



Minutes of the Spalding Town Board Meeting held on Monday 18 August 2025 at 5pm at South Holland District Council & via Teams

Present: Robin Hancox (Chair), Jacqui Bunce - NHS, Councillor Nick Worth, Jo Davison - Lincs Police Crime Commissioner's Office, Sir John Hayes, MP, Councillor Gary Taylor, Stewart Elderkin - Pedals, Simon Wright - LCC, Councillor Rob Gibson, Dr Batul Dungarwalla - Lincs CVS and Petronella Keeling - Spalding Gentlemen's Club

Officer Team: Pranali Parikh, Matthew Hogan, Michael Dow, John Mullen and Luisa Stanney

Consultants: Jonathan de Mello - JDM Consulting, Heather Frecklington and George Jones - Focus Consultants, Adam Parker, Iljana Eggert, and Theirry Allano - Greig & Stevenson

1 Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed all attendees to the meeting and introduced Jonathan de Mello from JDM Consulting, Adam Parker, Thierry Alano and Iljana Eggert from Greig & Stevenson Architects and Heather Frecklington and George Jones from Focus Consultants. The Chair reiterated the Board's dual role in contributing professional expertise and overseeing the delivery of the Plan for Neighbourhoods.

2 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Alastair Main, Sarah Fletcher, Lizzi van Egmond, Michelle Gant, Claire Foster, Marc Jones, David Ball and Emma Tatlow.

3 Declarations of Interest

No new declarations of interest were made.

4 Minutes of the Spalding Town Board meeting held on 21 July 2025

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 July 2025 were approved as a true and accurate record.

5 Retail and Leisure Study

Matthew Hogan introduced the Retail and Leisure Study, which had been commissioned to assess the health and performance of Spalding's town centre. Jonathan De Mello presented the findings and highlighted a significant increase in vacancy rates, rising from 1.9% in 2019 to 14% in 2025, along with the loss of key comparison goods retailers. Although the grocery sector remained strong, the leisure offer was underdeveloped. Spalding captured only 18% of its catchment spend, with substantial leakage to Springfields and Stamford.

The recommendation was to focus on independent-led aspirational retail and leisure anchors such as a cinema, which would complement rather than compete with Springfields. Board members expressed strong support for these recommendations and emphasised the importance of improved footfall analysis, enhancements to the public realm and greater engagement with landlords. Examples from Gainsborough were cited as successful models worth exploring.

It was also agreed that an incentive or grant package should be considered to support retail in the town centre and address empty properties.

6 Masterplan Update - Grieg & Stevenson

Adam Parker and Iljana Eggert presented early-stage analysis of town centre opportunities as part of the Plan for Neighbourhoods. Their work focused on public realm improvements, pedestrian connectivity, market infrastructure and activation of vacant buildings for food incubators and cultural use. They emphasised the importance of gateway signage, wayfinding and riverfront activation. The consultants noted the need to manage expectations regarding funding limitations and stressed that the vision would be broader than the immediate deliverables. Board members supported the proposals and highlighted the importance of car parking, lighting and evening economy. Suggestions were made to engage with Lincolnshire County Council on pedestrian crossings and to liaise with police and SHDC on safety and CCTV initiatives.

Workshops would be arranged with strategic partners to discuss the specific themes of the PfN funding and Board members would also be invited.

7 Plan for Neighbourhoods Update

Michael Dow provided an update on the Plan for Neighbourhoods, including results from the ZenCity survey conducted between April and May 2025. The survey revealed that antisocial behaviour and dissatisfaction with retail services were top concerns. Phase 2 of the consultation would be more inclusive. The submission deadline for the plan was 28 November 2025, with a special Cabinet session at SHDC

scheduled before 24 November. Board members were encouraged to participate in upcoming workshops and engagement activities to help shape the plan.

MD also referred to Michelle Gant's report which outlined the general direction of travel and the results from recent social media communications.

8 Spalding Hotspot Policing Pilot

Jo Davison presented the outcomes of the hotspot policing pilot, which delivered 487 patrol hours, 11 arrests and 57 ASB powers used. Survey results showed a 9% improvement in feelings of safety and an 11% reduction in ASB, compared to a 9% increase county-wide. The Board unanimously approved the extension of the pilot using the remaining £40,000 funding. Members emphasised the importance of maintaining momentum, monitoring displacement and continuing collaboration with SHDC enforcement and Kingdom Services. The initiative was recognised as a valuable contribution to public safety and town centre vitality.

9 Any Other Business

No additional items were raised.