

TOURISM & THE VISITOR ECONOMY SCRUTINY PANEL

DATE	23/11/2023
REPORT OF	Carolina Borgstrom, Director of Economy, Environment and Infrastructure
SUBJECT	Heritage Place
STATUS	Open

CONTRIBUTION TO OUR AIMS

North East Lincolnshire's status as a Heritage Place for National Lottery Heritage Fund will contribute to outcomes across the Council over the next ten years. Specific focus on heritage activities will contribute to wider economic, health and social benefits, support business growth, nurture skills, enhance community interaction, and deliver better quality lives.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Our joint work with Heritage Fund as a Heritage Place will build scale and capacity building on North East Lincolnshire's status as an Area of Focus for Heritage Fund from 2019 to 2024, which has seen record levels of investment from Heritage Fund into projects across North East Lincolnshire.

Our status as a Heritage Place will support the ambitions of NEL's Creativity Strategy and Heritage Fund's Heritage 2033 Strategy, accelerating the quality and quantity of heritage projects and making a significant contribution to the Borough's culture and heritage-led regeneration.

MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

The panel are asked to note the status of North East Lincolnshire as a Heritage Place for National Lottery Heritage Fund and over the lifetime of North East Lincolnshire's status as a Heritage Place provide oversight of associated projects and programmes.

1. BACKGROUND AND ISSUES

North East Lincolnshire is a Heritage Place for National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) and a Priority Place for Arts Council England (ACE).

The Creativity Strategy adopted in March 2022 set out the Council's vision for creativity across the Borough. In May 2022, a Creativity Board was established to develop an action plan and to deliver the objectives of the Strategy. The action plan (considered in Scrutiny in September 2022) highlights ten priorities for 2023 including promoting partnership projects and the public sector being an enabler for creativity.

Over the last year activity has included attracting additional investment into North East Lincolnshire which has seen unprecedented levels of Heritage Fund investment.

This has included £250,000 from Heritage Fund to match with £450,000 investment from

Arts Council England's Place Partnership Fund to deliver 'Create North East Lincolnshire' programme.

North East Lincolnshire has been one of 13 Areas of Focus for Heritage Fund since 2019, as part of Heritage Fund's ambitions to deliver more inclusive heritage projects. The Areas of Focus were determined by using spend per capita alongside standard indices of deprivation.

One of the key objectives of the Area of Focus was to overcome perceived challenges around investing in heritage projects and Council staff have worked collaboratively with Heritage Fund staff and local partners to promote active participation of key organisations and communities into heritage activities.

Since 2017, especially since 2020, significant amounts of Government funding have been invested in North East Lincolnshire. This includes the first ever Town Deal (Grimsby) through the Towns Fund programme, the Arts Council's Cultural Development Fund programme, Historic England's Heritage Action Zone and Partnership Scheme in Conversation Areas (PSiCA) programme, Future High Street Fund and Levelling Up funds.

Prior to the establishment of NEL as an Area of Focus, only two sizeable projects were supported in the Borough (Peoples Park in 2004 and the Cleethorpes Townscape Heritage Programme in 2016), followed by the Petersons building grant (phase 1) in 2017. Prior to 2020, the small number of grants tended to be for small projects under £10,000 with occasional grants slightly larger (e.g., Lincs Inspire's Streets and their Stories).

From 2020, there has been a significant increase in the size of the grant awards, aligned to the Grimsby Heritage Action Zone and the catalytic impact of the Heritage Starter Fund and Heritage Network, which was administered by NELC following the award of a Heritage Fund grant. Further details of the grants which were awarded by the Heritage Starter Fund were outlined in a paper presented to Scrutiny on 24 March 2022.

The following tables and diagram highlight grants that have been awarded in North East Lincolnshire since 2020.

This support has provided the foundations for North East Lincolnshire's inclusion as a Heritage Place and being part of a cohort of 20 places who will have access to a dedicated funding pot of £200m over the next 10 years.

Table 1: Heritage Fund grants over £50,000 which have awarded since 2020

Accountable Organisation	Funded Activity	Funding Amount	Awarded Date
The Horizon Youth Zone	Construction and supporting activities for Horizon Youth Zone	£2,697,727	December 2021
Linkage	An inclusive and	£277,000	March

Community Trust	sustainable future for Weelsby Hall		2023
Grimsby Minster	Cultural Recovery Fund for Heritage – Grimsby Minster	£260,000	More than one award starting in May 2020
VESR (Visitor, Economy, services and retail) CIC	Great Grimsby's Viking Journey	£250,000	June 2022
North East Lincolnshire Council	Area of Focus Grant	£250,000	August 2020
North East Lincolnshire Council	Create North East Lincolnshire - Heritage	£250,000	October 2023
Hammond House Ltd	Heritage Channel	£248,600	June 2022
Our Big Picture	Heritage at the Heart of our Community: 17-21 Bethlehem Street, Grimsby	£169,928	April 2022
The Equality Practice	The Greatest Story Never Told	£100,000	February 2023
Grimsby Town football in the Community Sports and Education Trust	#RememberWhenGTFC	£99,400	June 2022
North East Lincolnshire Council	Cultural Recovery Fund for Heritage – Time Trap	£60,000	October 2020

Table 2: Projects currently delivering in North East Lincolnshire awarded before 2020

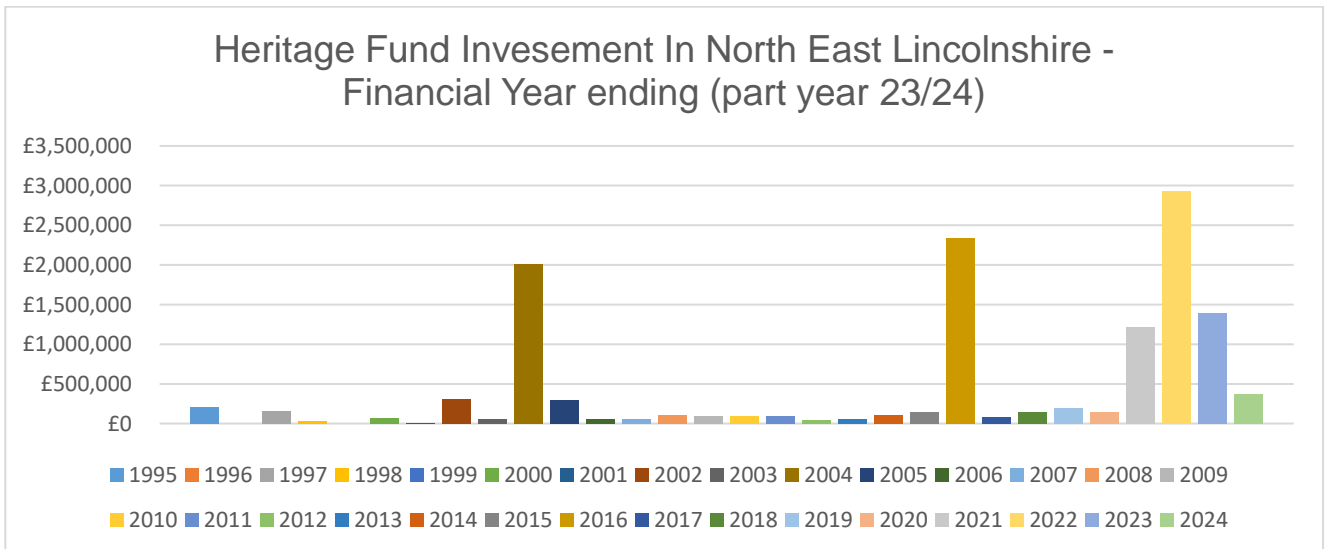
Accountable Organisation	Funded Activity	Funding Amount	Awarded Date
North East Lincolnshire Council	Discover Cleethorpes' Heritage (Cleethorpes Townscape Heritage)	£1,972,800	January 2016
Great Grimsby	Peterson's Project,	£927,400	More than

Ice Factory Trust	Grimsby Docks		one award starting in November 2018
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Table 3: Projects operating in North East Lincolnshire (but applicant based elsewhere)

Accountable Organisation	Funded Activity	Funding Amount	Awarded Date
North Lincolnshire Council	Dynamic Collection – Activity split between North and North East Lincolnshire	£250,000	June 2023
Heritage Lincolnshire	Mr Grimsby & Mr Cleethorpes: The astonishing legacy of Edward Watkin - exclusively in North East Lincolnshire.	£250,000	February 2023

Diagram 1: Heritage Fund Investment in North East Lincolnshire



2. RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

NEL’s status as a Heritage Place supports significant growth in NEL's heritage sector and there is a risk that the Council, partners and creatives do not maximise the opportunities provided. This is mitigated by strong internal governance and steer by the Creativity Board. Also, investment in staff to support heritage practitioners,

establishment of networks and a strong working relationship with the Creativity Board and through NELC where all appropriate checks will be made.

In the delivery of the Heritage Fund projects for which the Council is responsible for, we will manage all contracts building on existing relationships with delivery organisations that ensures any issues are identified and addressed as soon as possible.

The Heritage Fund supported projects will deliver the Investment Principles highlighted in the Heritage 2033 strategy (see Appendix A for further details). These are:

- **Saving heritage:** conserving and valuing heritage, for now and the future.
- **Protecting the environment:** supporting nature recovery and environmental sustainability.
- **Inclusion, access and participation:** supporting greater inclusion, diversity, access and participation in heritage.
- **Organisational sustainability:** strengthening heritage to be adaptive and financially resilient, contributing to communities and economies.

There is the potential to support different projects which engage with schools, communities and audiences across the borough irrespective of where they live, how much money they have, or their background to ensure everyone has access to creativity and heritage. This minimises the potential risk of lack of access or under representation to heritage activity.

Grant investment from Heritage Fund and other funders has been attracted to North East Lincolnshire in recent years, both to the Council and other organisations enabling high quality activity to be delivered. It is therefore important to maximise the opportunities through Heritage Place to bring further funding to the borough to deliver high quality, collaborative and relevant activities.

3. REPUTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATIONS

Heritage Fund's work with NEL as a Heritage Place will demonstrate an inclusive and clear message to residents and visitors that heritage is for all and opportunities for meaningful participation in heritage driven projects should lead to healthier, happier and more fulfilling lives. Many activities that Heritage Fund have supported have received widespread positive acclaim from beneficiaries . It is intended to build upon this engagement and broaden the activity across North East Lincolnshire, alongside the completion of capital build projects such as the Horizon Onside Youth Zone and Peterson's Smokehouse.

The activities outlined in this report will continue to enhance our reputation with other funders including the local delivery of Arts Council England's Lets Create Strategy, which puts North East Lincolnshire in a strong position to prioritise activities and access additional funding for projects across the borough.

4. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Collaboration with Heritage Fund further demonstrates an evidence base and local

strategy for funding opportunities including Arts Council England, National Lottery Community Fund and Historic England. The approaches outlined in the creativity strategy will also influence the development of a range of activities which the Council and partners deliver aligned to Levelling Up and UK Shared Prosperity funds that has been delivered in recent years. In future, securing external funding is vital to ensure continued delivery of the agreed creativity strategy action plan for the borough.

5. CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IMPLICATIONS

The Creativity Strategy highlights the importance of heritage engagement and participation for all with a particular focus on children and young people. Many of the activities which follow will have direct benefit to children and young people by enhancing creativity in a range of settings and across the borough. This is likely to include ensuring that projects have activity and engagement plans that involve children and young people.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Environment and climate change will be major considerations for projects supported by Heritage Fund, as outlined by their Investment Principles (highlighted above). Successful projects will be delivered in partnership between organisations, including those with specialist expertise to ensure that the Council's environment policies are delivered.

7. MONITORING COMMENTS

In the opinion of the author, this report does not contain recommended changes to policy or resources (people, finance or physical assets). As a result, no monitoring comments have been sought from the Council's Monitoring Officer (Chief Legal Officer), Section 151 Officer (Director of Finance) or Head of People and Culture.

8. WARD IMPLICATIONS

All wards as the programme reaches across the borough in supporting local creatives and heritage practitioners or organisations and engaging audiences in creative and heritage activity.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The Creativity Strategy was approved by Cabinet on 16 March 2022. [Decision-Notice-16th-March-2022.pdf \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](#)

The approved Creativity Strategy can be found here. [4.-Creativity-Strategy.pdf \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](#)

The Creativity Strategy Action Plan was discussed at the Tourism and Visitor Economy Scrutiny panel on 29 September 2022 [10.-Creative-Strategy.pdf \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](#)

Details regarding Heritage Starter fund were discussed at the Tourism and Visitor Economy Scrutiny panel on 24 March 2022 [Tourism and Visitor Economy Scrutiny](#)

[Panel | Democracy \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](#)

North East Lincolnshire's role as a Priority Place for Arts Council England was discussed at the Tourism and Visitor Economy Scrutiny panel on 27 July 2023
[Tourism and Visitor Economy Scrutiny Panel | Democracy \(nelincs.gov.uk\)](#)

10. CONTACT OFFICER(S)

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APPENDIX A

Heritage 2033 – Strategy on a page.

Heritage 2033

Our vision:

We want heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone's future.

Saving heritage

- Improved condition and understanding of heritage
- Reduced amount of 'heritage at risk'
- Delivered transformational long-term projects
- Made digital heritage more accessible

Protecting the environment

- Put landscapes and habitats into recovery
 - Increased understanding of and connection to nature
- Reduced the negative environmental impact of our funding portfolio
- Improved heritage's ability to adapt to climate change

Organisational sustainability

- Increased organisations' commercial and governance capabilities
- Developed skills and capacity across heritage
- Embedded resilience in projects we fund
- Strengthened heritage's contribution to local economies

Inclusion, access and participation

- Increased diversity of heritage workforces and audiences
- Reduced barriers for people under-served by heritage
 - Enabled more people's heritage to be recognised
- Championed digital technology to improve access

Our investment principles and what we'll achieve by 2033:

Our approach:



Open programmes for all types of heritage projects with the majority of decisions made at local level.



Strategic interventions to tackle issues at large and cross-territory scale.



Partnerships that combine resources and expertise to create investments with greater impact.



A focus on place, landscape and nature, heritage in need and responding to opportunities and emergencies.