Minutes of the Mablethorpe Neighbourhood Board Workshop

Held on Tuesday, 20 October 2026 at 1.00pm

Venue: In-person at The Coastal Centre, 32 Victoria Road, Mablethorpe, LN12 2AQ

Present:

Board Members:
Jacqueline Robinson – Marisco Medical Practice Patient Participation Group (Chair)
Sue Fortune – Lincolnshire Community Foundation (joined during Item 6)
Cllr Graham Cullen – Ward Member for Mablethorpe
Liam Grimes – The Community Table CIC
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
Michelle Gant – The Engaging People Company
Dom Chapman – Thrive Economics
Chris Maunder – Thrive Economics
Maria Cotton – ELDC

Observers:
Matthew Hogan – ELDC
Louis Humphries – ELDC
Rachel Gmajner – CVS Lincolnshire

Apologies:
Naomi Baker – Magna Vitae Trust for Leisure & Culture
Viv Cross – LN12 Youth Forum
Victoria Atkins – MP for Louth and Horncastle
Saskia Zablockyj – ELDC

Summary of Minutes:

The Mablethorpe Neighbourhood Board approved the previous meeting's minutes and received a project update for Mablethorpe Connect. Members welcomed the update and agreed to remain involved in the project's development by providing views and perspectives. The Board agreed that the Chair would approve the October Monitoring Return, that Programme Officers would explore accessibility walking tours with Heritage Lincs and that Members would provide feedback on the draft Regeneration and Investment Plans to allow for a timely submission to government. The next meeting was confirmed for 10 November 2026, with the venue to be confirmed.

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1 Welcome and Introductions

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

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Naomi Baker – Magna Vitae Trust for Leisure & Culture, Viv Cross – LN12 Youth Forum, Victoria Atkins – MP for Louth and Horncastle and Saskia Zablockyj – ELDC.

3 Declarations of Interest

No declarations were raised.

4 Minutes of Previous Meetings

The minutes of the Mablethorpe Neighbourhood Board held on 2 October 2026 were approved as an accurate record.

5 Mablethorpe Connect

Matthew Hogan and Louis Humphries presented an overview of Mablethorpe Connect and invited the Board's views to inform the project. The project originated through the 2020 Towns Deal, following residents' feedback on connectivity and transport. The original proposal, known as the Mobi Hub, had sought a £3 million grant from the Connected Coast Board to address the relocation of the Grayscroft site and improve town-centre traffic congestion. Following initial feasibility work, the grant request had been reduced to £500,000 and the Connected Coast Board decided to relocate Grayscroft rather than develop a smaller hub. ELDC facilitated the relocation to support local business growth, remove unsuitable town-centre coach storage and secure a strategic regeneration opportunity. The site had subsequently been cleared, Grayscroft had now relocated and phase one of the project had been completed.

The subsequent development of Mablethorpe Connect focused on developing the existing site owned by ELDC. Approximately ten months earlier, an independent transport economist was commissioned to review the evidence and identify how a potential £2 million investment could best address Mablethorpe's transport and connectivity challenges.

Louis Humphries outlined the challenges identified by the commission, including economic inactivity, an ageing population, limited employment opportunities and access to healthcare. The principal issue was travel to and from Mablethorpe. The strategic outline business case had tested 13 potential interventions; some had been discounted because of cost, subsidy requirements or their limited contribution to addressing the identified challenges.

The initial preferred approach had been a service-led mobility hub involving three operators delivering a self-sustaining model. The proposed services included Wheels to Work, with more than 200 mopeds; community transport through CVS Lincolnshire and a Dial-a-Ride bus service; and a community car club with flexible shared vehicle ownership.

The Council had subsequently commissioned a detailed business case and undertaken extensive community engagement to develop the preferred concept. Six options had been assessed, building on the three-operator model. The preferred option had an estimated cost of £2.4 million, including site redevelopment and the operating model.

The Council was reviewing the service package to ensure affordability and sustainability. Further work would include design, planning, legal and procurement requirements. The Council sought the Board's views and perspectives only today; no funding decision was requested.

In response to Barnaby's question about alternative sites, Matthew Hogan confirmed that whilst Council ownership of the site reduced the complexity of delivery, Members were invited to recommend other potential sites. Members expressed concern that introducing further vehicles to the site could conflict with the original objective of reducing town-centre traffic congestion and requested clarity about project sustainability beyond the first five years. Louis Humphries advised that it was intended for operators to sustain the services over the longer term. Financial sustainability remained a key test for the project.

Matthew Hogan advised that the moped service would cover Lincolnshire rather than Mablethorpe alone, supporting residents, including young people, beyond the town.

Training and equipment would also be provided for young people. Matthew Hogan confirmed that the Council would take the project forward and seek a lead delivery partner, potentially an operator, to work alongside it.

Sue Fortune referred to Build a Future as a comparable example of providing young people with safety equipment and suggested comparing how that model had been sustained. Rachel Gmajner confirmed that the proposed moped model would be self-sustaining, with rental charges contributing to operating costs.

Matthew Hogan invited the Board's involvement in developing the community car scheme and advised that support was needed to oversee and manage this element, which differed from the other two services. Liam Grimes offered insight from a community car service and funding perspective highlighting limited taxi demand, driver recruitment difficulties associated with low pay, and the potential to support young people into employment. He questioned whether Wheels to Work needed to be based in Mablethorpe when economic activity was concentrated in Louth and expressed reservations about Pride in Place Programme funding potentially supporting travel out of the area, while remaining willing to contribute views. Matthew Hogan clarified that no Pride in Place Programme funding was being sought at the development stage.

Councillor Gray asked whether an existing cycle hub project, whose provider was seeking a site, could be linked to the proposal. Matthew Hogan advised that the two projects addressed different challenges and their objectives were not aligned.

Councillor Cullen joined the meeting at 1.45pm.

The Chair thanked the presenters, acknowledged the progress made in relocating Grayscroft and confirmed the Board's willingness to contribute views as the project developed. It was agreed that Louis Humphries would circulate the presentation slides to the Board.

Matthew Hogan, Rachel Gmajner and Louis Humphries left the meeting at 1.48pm.

6 Draft Regeneration Plan

Thrive Economics presented the working draft Regeneration Plan and invited members' feedback to enable the final Plan to be presented at the Board meeting on 10 November 2026.

The Government's requirements for developing and submitting the Plan, including the recommended 30-page limit were outlines and it was confirmed that the Plan

would be professionally designed and made accessible for public viewing, and include an Investment Plan.

The Board reviewed the draft sections: the Chair's foreword; executive summary, including a logic model; vision; place and people; community engagement; what we learned; priorities for change; and delivering the vision together. Thrive advised that consolidating the objectives would make the Plan clearer and more effective.

Councillor Gray requested that inland and parish communities be highlighted alongside coastal communities. Michelle Gant requested greater emphasis on empowerment within the engagement narrative and recognition of the engagement undertaken collaboratively by community members themselves.

It was agreed that the Plan would include parish and inland areas, including those reinstated following Government boundary approval, and explain how those communities would be engaged in future.

It was agreed that quotations reflecting key community engagement messages would be included in the fully designed document. Michelle Gant would share suitable quotations with Thrive.

The Board confirmed that the wording of the core priorities was sufficiently clear and accessible to the public but requested that the mortarboard graduation icon be replaced.

The Board reviewed the "What we learned" section, which provided further detail and evidence from consultation, the basis for the priorities for change, the approach to success and future calls for projects. The draft also included the Board's advocacy for flood resilience.

The "Delivering the vision together" section set out a commitment to annual engagement over ten years to assess community views and track change. Michelle Gant advised that a draft engagement plan was in development. Sue Fortune requested that references to a future "annual survey" be replaced with "engagement plan" terminology.

The draft provided for a shift to a community-led delivery model in 2029 and included a commitment to proportionate project evaluation. Governance arrangements, including the terms of reference, were also covered.

Members noted the routes for identifying, selecting and assessing projects, including their potential impact, benefits and suitability for funding. Grant award thresholds

and business case requirements were considered, and the Board agreed to review these and provide feedback. Maria Cotton confirmed that the Accountable Body, particularly the Executive Director - Finance & Section 151 Officer, required this level of assurance within the Plan. Members discussed adding a fourth box with a lower funding threshold to improve public accessibility and encourage smaller grants.

The draft included a mapped longlist of project ideas and a full record of community engagement. In response to the Chair's question about the timetable, Thrive confirmed that submission remained on schedule, provided members' feedback was received by 9 November. The next steps were document design and to develop the supporting three-year Investment Plan to accompany the Regeneration Plan.

Thrive presented the Investment Plan key themes and recommended consolidated priorities. Members were asked to review the proposed list and identify any amendments. It was explained that intervention areas for the first three years, were prioritized by the strongest community engagement support: High Streets, Regeneration and Heritage - Proud high streets and seafronts; Work, Productivity and Skills - Year round coastal economy; Transport - Moving freely along the coast; and Cohesion - Cohesion and community Power. The Board agreed to review the priorities and provide feedback.

Claire Woodward advised members of the DWP launch scheduled at the Campus for Future Living in November and agreed to invite businesses to attend for engagement.

It was noted that a health and wellbeing meeting had taken place the previous week. Naomi Baker was to circulate its actions and longlist of ideas as a priority, for review and inclusion in the Plan.

It was agreed that Michelle would design an infographic of the Plan's priorities for display in the town. Councillor Cullen supported the proposal.

It was agreed that programme officers would coordinate a drop-in session during the week commencing 26 October, enabling members to provide feedback on the Plan to Thrive, in person or online. Feedback would be collated for the Board meeting on 10 November. Members also requested clarification of the HAF project's status, given its importance to the area, and whether support would continue through Magna Vitae or Parkwood.

7 Any Other Business

Actions Tracker

The Board reviewed the Actions Tracker and noted the completed and outstanding items.

MHCLG October Monitoring Return
It was agreed that the Chair would approve the October Monitoring Return and that a copy would be circulated to the Board.

Matters Arising
The Chair discussed the need to continue engagement and it was noted that she and Councillor Gray had recently attended a LGBTQAI meeting to engage with this group.

Members agreed to continue supporting Mablethorpe Connect, by contributing views to the project team, remaining engaged and keeping informed of progress.

The informal meeting of members at Sandilands National Trust was postponed to a future date.

Sue Fortune raised accessibility in Lincolnshire. The Board agreed to explore opportunities to address accessibility, including potential walks around the investment areas with Heritage Lincolnshire. Members of the public would also be invited to participate.

8 Date of Next Meeting
The next meeting will be held in-person on Tuesday, 10 November 2026.

The meeting concluded at 3.01pm.

ACTIONS TRACKER

BOARD MEETING	ACTION	STATUS	RESPONSIBLE
02.10.2026	Circulate presentation slides and updated intervention area project lists to Board Members	Complete	SZ
02.10.2026	Develop further Health and Wellbeing project ideas and share with Thrive Economics	In Progress	Board Members, led by NB

20.10.2026	Circulate the Mablethorpe Connect presentation slides to the Board	To Do	SZ/BM
20.10.2026	Circulate the full draft Regeneration Plan to all Board members	To Do	SZ/BM
20.10.2026	Review the draft Plan and provide feedback to Thrive at drop-in sessions	To Do	Board Members
20.10.2026	Coordinate a drop-in session for members to provide feedback to Thrive	To Do	SZ/BM
20.10.2026	Provide community engagement quotations to Thrive	To Do	MG
20.10.2026	Invite businesses to the DWP launch at the Campus for Future Living event	To Do	CW
20.10.2026	Circulate the health and wellbeing meeting longlist of ideas for review and inclusion in the Plan	To Do	NB
20.10.2026	Clarify the HAF project's status and funding arrangement.	To Do	NB
20.10.2026	Circulate the October Monitoring Return to the Board.	To Do	SZ/BM
20.10.2026	Explore accessibility opportunities, including potential walks with Heritage Lincs and possible public participation.	To Do	SZ/BM