Minutes of the Skegness Neighbourhood Board Meeting

Held on Tuesday, 02 June 2026 at 2.30pm

Venue: Online via Microsoft Teams

Present:

Board Members:
Paul McCooey, Chair – Duncan & Toplis
Jacqui Bunce – NHS Integrated Care Board
Dr. Batul Dungarwalla – Lincolnshire CVS
Chris Baron – Former Director of Butlins
Tracy Stringfellow – Heritage Trust of Lincolnshire
Claire Foster – Boston College
Cllr Adrian Findley – Skegness Town Council
Richard Tice – MP for Boston and Skegness
Cllr D. Brookes – Lincolnshire County Council

Advisors & Programme Support:
Maria Cotton – East Lindsey District Council (ELDC)
Jon Burgess – ELDC
Bonnie Mitchell – ELDC
Amber Lawson – ELDC

Observers:
Steve Larner – Skegness Town Council
Brad Johnson – East Coast Pride
Luisa Stanney – ELDC

Summary of Minutes:

The Board noted submission of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), confirmation and receipt of Year One funding. The Board noted the updates to the Call for Projects and agreed that Programme Officers form a packaged submission of appraised applications for Board review. The Board also agreed the proposed approach to future project selection and award. An update on capacity funding and programme management was provided, and the progress of the Street Scene operatives pilot scheme was welcomed. It was agreed that future meetings should be scheduled monthly with the next meeting agreed for Friday, 03 July 2026.

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1 Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting and introduced the new Pride in Place Programme Manager, Bonnie Mitchell. It was noted that agenda papers, including the Memorandum of Understanding and supporting reports, had been circulated in advance.

2 Apologies for Absence

Cllr Steve Kirk – ELDC, Pranali Parikh – ELDC, Saskia Zablockyj – ELDC, Michelle Gant – The Engaging People Company, James Brindle – Magna Vitae and Emma Tatlow – Active Lincolnshire.

3 Declarations of Interest

Prior to the meeting Brad Johnson declared an interest as a Trustee of East Coast Pride (Registered Charity), an Applicant of the Pride in Place Funding. Steve Larner – Skegness Town Council, and Cllr Adrian Findley – Skegness Town Council declared an interest. Declarations of interest were made in relation to members who were part of organisations which had submitted EOIs for the Call for Projects.

4 Minutes of the Skegness Neighbourhood Board Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 13 February 2026 were approved as accurate records with the exception of a misspelling of Tracy Stringfellow’s name to be corrected within the attendee section. No further matters arising were raised.

5 Pride in Place Programme Update

The Board received an update on the Pride in Place Programme from the new Programme Manager, Bonnie Mitchell. Members noted that the Memorandum of Understanding had been submitted and that payment of the first year’s programme grant funding had been received by ELDC.

Members discussed the process for future project selection, including whether proxy votes should be permitted for absent Members. Members discussed quorum arrangements and agreed that for any decision a quorum of five (5) voting Members are required to reach a general consensus. Following discussion, the Board did not support the use of proxy voting and agreed that Members should make every effort to attend meetings to review the submissions in person.

Members also discussed an appeals process for unsuccessful project applications and noted the importance of directing less experienced applicants to appropriate support, including local infrastructure organisations, to help strengthen future bids and make the process more accessible.

Members discussed how conflicts should be managed during future project consideration. It was agreed in principle that Members with a declared interest should not take part in voting on the relevant proposal. Members also agreed that those with a declared interest should withdraw from both discussion and vote to avoid any perception of unfair advantage, noting that this would need to be managed consistently across all applications.

It was requested by the Board that the outcomes from the community engagement were reviewed to ensure that the funding applications delivered against the community needs, and that the packaged submission to the Board includes information about how the interventions will be met.

It was agreed that a separate meeting to review the funding applications should be undertaken within the next four weeks.

Members discussed the visibility of the Pride in Place Programme locally and agreed that smaller grant opportunities could help raise awareness of the programme too. The Board considered whether uncommitted capacity funding might support small-scale grants, promotional activity, or initiatives that demonstrate early delivery against community priorities.

Members asked whether, based on the agreed MoU, could the payments set out in the MoU be requested in advance. It was advised that the grant could not be paid in advance of the agreement set out in the MoU, however, the Board could make a forward funds payment request to the Council via the Accountable Body's Section 151 Officer.

6 Capacity Funding

An update was provided by Jon Burgess on the programme capacity funding. The Board discussed the remaining capacity funding and how it might be used to support additional delivery activity in the early stages of the programme. Members also discussed related community safety matters, including Community Safety Officers and wider safety provision along the coast.

It was noted that further consideration may be required regarding the use of capacity funding to deliver against priorities identified by the local community in the Regeneration Plan should they not be met by the recent call for project submissions.

Members requested a future report detailing the breakdown of the programme's revenue and capital grant funding profile mapped against a breakdown of funding applications and intervention themes

7 Street Scene Operatives Scheme

The Board welcomed the positive impact of the Street Scene operatives and recorded thanks for their work to date following the update provided by Jon Burgess. Members expressed frustration with the lack of promotion and Pride in Place branded uniforms relating to this initiative. It was requested that the activity be promoted through local media and other channels, including possible interviews and publicity as a priority for the coming month.

Members also asked whether residents could suggest locations for cleansing and improvement works. It was noted that this could raise practical issues where land is privately owned, and that further discussion would take place with the service manager regarding feasible options.

The Board requested clarity on the hours undertaken against workstreams such as horticulture and how this was defined within the report. Clarification was sought as to the limited availability of suitable equipment and its funding. The report detailed that a funding bid was submitted to East Lindsey Investment Fund (ELIF) for dedicated handheld equipment to strengthen independence and enhance service delivery. Members requested advance notice of future challenges which restrict effective planning and limit reactive capability.

8 Any Other Business

Members would like to be notified of minor progress updates prior to Board meetings, noting that some updates could be provided ahead of the next meeting.

It was noted that PCC Sara Munton was no longer able to support the Board with attendance at meetings and had stepped down as a Board member due to capacity constraints. It was welcomed that the Lincolnshire Police had offered to provide future advisory support and guidance in an observer role to the Board as needed by means of still supporting the Pride in Place programme for Skegness.

Discussion took place around the potential use of capacity grant funding to support a visitor marketing campaign for Skegness. The discussion took place alongside consideration of the need for a much greater focus on communications and marketing to promote the Pride in Place Programme for Skegness and raise awareness of ongoing initiatives. Members acknowledged the importance of effective destination marketing; however, it was noted that the purpose of the grant funding was not to provide major tourism campaigns for the area and the funding should be used for the local community needs identified in the Plan. It was noted that the Council would review the existing resources dedicated to tourism promotion in Skegness to determine whether additional support could be provided to strengthen marketing and communications activity.

It was noted that officers would circulate the recent Pride in Place Programme branding update with the Board.

It was confirmed that the EOI for The Town of Culture grant funding bid had been submitted to government for Skegness. The outcome would be shared with Members once communicated by government.

9 Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting was agreed for Friday, 03 July 2026 in the afternoon. Members agreed that future Board meetings should take place on a monthly basis and be diarised on a 12-month rolling basis.

It was supported that dates should be arranged as soon as possible to allow for quorate attendance and forward planning with no need to circulate a poll to check availability. A preference for an in-person meeting to take place in September was requested by Members.

The meeting concluded at 4.08pm.

ACTIONS TRACKER

BOARD MEETING	ACTION	STATUS	RESPONSIBLE
02.06.2026	Develop and deliver PR activity and communications plan	To do	MG & BM
02.06.2026	Communicate an update to EOI applicants	To do	BM
02.06.2026	Prepare submission pack for Call for Project EOIs technical evaluation for Board review	To do	BM
02.06.2026	Prepare an options paper on a future funding call and/or commissioning process	To do	BM
02.06.2026	Develop clear monthly work plan for Street Scene operatives	Update to be brought to the July meeting	JB / CB
02.062026	Ensure Street Scene operatives have branded uniforms	To do	BM
02.06.2026	Circulate new MHCLG branding guidance to Board members	To do	SZ
02.06.2026	Arrange Board meetings up to May2027	To do	SZ