



Item 7: Towns Deal Programme Progress Update

Programme / Progress Status and Risk as of 1 October 2024

1. Completed Projects

1.1 The delivery phase is complete across 5 original Business case approved projects, the Drill, HEAT, Store of Stories, Lincoln Central Market and LCFC Community skills and Education Hub. Completion of these projects represents a total level of investment of £15M into the City of which £9.113M is direct Town Fund Grant.

1.2 Key Output/Outcome highlights regarding these projects include:

- **Store of Stories** - The Acts Trust are over reporting by 250% on their targeted reduction in supporting children out of food poverty and have reported 1671 new members and 25,086 visitors per quarter.
- **Cornhill Market** - The project won the Regeneration and Restoration Project of the Year Award at the annual East Midlands Property Awards 2024 held on the 5th of September for both the building itself and the platform it has given to local, independent small and startup businesses.
- **Drill** - The venue is continuing to do well, and Technical Production students are gaining practical work experience by working on shows and events whilst also use the facility as a live classroom on a Monday when the venue is closed to the public. The rooms above the auditorium are being used by local youth groups and Lincoln College students, with plans to use the space as an adult learning centre. Lincoln college Catering and Front of House students continue to run the kitchen and Drill café, providing a range of food and drinks.
- **LCFC Community skills and Education Hub** - Lincoln City Foundation are continuing to use the Hub to deliver their Healthier Communities and Education and Employability Programmes including clubs aimed at providing social activities for the elderly, and mental health support programmes for the young, as well as community English conversation classes.

1.3 Risk Review

- Minor risk has been identified in respect of reduced City Centre footfall impacting on a range of City centre-based projects which benefit from passing trade and or visitor numbers.

- No other risks are currently highlighted for these projects.

2. Construction Projects in Progress

2.1 Three further projects, the Barbican, Sincil Bank Greening Project and Greyfriars (total investment value of £9.829M and Town Deal grant of £5.238M) are currently on site. The Barbican is due to be completed January 2025, the Sincil Bank Greening project by Summer 2025 and Greyfriars by Winter 25 respectively.

2.2 Key Output/Outcome highlights regarding these projects include:

- **Barbican** - Promotional activities are continuing to focus on developing the membership model and enquiries about studios/spaces to rent upon opening.
- **Sincil Bank Greening** - The highway works are progressing, and no issues have been raised so far from residents or local businesses, including the football club, regarding any disruption arising.
- **Greyfriars** - works commenced at the beginning of September and are being publicised through Lincolnshire Heritage Trust.

2.3 Risk Review

- The Executive Director for the Barbican has recently resigned, and a new Director will be appointed in the new year. In the meantime, the University will continue to manage the communications, business onboarding and facility operation upon the imminent opening with no risk expected to the project.
- Some moderate risk identified with getting the detailed proposals signed off in time for inclusion in the main programme, but this is being monitored closely through regular Project Team meetings.

3. Other Projects in Progress

3.1 **Lincoln Be Smarter Project** (total value £2.34M and Town Deal grant £1.29M) is progressing with Delivery and the Project Adjustment Request as reported and approved at the previous board meeting has now been approved by MHCLG. A Grant Funding Agreement Addendum is in the process of being signed. This will extend the project to December 2025 with an expanded Business training programme and small grant scheme aiming to support Micro scale businesses to 'be smarter' in key sectors. **Lincoln Connected project** (total value £1.88M and Town Deal grant £1.48M) is continuing with delivery.

3.2 Key Output/Outcome highlights regarding these projects include:

- The university has reported that the project has successfully committed £785,123 from the grant funding pool, supporting 42 projects. The

number of businesses supported through grants and workshops has already exceeded the initial targets. LBS grants have supported 42 businesses, and the workshops have assisted 59 businesses, exceeding the original target of 30 and 58 businesses. This demonstrates the effectiveness and the strong demand for the project and support provided. The University is working alongside the Council's Business Support Officer to deliver and additional outputs including additional business match is expected.

- Destination Lincolnshire have (soft) launched a new Website/Customer management system (£500,000) for the City which at the end of September. Although there has been some slippage slipped in line with the CMS delivery, 3 of the proposed 12 cultural commissions (£341,252) have been completed with another 4 commissions planned this financial year, plus a 'light up event in March 25, and a further 5 commissions in 25/26. Delivery of the proposed 12 new Wayfinding signs (£171,000), again although slipped, is currently targeted for completion in March 2025 subject to the extent of any permissions required.

3.3 Risk Review

- Lincoln Connected is being monitored through the Lincoln Connected Project Board supported by the Cultural Commissioning Advisory Group (CCAG). With 18 months of delivery left and given slippage experienced to date the Secretariat is closely monitoring delivery with additional updating alongside the quarterly claim process. as well as through the quarterly claim process to Town Deal Secretariate.
- No other risks currently identified to be report.

4. Feasibility Projects

4.1 Town Board has agreed that the delivery and completion of Tentercroft and Wigford Way feasibility studies be aligned with the development of the City Centre Masterplan and the programmes adjusted accordingly.

4.2 Outputs and Outcome Highlights:

- An update will be given on progress regarding the City Centre Masterplan programme at the meeting.

4.3 Risk Review

- Moderate risk associated with finalising the process and programme for delivery but commissioning for Masterplan review is currently targeted for December 2024 which should ensure both studies can be completed within programme.

5. Other

- 5.1 LSIP is no longer in a position to be delivered and is being removed from the programme. And update on proposals for reallocation of funding will be reported separately at the meeting.

6. Grant Spend to Date

- 6.1 Total evidenced expenditure to date is £11.4M against a profiled target of £16.1M. This is pending the October claim which is expected to include expenditure from the current 'live' project. Financial status will be updated pending the quarter 3 claim process for reporting to MHCLG in November. The update will be reported to Board prior to submission.

6.2 Risk Review

- Actual spend against forecast expenditure is within the acceptable tolerance of 40% set by MHCLG. Reported progress is currently not identifying any risk to full grant expenditure by the end of the programme (March 26), subject to the acceptability and approval of the recommendations contained in the Part B report.

7. Recommendation

- That Board note the progress made since August 2024.