

MINUTES OF THE SPALDING TOWN BOARD MEETING

HELD ON MONDAY 8 JULY AT 17:00 – 19:00

AT BOSTON COLLEGE CAMPUS, RED LION QUARTER, SPALDING

Present:

Robin Hancox (Chair) - Lincolnshire Field Products, Lydia Rusling - S&ELCP, Charlotte Goy - Destination Lincolnshire, Ivan Annibal - Rose Regeneration, Lizzi van Egmond - Business Representative, Councillor Nick Worth - SHDC, John Mullen - SHDC, , Michelle Gant - The Engaging People Company, - John Bland - Spalding Civic Society, Petronella Keeling - Spalding Gentlemen's Society, Simon Wright - LCC, Dustin Wood - Spalding Gentlemen's Society, Stewart Elderkin - Pedals, David Jones - Pedals, Catherine Duce - Spalding Business Board, Michael Morris - Tonic Health, Councillor Gary Taylor -SHDC, Matthew Hogan - SHDC, Luisa Stanney - S&ELCP & Emily Watson - Work Experience Student at SHDC

Apologies for Absence:

Marc Jones - Lincolnshire Police & Crime Commissioner, Joanne Davison - Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner, Inspector Matt Dickinson - Lincolnshire Police, Jon Burgess - ELDC, David Ball - Bridge Farm, Claire Foster - Boston College, Sir John Hayes - MP, Craig Delaney - Spalding Business Board, Alistair Main - Lighthouse Church and Emma Tatlow - Active Lincolnshire

1 Welcome

RH welcomed Emily Watson to the meeting who was undertaking work experience at SHDC.

2 Declarations of Interest

RH reminded members to complete their DoI - there were currently 10 outstanding.

3 To agree the Minutes of the Meeting held on 17 June 2024

The minutes were agreed as a true record - proposed by NW, seconded by DJ.

4 Long Term Plan for Spalding

The draft Long Term Plan for Spalding was circulated to the Board. RH explained that due to the extensive scope of the report, IA would provide a summary of the key points of the Plan and the consultation results.

Prior to that update, RH referred to the last Board meeting where members had expressed concern that not everyone had received the questionnaires in the post. RH and JB had contacted the company concerned (Whistle) to outline the dissatisfaction with the service received and agreed a 30% discount from the original quote. In view of the timescales, the questionnaires would not be resent

as there was not enough time to assimilate the information in time for the deadline. However 507 responses had been received and RH hoped that this would now close the matter.

IA took the Board through the draft Plan and it was noted that:-

- Government had not shared the submission paperwork required due to the General Election. Once the submission was made IA would draft a 6-8 page executive summary of the Plan to share with those people and organisations who had been consulted.
- The map of Spalding had been refined from the original so that it represented the growth areas.
- The vision would consist of 200 words and be finalised following on from the meeting.
- The consultation highlighted that residents wanted Spalding to be safer place and the priority areas for investment were the town centre, the riverside and waterfront area and the market place.
- The Plan included references to other funding such as Levelling Up and focused on a high level set of thematic interventions, supported by an initial three year investment plan. It had been suggested that post year 3 a special purchase vehicle could be utilised.
- Long term the Board would continue to inform residents of key milestones.
- The Plan included a high level allocations table which unpacked the allocation of funding to each relevant theme from the public consultation and took into account other strategies in play at the current time.
- Whilst, at this stage, funding has not been committed to projects, there was a first draft indicative allocation to certain projects that fitted into the 3 themes. These included the Johnson Memorial Hospital and the Spalding Gentlemen's Society Museum.
- The Plan should be signed off by Government around December 2024 after which the Delivery Team would be in place who would work up the outline business cases. DLUCH would then review progress and sign off the business cases by June 2025.

RH thanked IA for the update and his work on the Long Term Plan and asked Board members for their comments.

It was highlighted that:-

- Some of the social trust data used in the Plan had been provided by Government. LR explained the role of social media in building social trust. Some of the projects would address these challenges by leveraging culture and heritage. A proportion of funding could be allocated for marketing aimed at shifting perceptions of the area and enhancing social trust. This would not only target visitors, but also work to build a sense of pride in place amongst the residents.
- Following on from the General Election, Angela Raynor was now Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government. RH had written to her on behalf of the Board to highlight Spalding and the relevance of the funding to the area.

Board members had a discussion on the projects included in the Plan and suggestions were made specifically around:-

- Extension of Pinchbeck to Spalding Cycleway (LCC has reserved £1.8m for the project). The cycleway starts at Knight Street, Pinchbeck and ends at Forge Close, Spalding. Discussions focussed on a possible extension of the proposed cycleway at Forge Close, along King's Road to connect with the existing cycleway at the Sainsbury's roundabout to the railway station.

There was also a discussion about extending the cycleway at Forge Close, further along Pinchbeck Road to the junction with New Road and Westlode Street.

- CCTV project (£747k) - Spalding already had very high quality CCTV, so unless it was going to be enhanced to include any blind spots, the allocation could go towards hotspot policing.
- Sir Halley Stewart Playing Field was home to Spalding United. The owners of the Club had just entered into a 25 year lease and were putting in capital investment - therefore there could be an opportunity to match fund and provide a football stadium similar to Boston United.
- Volunteering was a vital component, however nearly £900k had been allocated over 10 years for volunteering groups and further discussion was required.
- There should be an emphasis on encouraging employment in the town centre to increase the footfall and economic prosperity and to increase the night time economy.
- Better accommodation was required in the town centre which would encourage further footfall.
- The developments associated with Spalding Gentlemen's Society would make a difference to the town.
- CG would share the results of Destination Lincolnshire's visitor research with IA.

Alistair Main had been unable to attend the meeting and had sent an email with his comments on the Long Term Plan. LR read out AM's emails, the comments of which were noted by IA.

It was observed that the consultation carried out for the LTPFT did not adequately reflect the diverse population of Spalding. RH employed a large number of staff from other countries and would be happy to encourage them to engage in the process. IA agreed that there was still enough time to do this. The Board also recognised the need to enhance diversity within its membership and steps would be taken to review this.

RH thanked the Board for their input into the Plan which had to be submitted by 1 August. The Government Portal to submit the Plan was not yet available. IA would update the Plan to reflect the comments following on from the meeting. RH agreed that no additional Board meeting would be held prior to submission and expressed his confidence in the Team's ability to make the necessary amendments. The Board agreed with this approach.

5 Verbal Update on the BID

MH reported that Spalding was set to have a Business Improvement District (BID) after 50.4% of local businesses voted in its favour. This was an important development for Spalding. The aims of the new BID aligned with those of the Town Board, with everyone collectively committed to the long-term success of Spalding.

With the Long Term Plan for Towns funding and the new BID, Spalding had a huge opportunity to bring improvements to the town, helping it to thrive. The Long Term Plan would complement the BID's plan, ensuring that everyone was delivering for Spalding with a common purpose.

6 Any Other Business

Road Improvements - GT reported that LCC would be installing a new crossing from London Road to Ascoughfee Hall once the necessary processes and approval had been completed.

Board Meetings - RH had received correspondence from Inspector Matt Dickinson in relation to the timings of Board meetings. The Board agreed that there had been good attendance so far on Monday

evenings. However the next Board meeting would not be held until September or once feedback on the Plan had been received from DLUCH.

Communications - MG reported that work was continuing on the Love Spalding website. A social media update would follow on from the meeting and the consultation findings would also be shared. MG/LS would be contacting members for their bios and photographs to be uploaded on to the website.