

Lowestoft Place Board – Agenda

15th September 2020, 13:00-15:00 | Virtual



Attendees (Board)	Apologies (Board)
Stephen Javes – Chair Jennifer Cushion – Suffolk Chamber of Commerce Cllr Ben Falat – Parish Councils representative Cllr Craig Rivett – East Suffolk Council Danny Steel – Lowestoft Vision Genevieve Christie – FlipSide Hayley Mace – New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership Karen Barclay – BiTC Cllr Keith Patience – Lowestoft Town Council David Carlin – CEFAS Paul Ager – Associated British Ports Peter Aldous – MP for Waveney Phil Aves – Lowestoft Rising Stuart Rimmer – East Coast College Cllr Paul Ashdown - Lowestoft Community Forum	Cllr Nick Gowrley – Suffolk County Council Steve Hodger – Scottish Power Renewables Julia Nix – Department of Work and Pensions Keith Moore – Environment Agency Emma Butler-Smith – Marina Theatre
Attendees (Officers/Speakers)	Apologies (Officers)
Darren Newman – East Suffolk Council Karen Staples – East Suffolk Council Benjamin Porter – East Suffolk Council Emma Bloom – East Suffolk Council Nicole Rickard – East Suffolk Council Bryn Griffiths – Suffolk County Council Mark Ash – Suffolk County Council Jason Benham – BiTC Graeme Mateer – Suffolk County Council Mark Ash – Suffolk County Council Adam Walther – MHCLG Karen Thomas – East Suffolk Council Andrew Jarvis – East Suffolk Council	Paul Wood – East Suffolk Council Philip Ridley – East Suffolk Council Kerry Blair – East Suffolk Council Stephanie Beggs - Cities & Local Growth Unit Phil Harris – East Suffolk Council Shona Bendix – Lowestoft Town Council Marie Webster-Fitch – East Suffolk Council

	Description	Lead
1	Welcome and approval previous meeting minutes Board unanimously approved the previous minutes.	Stephen Javes
2	Conflicts of interest The Chair noted that throughout the meeting there may be items where there could be a conflict of interest from members. Due to the meeting being held virtually, the Chair asked that if there were such conflicts, if the members could please refrain from commenting.	Stephen Javes
3	Actions from previous meeting Darren Newman to circulate draft Town Investment Plan to Board – completed.	Stephen Javes
4	Appointment of Vice Chair At the previous meeting, the Chair asked the Board to send nominations for Vice Chair to him via email. The were asked if they would be supportive in the nomination of Julia Nix, who is the East Anglia District Manager for the Department for Work and Pensions as Vice Chair, which was unanimously approved by the Board.	Stephen Javes
5	COVID-19 response The Covid response hub has now closed at Riverside as demand had dropped. However the team are ready to reopen if there is another local or national lockdown and are working with the food bank to ensure they are also prepared. In the first week of September there were 200 requests for food parcels – if this continues to mount this will put pressure on the service. We believe that	Phil Aves

	<p>the increase in demand could be a combination of children returning to school and the end of voucher scheme. The team are now looking at creating community pantries and fridges.</p> <p>The homelessness situation had eased at one point, but we recently experienced a period where there were more people appearing. The town is now clearing of rough sleepers but we are seeing more people pitching tents around the town as they are kicked out of accommodation – which has largely been a result of anti-social behaviour, and we are struggling to find accommodation that is suitable because of these incidents. Lowestoft Rising are keen to find a solution.</p> <p>Nicole Rickard noted the Board should be aware that if there is a second lockdown or people are put back into shielding, there would be no national food parcel incentives, and that SCC and ESC would be responsible for meeting food needs.</p> <p>Karen Staples reported that to date, a total of 5518 grants have been paid out to East Suffolk businesses. The last of the Covid discretionary grants have been awarded today, and national grants have now closed.</p> <p>There were concerns that the Youth employment services were being neglected, however Stuart Rimmer was pleased to report that the needs are now being met by Inspire Suffolk who have established a digital service.</p> <p>Action: Phil Aves to monitor homelessness situation and report back at next Board.</p>	
6	<p>Update on Third River Crossing from Suffolk County Council</p> <p>In August, Suffolk County Council (SCC) announced that the Third Crossing will officially be named Gull Wing following a naming competition with local schools. SCC recognise the importance the bridge will have for the town.</p> <p>In 2015, then Prime Minister David Cameron promised Lowestoft a third crossing, following many years of lobbying. A recently discovered newspaper article records the need for a third crossing 125 years ago.</p> <p>On 30th April, SCC received the Secretary of State's planning permission. On 25th August, SCC Cabinet gave approval to proceed. Now, SCC are appointing the construction contractor, and recruiting a new Project Director, and the Final Business Case has been submitted to the Department for Transport.</p> <p>SCC have faced a number of unforeseen challenges including project complexity, design and land cost pressures, General Election delay, Secretary of State delay & COVID-19.</p> <p>The project has experienced upward budget pressures and an initial construction price so the decision was made to return to the market to secure best value.</p> <p>The current estimate cost of delivering the bridge is £126.75m. In addition Cabinet agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £11.47m for the known risks that the Council will be holding • An additional £7.60m to hold as a contingency • A total financial commitment of £145.83m <p>Benefits of the new crossing (Gull Wing), outlined in the business case include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open up opportunities for regeneration and development in Lowestoft • Provide the capacity needed to accommodate planned growth • Reduce community severance between north and south Lowestoft • Reduce congestion and delay on the existing bridges over Lake Lothing - Modelling carried out for the development consent application predicts a reduction of openings of 30-50% compared to the existing bridge. 	Bryn Griffiths

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce congestion in the town centre and improve accessibility - Traffic modelling carried out for the development consent application predicts that the provision of the new crossing will reduce traffic on the existing crossing by a predicted 50%. • Encourage more people to walk and cycle, and reduce conflict between cycles, pedestrians and other traffic • Improve bus journey times and reliability • To reduce accidents <p>Social Value:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of a minimum of 10 formal apprenticeship positions working on the construction project. • A requirement that 8 of the 10 apprenticeship posts will be for people from Suffolk and Norfolk. • Work placements for people from local schools, colleges and in further education. • Work placements for individuals not in education. • Work opportunities for local people who are economically or socially disadvantaged. • A programme of school engagement. • Maximised opportunities for local companies within a 70-mile radius to contribute to the works. • Two local supply chain events to engage with local companies and promote opportunities for working on the project. <p>The Future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch event to be held • Mark Ash sits on the Place Board and will provide the link between the construction period and the Board. SCC hope to continue the conversation to ensure that the social value opportunities are seized. • SCC acknowledge that the crossing is central to the Lowestoft Town Centre Masterplan • SCC also report to the Key Stakeholder Group – led by Peter Aldous MP 	
7	<p>Update on inclusive growth – East Coast College</p> <p>At the beginning of the month East Coast College (ECC) reopened and students returned to college. Despite initial fears of Covid affecting intake, the recruitment has been successful. ECC were also expecting large volumes of NEET students to drop off, but they have also returned. ECC currently have 729 16-18 sixth form students, 2043 16-18 Further Education, and 151 Higher Education (University of Suffolk) degree new starts. ECC are now offering new HND and HNC offers in ICT, and engineering courses.</p> <p>Apprenticeship recruitment has been slow, but in line with pre-covid plan - Government incentives have aided new recruits. 10 apprentices (from 748) were made redundant, 80% have been re-employed and 20% new careers. ECC have been working with Doosan Babcock for Skills Pipeline of Apprenticeships at Hinkley C so that they will be in a good recruitment position for when Sizewell C project starts. Stuart highlighted the growing need for work placement to supporting learning and asked if members of the Place Board could support with work placements in the future.</p> <p>ECC have been expanding their Adult Skills offer. It is now a newly approved centre for ELCAS (armed forces) for retraining outreach programme, and the Offshore Wind Centre has been remodelled to support wider skills for adults new to Engineering Sector prior to Wind courses. Looking post Brexit, ECC are working with REAF to support fishing skills.</p> <p>Forthcoming opportunities for ECC include looking at the European Social Fund Youth Pledge and how to engage Norfolk and Suffolk youth, engaging local companies to ensure they are supply chain ready for Sizewell, creating the Women in Construction project with Morgan Sindell, and delivering more STEM infused projects.</p> <p>The college have been struggling to secure Covid testing for staff and students.</p>	Stuart Rimmer

	<p>Lowestoft Rising couldn't secure funding for the primary school support resource however it is still in place for High Schools and Colleges funded by the CIC.</p> <p>Action: Place board members to contact Stuart to discuss work placement opportunities Action: Peter Aldous noted the lack of available Covid testing and offered to take this up with Government.</p>	
8	<p>Marine Science campus concept – Cefas Cefas hope to complete the existing construction work with Morgan Sindall in November.</p> <p>Cefas have been working with colleagues at ESC, ECC, UEA, University of Suffolk, and University of Portsmouth to develop Lowestoft into a University town with a specialised Marine Science Campus.</p> <p>The concept includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generating new income streams and opportunities for Lowestoft • Further build the local economy through a student population and strengthen the evening economy. • Retail local talent, and attract academics and scientists from outside Lowestoft • develop a dedicated, networked academic marine science campus for and across Lowestoft, bringing students from the further education sector into the town to learn and develop their expertise in Marine science. • Support Lowestoft's existing marine science and growing offshore energy industry. • Build on Lowestoft's maritime heritage and existing assets. • Build an end to end education network with regional and national impact. • Provide a unique offer in collaboration between Universities, Government (Cefas), Higher Education and industry <p>The concept provides unique opportunities including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist recovery from Covid • Developing academic, industry and government partnerships such as EDF • Fill a clear gap for the majority of the North Sea Coast and become a national / international centre of excellence for sustainable management of the Marine environment • Develop enhanced, home grown expertise as UK becomes an independent coastal state • Play a nationally leading role in delivering a Green (Blue) recovery • Create significant connectivity with existing research, innovation and regional investment <p>Benefits of students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accommodation, living costs, entertainment spend – all local. The average student monthly spend in East Anglia is £300+ • Links to ongoing cultural development – e.g. First Light • Additive effect to seasonal tourist economy • Academic sector adds around £74bn to UK economy annually • Opportunity to leverage additional income through upskilling and retraining existing workforce and focussing centre of excellence approach linking research with industry • Leverage for future infrastructure investment <p>Networked campus - There is very limited Marine Science capability at present, and no consolidated Marine Science capability in the UK. The UK seeks to become a world leader in Marine Science, and we have an opportunity to put Lowestoft on the map, taking advantage of Cefas having headquarters here.</p>	David Carlin

We need experts in the marine sciences and biomodelling sector and this is an opportunity for Lowestoft and Cefas to grow their own. Huge potential to attract research investment, and a student base.

The creation of the campus would require high skilled labour to support Cefas and the energy sector and new academic and support staff. In addition there are a number of future income and investment opportunities including incubator hubs. The campus' business model would be self supporting through student fees and the establishment of Lowestoft as the UK and international hub of marine science expertise.

There are a number of partnership opportunities. Firstly, establishing the key academic partner is essential. The two obvious regionally based choices are:

- University of East Anglia – well established reputation and focus on Environmental Sciences
- University of Suffolk – local presence via East Coast College, University for the county
- In addition, Plymouth University brings a wealth of technical specialism

Existing partners include Cefas and East Suffolk Council. However, establishing wider, supportive partners is important. Potential partners could include:

- Hethel Engineering; BT Research and Development, Martlesham / Adastral Park; Norwich Research Park
- Renewable Energy companies
- EDF Energy

Progress to date includes:

- Positive initial conversations with potential academic partners
- Initial conversations with outgoing Chair of NALEP
- Initial conversations with East Suffolk Council and Town Centre Masterplan team
- Stakeholder meeting with UoS, UEA, Plymouth, ECC, ESC, Suffolk CC, Cefas

Next steps:

- To gauge the interest, support and guidance of the Place Board
- Consider potential locations
- Establish a working group for business plan development
- To develop and support collaborative approaches to make progress with the concept
- Build strong and sustainable momentum to deliver the a strong business plan and leverage investment

Comments:

Karen Thomas: Coastal partnership East would be very keen to support this proposal as we also want to support upskilling of future coastal managers in terms of coastal protection and management - we are a national exemplar of coastal management working across 3 councils and are doing a lot of innovative work on green blue economy, data and monitoring and links to offshore/onshore planning.

Cllr Ben Falat: A potential partnership could lie with the Broads Authority which could value-add to any water-based and environmental emphases.

Stuart Rimmer: There is an ongoing option to connect to potential Institutes of Technology which is coming soon

Hayley Mace: New Anglia LEP are fully supportive - it would be a great asset for Lowestoft, academically, as a promotional tool and for the local community and aspirations.

Peter Aldous MP: Has spoken to an offshore development operator and asked what Lowestoft needs to be doing to attract more investment here. The operator was complimentary of the

	<p>skills, location etc. however there is a concern over the volume of skilled workers available. This would strengthen that offer.</p> <p>Stuart Rimmer: Noted that Peter's comment was well made but we would need to think about growing local skills - creating plans such as these will help net import skills too at higher levels.</p>	
9	<p>Update on the placemaking/ ambassador programme</p> <p>From place making perspective, ESC and Thinkingplace are continuing to work on the branding. A portfolio of Lowestoft photos have been captured which can be used and shared to promote the town. Materials are now being signed off and then will advise how they can be used to promote place.</p> <p>First Ambassador group was held on the 23rd July with 71 attendees. Karen has been working with Jason Benham and Phil Aves to act as key points of contact for stakeholders and voices for Lowestoft.</p>	Karen Staples/ Jason Benham
10	<p>Draft investment plan</p> <p>The draft Town Investment Plan (TIP) has now been circulated to the board and the team are now asking for feedback on the content. We have a strict 10,000 word limit, but we need to ensure that we haven't overlooked anything. Further comments to be sent to team by end of play Friday.</p> <p>The TIP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needs to tell the story of the town • Highlight the issues and how we plan to address these • Showcase how the community has been involved • Highlight the outputs and outcomes – why are we doing it? Return for government <p>The structure will be made up of context analysis, strategy, engagement and delivery.</p> <p>Darren Newman proceeded to talk through each stage of the TIP structure including how the Board selected local objectives, how it links into the wider local plan and the green growth agenda, and an explanation of how we have prioritised projects. We need to make it clear to someone who doesn't know the town how we came to those conclusions and how the benefit of one project unlocks another project.</p> <p>Following the feedback from David's (Cefas) presentation, we intend to provide more detail Marine Science campus within the document.</p> <p>With regards to the My Town feedback, we received 100 project suggestions from the community along with an additional 50 comments on projects. The social media campaign had also reached over 8,000 members of the community.</p> <p>Next steps:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design concepts to begin - 10th September • Feedback from Place Board members – 18th September • Feedback from Critical Friend – 18th September • Update and layout - 18th September to 25th September • Town hub check and challenge – 29th September • Updated draft sent to Place Board members, 2nd October • Place board to sign of 12th October • Submit 16th October <p>Action: Board to provide feedback to DN and SJ on the investment plan by the 18th September</p>	Darren Newman/ Karen Staples
11	<p>Towns Fund projects</p> <p>Darren proceeded to discuss the projects that have been agreed by the Board and what is deliverable. Following the presentation we will seek the Boards endorsement for us to submit these projects to government. Darren proceeded to provide an overview of the projects and project areas and some visualisations.</p>	Darren Newman/ Karen Staples

	<p>Stuart: Will feedback offline to Darren. Skills development was a key social value objective as they can implicitly be considered against all projects but in the bid document its largely been lost and needs explicitly signalling as a commitment or it could be a series of building projects.</p> <p>In response to Stuart, Karen Staples noted that it is a capital fund but the skills project is in the TIP and it needs to be considered as does the revenue aspects of all of the projects.</p> <p>The team asked for the Board to support the projects proposed. The Board fully endorsed the approach taken for the prioritised projects which would form the £35m ask of Government.</p>	
12	<p>AOB</p> <p>Hayley Mace noted that the NALEP START business recovery festival takes place on 29th and 30th September and is free for any business to watch. Sign up is available https://newanglia.co.uk/restart-festival/</p> <p>Next place board will take place on Tuesday 13th October 10am.</p> <p>The Chair closed the meeting.</p>	Stephen Javes