Spalding Neighbourhood Board
Minutes of Meeting
Held on Monday 15 June 2026 at 5pm
Boston College Campus, Red Lion Quarter, Spalding/via Teams

Present - Robin Hancox - Chair, Cllr Nick Worth - Leader of SHDC, Alistair Main - Lighthouse Church, Dr Batul Dungarwalla - CVS Lincolnshire, Petronella Keeling - Spalding Gentlemen's Society, Lynette Leith, OBE - Principal & Chief Executive, Boston College, Emma Tatlow - Active Lincolnshire, Jacqui Bunce – NHS, Cllr Gary Taylor, Sarah Fletcher – BID, Michael O'Connor – Active Lincolnshire, Chief Inspector Matt Dickinson – Lincolnshire Police, Alexis Bradshaw – Spalding High School, Simon Stone – Springfields Shopping Outlet and Cllr Rob Gibson.

Also in Attendance – Simon Wright – Lincolnshire County Council

Officer Team - Maria Cotton, Jon Burgess, Michelle Gant, Luisa Stanney and Amber Lawson.

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1. Chair's Welcome

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed all members and officers, including those joining remotely. The Chair expressed appreciation to Boston College for hosting.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from David Ball, Stewart Elderkin, Inspector Paul Smith Reverend Robert Parker-McGee and Sir John Hayes - MP.

3. Declarations of Interest

Members were invited to declare any interests. It was agreed that any declarations relating to specific agenda items would be managed as they arose during the meeting.

4. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2026 were reviewed and agreed as a true and accurate record.

5. Pride in Place Programme Update

The Board received an update on progress across the Pride in Place Programme. It was noted that the programme is now transitioning from project selection into the delivery phase, and that continued oversight would be essential to ensure successful implementation. Officers highlighted that the capital and revenue funding available for years 1 and 2 have been fully allocated.

Members queried whether interest made on funds received from government would be available for the board to allocate to projects. Cllr Nick Worth agreed to get an explanation and the official stance on this for the next meeting.

Members emphasised the importance of maintaining visibility of progress across all approved projects and ensuring that delivery updates are shared regularly between meetings. The need for clear monitoring arrangements, measurable outputs and effective communication to demonstrate early impact was highlighted. The Board also reinforced the importance of transparency and accountability as funding begins to translate into activity on the ground.

An update on the Community Safety Officers, Shop Front Improvements and Upper Storey Repurposing projects will be provided at the July meeting.

6. Revised Business Case – People Make Spalding

The Board considered the revised business case for the "People Make Spalding" project, submitted by CVS Lincolnshire. This proposal had previously been deferred and was now presented at a reduced funding level with a strengthened focus on community engagement, volunteering and supporting harder-to-reach groups.

The Board held a detailed discussion on the intended outcomes of the project, including its role in increasing volunteering opportunities, supporting social connection within communities and contributing to wider regeneration aims. Members explored how the project would deliver measurable benefits, particularly in relation to volunteer recruitment, retention and progression into employment or skills development.

A key focus of the discussion was the need for robust monitoring and evaluation. Members sought assurance that outcomes could be clearly attributed to the Board's investment and that performance could be effectively tracked through appropriate indicators and reporting processes. The importance of demonstrating value for money and social return on investment was also emphasised.

In addition, Members highlighted the need for the project to deliver a legacy, particularly through building local capacity and supporting the development of community leaders who could continue activity beyond the life of the funding.

Following discussion, the Board approved the revised proposal at a reduced allocation of £75,000, subject to appropriate monitoring and reporting arrangements and continued review of delivery and impact.

7. Frequency of Meetings

The Board considered proposals regarding future meeting frequency and forward planning. It was agreed that, as the programme transitions from project selection into delivery, meetings could move from a monthly to an approximately eight-week cycle after the July meeting.

It was emphasised that, despite reduced formal meeting frequency, members should be kept regularly updated on projects as they progress through email updates to ensure continued oversight and transparency. The proposal was supported by the Board.

8. Capacity Fund Update

An update was provided on the Board's capacity funding. Members were advised that an uncommitted balance of approximately £70,000 remained from previous allocations, alongside an additional £150,000 received for the current financial year.

Members discussed the purpose of the Capacity Fund, including its use to support feasibility work, pilot initiatives, specialist advice and broader project delivery support. The Board acknowledged the importance of actively utilising the funding to enable delivery and maximise impact.

A discussion took place regarding a proposed shopfront display initiative aimed at activating vacant retail units and providing public information. It was agreed that this proposal should be explored further alongside the wider shopfront improvement scheme to ensure alignment and avoid duplication.

The Board agreed that no immediate allocation decision was required but requested that regular updates on the Capacity Fund continue to be provided to support future decision-making.

9. Communications Update

A verbal communications update was provided. Members were informed that preparations were underway for press releases announcing the first tranche of funded projects, alongside the development of a communications toolkit for project partners.

Plans were outlined to coordinate messaging, showcase delivery on the ground and generate positive media coverage. Continued press interest in the programme was noted, particularly in relation to town centre safety initiatives.

The Board emphasised the importance of timely and visible communications to demonstrate progress and maintain public confidence, particularly given the previous announcement of funding. The Chair requested that draft communications be shared promptly for approval.

10. Any Other Business

Members were advised that the outcome of the Town of Culture application had been delayed and was now expected at the end of July.

The Chair also shared an update regarding the commencement of works to improve transport infrastructure between Spalding and Pinchbeck. The scheme is expected to take up to six months. Members welcomed the investment but acknowledged potential short-term disruption.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Monday 20 July 2026 - Boston College Campus, Red Lion Quarter, Spalding.