Minutes of the Mablethorpe Neighbourhood Board Workshop

Held on Monday, 21 September 2026 at 1.00pm

Venue: In-person at The Seaview Colonnade, Horizon Room, York Road, Sutton on Sea, LN12 2EU

Present:

Board Members:
Jacqueline Robinson – Marisco Medical Practise Patient Participant Group (Chair)
Sue Fortune – Lincolnshire Community Fund
Liam Grimes – The Community Table CIC
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
Nicola Craven – National Trust
Claire Woodward – ACIS Group
Barnaby Prince – Lincolnshire Police

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

Observers:
None

Apologies:
Victoria Atkins MP – Louth and Horncastle
Naomi Baker – Magna Vitae Trust for Leisure & Culture
Pranali Parikh – ELDC
Maria Cotton – ELDC
Jon Burgess – ELDC
Saskia Zablockyj – ELDC

Summary of Minutes:

At the workshop, the Board considered the engagement and consultation findings, reviewed the emerging evidence base, tested the proposed vision options, and discussed preferred intervention areas and potential project ideas to inform the Mablethorpe Regeneration Plan.

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1 Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed Members to the Mablethorpe Neighbourhood Board workshop and thanked attendees for their attendance following Board Member in-person introductions.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Victoria Atkins MP – Louth and Horncastle, Naomi Baker – Magna Vitae Trust for Leisure & Culture, Pranali Parikh – ELDC, Maria Cotton – ELDC, Jon Burgess – ELDC and Saskia Zablockyj – ELDC.

3 Declarations of Interest

Sue Fortune declared an interest as CEO of Lincolnshire Community Foundation, independent grant-maker.

4 Regeneration Plan

Engagement and Consultation Findings

Thrive Economics presented the community engagement and consultation findings from Summer 2026, including in-person engagement, resident surveys and visitor surveys. Members noted that more than 800 responses had been received overall and that the business survey had concluded, with findings under analysis and results to follow.

The findings were considered alongside wider research and consultation, including PlaceTalk, LIRCH, CHILL, the LGBTQIA+ and Allies Survey, and the Post-Covid Survey. Members noted that this wider evidence provided assurance that the Pride in Place findings reflected established local priorities.

The PlaceTalk Survey identified concerns relating to transport, leisure opportunities for young people, non-seasonal shops and jobs, poorly maintained areas, lack of greening, pavement condition, community voice and access to non-GP or hospital health services. The CHILL research highlighted the importance of listening to and involving young people in decisions. Priorities included safe indoor space, activities, play equipment, protected green space, security, action on age-restricted items, improved transport, sports pitches and secondary school provision. The ongoing LIRCH research identified challenges relating to community health, digital literacy and wider issues commonly experienced by coastal towns. The LGBTQIA+ and Allies Survey identified safety concerns, social isolation, retention risk, healthcare access barriers, limited safe spaces, transport challenges and demand for more local provision.

Members noted consistent engagement messages relating to high street improvement, vacant and poor-quality properties, public space maintenance, street cleanliness, and the importance of protecting the seafront as a major local asset while improving access, infrastructure and facilities.

Members discussed the need to reduce dependence on seasonal tourism by strengthening year-round economic activity, supporting local enterprise, attracting investment and improving access to higher-quality employment opportunities.

Members also noted priorities relating to transport and accessibility, local infrastructure, parking, safer routes, public transport, community and health facilities, youth provision, skills, work-readiness, training and apprenticeships.

Vision Testing
Members considered the characteristics of a strong ten-year vision, including the need for it to be place-specific, reflective of local identity, inspirational, realistic, ambitious, descriptive, time-bound, clear and accessible.

Two vision options were presented. Option 1 provided a detailed thematic framework organised around "Our Communities" and "Our Economy" and included 11 strategic objectives. Option 2 provided a more memorable three-part framework organised around "Connected, Resilient and Inspired", with objectives grouped beneath three themes and greater emphasis on healthy ageing and coordinated funding.

Members noted common ground across both options, including young people and skills, connectivity, town centre renewal and year-round employment, the visitor economy, community involvement and coastal resilience.

The Board agreed that Option 2 provided the strongest basis for the vision, subject to incorporating elements of Option 1 to ensure the final vision was measurable and aligned with government guidance requirements. An updated vision would be brought to the next meeting.

Members requested that the updated vision gave appropriate prominence to the area's coastline, beach offer and Blue Flag status, and reflected the role of nature, wellbeing and year-round activity for residents as a priority, and visitors. Members emphasised that the vision should focus on supporting existing businesses to thrive, attracting investment, improving access to healthcare, advocating for strategic transport and coastal defence improvements, and strengthening local transport connectivity. The high street, beach, community cohesion and inclusion of young people were identified as key areas of focus. It was also suggested that the final vision should be capable of being presented in a visual form to support wider understanding.

Priorities – Intervention Areas and Spatial Focus
Members considered the proposed intervention areas: health and wellbeing; work, productivity and skills; housing; cohesion and community power; transport; regeneration, high streets and heritage; education and opportunity; and safety and security.

Members noted that themes from the August Board discussion had been grouped into four areas: people and opportunity; connections and access; place and economy; and community and resilience.

The Board agreed not to carry forward housing or safety and security as primary intervention areas. Members agreed that further consideration should be given to how the programme could support health and wellbeing, cohesion and community power, and youth-focused activity. Members indicated a preference for the terms “community cohesion” and “community wellbeing” when describing these priorities.

Project Ideas

Thrive Economics advised that the Regeneration Plan could include a long-list of potential project ideas linked to the selected Pride in Place Programme intervention areas. Board Members were invited to identify and contribute project ideas for consideration based on community feedback received and local knowledge. It was agreed that Board Members would seek further project ideas from their local networks and bring these back to the next Board meeting.

[redacted] to enable quick wins and grassroots community impact alongside larger-scale projects. Social enterprise, entrepreneurship and apprenticeship opportunities for young people were also discussed.

Members discussed the potential pedestrianisation of high streets and recognised that further work would be required to understand feasibility, implications for businesses, land and infrastructure ownership, and existing evidence [redacted]

Cllr Gray advised that flood defence matters were being progressed through the Twenty-One Hundred scheme. Members noted that the Board could take an advocacy role on flood resilience, but that Pride in Place funding was unlikely to be sufficient to fund major flood defence works. The role of the Local Resilience Forum in relation to flooding was also noted.

Members discussed opportunities to match-fund existing projects and noted the need to map current projects and investments to avoid duplication. Digital literacy was identified as a potential priority, with low uptake of online surveys cited as evidence of need. Officers were requested to present the Mobility Hub business case to the Board to support understanding of the transport project.

Additional community project ideas discussed included ecology and biodiversity activity linked to the East Coast Flyway; beach accessibility measures; cycling, walking and dog-related wellbeing activity; increased beach toilet facilities, beach huts, shower facilities, water stations and foreshore infrastructure; support for independent shops; improved physical connections between Mablethorpe, Sutton on Sea, Trusthorpe and Sandilands; local communications to promote events and reduce social isolation; potential tuk-tuk or land-train transport; and heritage activity, including a study of heritage assets and an associated high street walk.

Thrive Economics would consolidate the workshop findings and report back to the Board with the project ideas, business survey findings and an updated vision reflecting Board feedback.

7 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on Friday, 2 October 2026.

The meeting concluded at 3.53pm.

ACTIONS TRACKER

BOARD MEETING	ACTION	STATUS	RESPONSIBLE
27.08.2026	Update and circulate the adopted Terms of Reference.	Complete	BM/SZ
27.08.2026	Coordinate next meeting and future board meetings.	Complete	SZ
27.08.2026	Share relevant evidence, research and intelligence with Thrive Economics.	Complete	ALL
21.09.2026	Coordinate business case presentation of Mobi Hub project	To do	SZ/BM
21.09.2026	Seek further project ideas from local networks before next meeting.	To do	Board Members
21.09.2026	Update the Vision	To do	DC