

Lincoln Town Board 8th September 2023 : Item 5

Lincoln Town Deal Programme Progress at August 2023

1.0 The following four Projects are now complete at a total estimated cost of £11.9M, of which £8.2M is Town Fund supported;

- Hospitality, Events, Arts and Tourism (HEAT) Institute – The creation of a new ‘working restaurant’ facility at the Old Bakery, Burton Road and refurbished facilities at Sessions House at the Lincoln college campus are now complete and being used for student training. Monitoring and evaluation reports are being done quarterly.
- The Drill – the refurbishment and rebranding of the Drill Hall as a cultural event venue, bar and café was the first project to be completed and has been open for over two years. The Drill has performed well in terms of increasing ticket sales. The first cohort of Performing Arts students based at the Drill started in September 2023, although, students have been benefitting from the Drill through for end of year performances and work experience since opening. Monitoring and evaluation reports are being done quarterly.
- The Store of Stories – the refurbishment of Beaumont Manor a grade 2 listed building, was completed at the beginning of last year and opened as a membership Community Grocery Store which provides low cost locally supplied waste and surplus food and other essential items, alongside a programme of advice, support and training, volunteering, and work placements opportunities to it’s members. The Acts Trust have recently had a successful application for an independent energy assessment of the building resourced through Groundwork UK’s VCSE Energy Efficiency Scheme, and once complete may enable an application for energy efficiency implementation work under the same scheme. Monitoring and evaluation reports are being done quarterly.
- Lincoln Central market – the refurbishment of Lincoln Central market and City Square is now complete. A market management team is in place and tenant recruitment is well underway. The opening date will be announced on the 8th of March. The project has delivered a new commercial property now occupied by Turtle Bay restaurant. The market has capacity for up to thirty tenants and will operate as a market Wednesday to Sunday. The market will be closed on a Monday and Tuesday enabling the central space to be used by community groups or for business training purposes. Monitoring and evaluation reports will now be done quarterly.

2.0 The following projects, with a total value of £6.2M and town Deal support to the value of £2.5M are now on site and due to be completed within the next twelve months.

- Lincoln City Football Club Community Hub – The creation of a new Community facility that will be managed by Lincoln City Foundation, a registered charity dedicated to creating healthier, happier and inspired communities. the work has now started on site and due to be completed by next summer.
- Barbican – the refurbishment of a grade 2 Listed Building for use as a creative Hub, which will provide floorspace and a platform for the establishment of start-up and fledgling businesses within the creative sector, in an environment where occupiers can access knowledge, skills and markets within a cluster of like-minded businesses. Refurbishment is due to start this Autumn and be completed next summer.

3.0 Two projects now in delivery, with a total value of £4.23M and town Deal support to the value of £2.77M will be progressed over the rest of the program are;

- Lincoln Be Smarter – A Business grant scheme aimed at supporting Businesses to invest in digitalisation that enables growth. The supplier for the new customer Management System is to be appointed imminently and the resulting new website and associate systems will be completed by August this year. An annual event programme is being planned through a newly formed commissioning group, along with work looking at signage within the City. This project will run until the end the Programme (March 2026).
- Lincoln Connected – A Project aimed at improving digital access for visitors to the City. Proposals include the provision of a new website, management and wayfinding system along with an annual programme of art and cultural events that provide unique visitor experiences and make Lincoln a more attractive place to visit. The cultural events will start this year as an addition to the existing Frequency Festival in October and be run each year until the end of the Programme. The new Visit Lincoln website is due to be launched this August.

4.0 Other Projects still in the delivery but not yet at on site stage include;

- Greyfriars – This is the refurbishment and reuse of an internationally important, listed building and scheduled monument dating from the 13th century for use as a heritage attraction with a mix of a digital and

tactile, immersive interpretation scheme, temporary exhibitions, events, conferencing and educational activities. The works have now been tendered and costs are currently being reviewed.

- LSIP – the Creation of a Business café Hub within the Lincoln Science and Innovation Park to facilitate Business networking, clustering and collaboration. While Architects have been appointed and a scheme drafted planning permission has still not yet been submitted and these delays have been highlighted as a risk to delivery and completion as programmed.
- Tentercroft Street – a feasibility study into the development of a Brownfield site to identify investment opportunities and a preferred delivery option. This work will be progressed a part of the City Centre Master planning partner engagement as a key opportunity site and expected for completion by March 2025.
- The Wigford Way – a feasibility study to establish a preferred option for future development as proposed. While the county Council have undertaken some initial options appraisal work further partner engagement will be progressed as part of the City Centre Master planning process with the aim of identifying a preferred option by March 2025.
- Sincil Bank – the provision of a new one way system, new cycle route and environmental improvements within Sincil Bank. A project Board is now in place to oversee delivery and coordinate the road/cycle scheme being progressed by the county Council and the gateways and greening scheme being progressed by the City Council. The TRO consultation is due to be completed by the beginning of March and proposals for the gateways an greening been commissioned.

5.0 Summary

Further details of the projects are provided in part B of the agenda. Progress for all projects will continue to be monitored on a quarterly basis.

6.0 Recommendation

That progress be noted.