

The Brayford Trust Business

Plan 2019/20 to 2023/24

Consultation Responses

Appendix 2

1 Consultation

Founder Members

The Founder Members have been consulted via their nominated Directors at every stage of the development of the Business Plan. The following four organisations are active 'Founder Members' of the Trust:

City of Lincoln Council: Appoints two Trustees/Directors to the Trust. By custom and practice the appointees are **elected members of the council** and one is the **Leader of the Council**, who chairs the Trust. Current appointees are Cllr Richard Metcalfe and Cllr Gary Hewson. The presence of elected members on the Board of the Trust, receiving all papers and attending all meetings (indeed Chairing the Trust) clearly makes a **major contribution to the Trust's overall accountability to the public** for its stewardship of the Pool.

University of Lincoln: Appoints two Trustees/Directors. The university is a major driver of the local economy and has its main campus on the south bank of the Brayford Pool. The current appointees are Mr John Latham and Mr Julian Free, both senior employees of the university.

Investors in Lincoln: A public/private partnership operating on a 'not for profit' basis across Greater Lincoln and originally **set up by the City of Lincoln Council**. Investors has a broad membership, including both City and County Councils; Lincoln Cathedral; Chamber of Commerce; Longhurst Group; Lindum Group and a number of other private companies (see www.investorsinlincoln.co.uk for a full list of members). Current appointees to the Trust are Mr Keith Darwin and Mr Simon Jackson.

Lincoln Business Improvement Group: Appoints one Trustee/Director. Lincoln BIG has a total of 800 levy payers across the city including all the businesses surrounding the Brayford Pool. Lincoln BIG is represented on the Trust by its Chief Executive, Sarah Loftus.

Ordinary Members: Two Trustees/Directors are appointed by the Ordinary Members of the Trust. These are currently Mr Ric Costall and Mr Derek Wellman. Ric has substantial experience in running the Burton Waters Marina and Derek brings to the Board his background as a local solicitor (now retired) and his experience of boating...Derek has a boat moored on the Pool.

2 Public Consultation

At the request of the City Council the Brayford Trust also conducted a broader consultation on the Business Plan with the general public, with the **Chief Executive of the City Council proposing the use of the council's 'Your Lincoln' publication as the main vehicle for the consultation.** 'Your Lincoln' is delivered free of charge to all residential addresses in Lincoln (45,000 copies).

An article was drafted for inclusion in the November addition of 'Your Lincoln' setting out the general thrust of the Business Plan and seeking comments/contributions via mail or email. The article was limited to 400 or so words but **included an electronic link to the full Business Plan** which was (and still is) placed in the public domain on the Trust's page on the Lincoln BIG website.

The Council drew attention to the 'Your Lincoln' publication (and via that the Brayford Trust Business Plan) on the City Council website and via its Social Media accounts. In addition, the Trust did likewise to all boaters on the Pool, plus the Lincoln Boat Club, Canoe Club and Sea Cadets...all by email.

3 Response to the Public Consultation.

The response was limited but given that the Business Plan is primarily **one of consolidation** and contains **no controversial proposals** this is not surprising. Informal 'Straw Polls' suggest that, apart from the absence of large numbers of swans (for which neither the Trust nor the Council has direct responsibility) both visitors and locals are **very complimentary about the condition of the Pool** and its surroundings, seeing it as a major 'Jewel in Lincoln's Crown' and welcoming the many and varied activities in, on and around the Pool.

The Brayford Watch group (a self-appointed group based at Burton Waters describing itself as a 'critical friend' of the council and the Trust) repeated its criticism of the Council; the Brayford Trust; the University; the Business Plan; and the consultation process, but came up with nothing of any real consequence that had not already been considered by the Trust, or was not already included in the Business Plan.

A couple of respondents complained about positive press comments concerning the presence of **Otters in the Pool**, not seeing them as indicating improving water quality (which is arguably the case) but as '**dangerous apex predators**' that decimate fish populations and will also kill young swans and other wildfowl. Otters are protected species under the UK Wildlife & Countryside Acts.

On a more positive note there was a suggestion to place a turbine in the water at the mouth of the River Witham in order to **generate electricity for a water feature** (based on a Saddleworth Moor project). I did explore this idea, but it was not feasible as the water flow is too low and there is no discernable drop in water levels between the Pool and the Witham, a requirement for such a device to work.

Another suggestion was to knock down all buildings around the Pool and remove all the moorings, to leave the Pool to the swans.

David Rossington: Company Secretary: February 2020