Graham Cullen – Ward Member for Mablethorpe

Summary of Minutes:
The Board received an update on revised government timescales for submission of the Regeneration Plan and agreed to continue working towards the original submission deadline of 30 November 2026. Members considered business consultation findings, reviewed and refined the emerging Vision, discussed

intervention areas and a long-list of potential community projects, and received updates regarding governance, project assessment, monitoring and evaluation arrangements. The Board voted unanimously to retain Community Cohesion and Community Power as a priority intervention area. Members also agreed further work was required to strengthen Health and Wellbeing interventions ahead of the next meeting.

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1 Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and confirmed that the meeting was quorate.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Liam Grimes – The Community Table CIC, Viv Cross – LN12 Youth Forum, Victoria Atkins MP – Louth and Horncastle, and Cllr Graham Cullen – Ward Member for Mablethorpe.

3 Declarations of Interest

Sue Fortune declared an interest as an independent grant maker for Lincolnshire Community Foundation. No other declarations were raised.

4 Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the Mablethorpe Neighbourhood Board held on 27 August 2026, and 21 September 2026 were approved as an accurate record.

5 Programme and Guidance Updates from MHCLG

Members were advised that Government had introduced flexibility to the submission deadline for the Regeneration Plan, allowing plans to be submitted up to 26 February 2027 where additional time was required. However, plans would be assessed on a first-come, first-served basis and future funding would not be released until Government approval had been secured.

Members agreed that the Board should continue progressing towards the original November submission date to place the Board in the strongest position to access funding in Spring 2027.

6 Regeneration Plan

Business Consultation Findings

Thrive Economics presented the findings of the business consultation exercise. Members noted that 37 businesses had responded from approximately 328 organisations contacted.

Key priorities identified by businesses included:

1. Extending the visitor season and supporting year-round trade;
2. Enhancing visitor attractions, events and experiences;
3. Improving visitor facilities and infrastructure;
4. Supporting a stronger visitor economy.

Members noted that the findings broadly aligned with the themes emerging from resident and visitor engagement activity.

Cllr Gray expressed concern regarding the survey response rate and emphasised the importance of continuing engagement with businesses throughout programme development and delivery. Members agreed that ongoing business engagement should remain a priority.

Updated Vision
The Board reviewed the revised Vision. Members welcomed amendments made following the 21 September 2026 workshop, particularly the increased emphasis on wellbeing, community cohesion, connectivity and support for existing businesses.

Discussion focused on several areas for further refinement:
1. Recognition of the area's ageing population and associated opportunities and challenges;
2. Increased reference to digital inclusion and digital capability;
3. The inclusion of climate resilience alongside flood resilience;
4. Ensuring language around skills and opportunities remained sufficiently broad and not overly focused on apprenticeships alone.

Members agreed that additional references to senior citizens should be incorporated within the Vision. The Board endorsed the proposed direction of travel and noted that further written comments could be submitted to Thrive Economics following the meeting.

Intervention Areas and Long-list Project Ideas
The Board reviewed draft intervention areas and emerging project ideas generated through community consultation and workshop activity. It was noted that projects could be included within the Plan as ideas and that the community project ideas were non-committal at this stage.

Members discussed a wide range of potential community project concepts including but not limited to:
- Shopfront improvement grants;
- Heritage and public realm enhancements;
- Community grant schemes;
- Beach accessibility improvements;

- Digital inclusion initiatives;
- Broadband improvements;
- Skills, employability and enterprise support programmes;
- Social enterprise development;
- Community and youth-focused facilities;
- Transport improvements;
- Flood awareness and resilience initiatives.

Board Member discussion considered whether Community Cohesion and Community Power should remain as a standalone intervention area or be embedded across other priorities. Members voted unanimously to retain Community Cohesion and Community Power as a priority intervention area.

The Board also considered Health and Wellbeing as a priority area. Members agreed it remained a key strategic priority but recognised that further discussion was required. Naomi Baker invited Board members to an informal meeting to further develop this work stream prior to the next Board meeting.

Members further agreed that several project concepts could contribute to multiple intervention themes and should not necessarily be restricted to a single category.

Project Selection Process, Governance and Assurance
Thrive Economics presented proposals regarding how the Plan would address the process for future project selection and governance arrangements.

Members noted that projects could generally be progressed through either:

i. Commissioning arrangements, where a defined project specification is developed and procured; or
ii. Calls for Projects, where organisations apply for funding against the Plan priorities.

Members noted the proposed approach and the importance of maintaining proportionality in business case requirements. Indicative thresholds were discussed, with simpler requirements for smaller grants and more comprehensive business case requirements for larger capital investments. The Board agreed that future arrangements should remain accessible and proportionate, particularly for community organisations and smaller local groups.

Monitoring and Evaluation
Members received a presentation on monitoring and evaluation arrangements. It was noted that monitoring would focus on project delivery, outputs, milestones and risks, while evaluation would assess longer-term impacts and outcomes.

Members noted the proposed approach and emphasised the importance of:

- Capturing case studies;
- Demonstrating community impact;
- Ensuring funded organisations contributed appropriate evaluation evidence;
- Learning from successful projects and sharing good practice.

Members recognised that evaluation activity would need to be proportionate to the scale and complexity of individual projects.

7 Any Other Business

Mablethorpe Connect Project

Jon Burgess provided clarification that the original Town Deal investment had funded site acquisition and relocation activity, with subsequent feasibility work now being undertaken to explore future development options for the Mobi-Hub (renamed Mablethorpe Connect) scheme.

It was noted that a future presentation would be brought to the Board to update Members on the feasibility work undertaken to date for the Board's wider understanding of this project within the local community.

8 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 20 October 2026 via Microsoft Teams.

The meeting concluded at 12.43pm.

ACTIONS TRACKER

BOARD MEETING	ACTION	STATUS	RESPONSIBLE
21.09.2026	Coordinate business case presentation of MobiHub project	In Progress	BM / SZ
21.09.2026	Seek further community project ideas from local networks	In Progress	Board Members
21.09.2026	Update Vision following Board feedback	Complete	DC
02.10.2026	Circulate presentation slides and updated intervention area project lists to Board Members	To do	SZ
02.10.2026	Develop further Health and Wellbeing project ideas and share with Thrive Economics	To Do	Board Members, led by NB