

# 6

## RENAISSANCE ACROSS NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE

### Introduction

- 6.1 North Lincolnshire's Urban and Rural Renaissance programmes aim to transform the area for a better future for all. They will deliver a range of flagship projects that will not only help to support economic growth and improve the environment, but will also enhance the image of the area making North Lincolnshire an attractive place to live, work and invest.

### Context

#### National/Regional

- 6.2 At national level there is strong support for creating thriving towns and rural areas as part of the sustainable communities agenda. At regional level, this has been recognised by Yorkshire Forward and in the Regional Spatial Strategy. Scunthorpe forms part of Yorkshire Forward's Renaissance Towns and Cities programme, which encompasses 19 towns across the Yorkshire and Humber region, with the aim of transforming the lives of people living in them, creating brighter, far reaching visions of world class places to live, work and visit. In the rural areas, Yorkshire Forward selected the Isle of Axholme to be part of its Renaissance Market Towns Programme.

#### Local

- 6.3 The delivery of the renaissance programmes is a central aim for the Sustainable Community Strategy in ensuring that North Lincolnshire is an area that is thriving. In particular it supports the creation of a vibrant town centre and the Lincolnshire Lakes in Scunthorpe, which has been adopted by the Local Strategic Partnership as a flagship project, to establish the town as a key economic driver for the area. Also it supports the rural renaissance programmes to transform the area's rural towns and villages which reflect the diverse heritage of the area.
- 6.4 As part of the renaissance programmes, Town Teams were formed to draw up frameworks for the way ahead. In Scunthorpe, the end result was the Scunthorpe Strategic Development Framework (SSDF), published in April 2005, with the aim of successfully repositioning Scunthorpe over the next ten to twenty years by helping it become:
- A more competitive place
  - A strong hub for the sub-region
  - A more attractive place

- A distinctive destination
  - A more sustainable place
- 6.5 The Scunthorpe Strategic Development Framework (SSDF) sets out a vision to create a transformed urban area, based around three principle themes – a New Urban Heart, a New Century Garden Town and Lincolnshire Lakes.
- 6.6 In rural areas, the outcome of the Renaissance Market Town Initiative was a set of proposals for Crowle and Epworth aimed at promoting a diverse and expanding vibrant economy, including tourism and the improvement of services through the expansion and improvement of Crowle and Epworth town centres. The provision and coordination of community facilities including health, education and recreation are also important, as is the protection and enhancement of the distinctive cultural and environmental assets of the Isle of Axholme. However, these proposals, particularly in Epworth were not widely supported by the local community. As a result, the proposals now solely focus on Crowle.

## Approach

- 6.7 The Council's approach will be to ensure the co-ordinated delivery of the proposals set out in the Scunthorpe Strategic Development Framework (SSDF) and rural renaissance programmes.
- 6.8 In Scunthorpe, the first of these proposals is to create a New Urban Heart. This is based on creating a vibrant town centre through new mixed-use developments, including improving the retail offer, the establishment of a 'cultural quarter' and enhancement of the public realm. The aim is to produce an attractive, diverse and distinctive town centre and provide a community focus for residents and visitors.
- 6.9 The town centre proposals will be complemented by improvements to Central Park and the development a new iconic sport and leisure facility called The Pods. North Lincolnshire Council, with financial support from Yorkshire Forward, are investing over £26m to provide a high quality sports facility for the town and a reinvigorated community park. The scheme will provide opportunities to promote health, recreation, leisure and sport within one location based around Central Park. The Pods, which is due for completion in 2011, will become a centre of excellence for sports and recreation and be the hub for the development and delivery of sports, education and leadership training. The improvements to the park will create a boulevard to link the further education colleges with the The Pods and the town centre. The design of The Pods is currently rated under Breeam standards as very good but it is anticipated that it may achieve excellent once it is built.
- 6.10 Also forming part of the New Urban Heart proposals is the development of a Knowledge Campus concept for Scunthorpe. The Knowledge Campus is currently in early development and involves North Lincolnshire Council, John Leggott College, North Lindsey College, Local Senior Schools and Local Training Providers, to create a location with a reputation for learning, enterprise and creativity, with the ability to promote lifelong learning, business excellence and economic regeneration. The Knowledge Campus also aims to work specifically with local businesses to determine training and development needs and the potential to bring physical "technical support" presence to the town.

- 6.11 The second proposal is the creation a New Century Garden Town. The principle is based on the legacy of Patrick Abercrombie's town plan for the industrial garden town of Scunthorpe, which although never fully realised left the town with a range of high quality public open spaces. The modern day proposals are aimed at making the best use of the green spaces in Scunthorpe through revitalising their environment and the links between them, for both people and wildlife. This will also include improving important routes into and through the town as well as important gateways capitalising on the steel industry and the proposed Lincolnshire Lakes area. The proposals support the enhancement of sustainable transport opportunities (walking, cycling, and public transport).
- 6.12 The third and largest proposal is the flagship Lincolnshire Lakes which will create a major new sustainable waterside setting and neighbourhood for Scunthorpe. The project involves the creation of a sustainable urban extension to the west of the town, providing high quality, well designed sustainable new homes, as well as major opportunities for tourism, leisure, recreation and sport facilities all set within a unique lakeside environment. The proposals include the provision of a high quality business park and office accommodation which will help in the diversification of the North Lincolnshire economy and the creation of new, highly skilled jobs. The Lakes would positively transform the western approach to Scunthorpe and create a valuable opportunity for biodiversity and habitat creation. The long term goal is to provide around 10,000 new homes within the lakes areas, however during the plan period (up to 2026) the aim is to deliver around 6,000 of these new homes, with the rest being developed after 2026.
- 6.13 As part of the rural renaissance programme the Isle of Axholme Renaissance Market Towns Development Framework, Business Plan and Delivery Plan recommends the enhancement of Crowle Market Place to create a high quality meeting place at the heart of the town. The proposals include the relocation of existing facilities to open up the Market Place and changes to road layout to create an easier flow of traffic to ensure safer access for vehicles and pedestrians. The enhancement of the market place could also act as a catalyst to bring more businesses and visitors to the Isle of Axholme thus boosting the local economy.

## **CS4: CREATING A RENAISSANCE IN NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE**

The Council will work with its partners to promote and secure area wide renaissance in North Lincolnshire through delivering the following major transformational projects:

1. Scunthorpe Town Centre – creation of a vibrant and attractive town centre including new well designed mixed use developments to the east and west of the retail core showcasing the latest in energy efficient design and sustainable construction techniques and an improved public realm
2. Central Park & The Pods, Scunthorpe – development of an iconic sports facility, together with the rejuvenation of Central Park will create a centre for sports, recreation and leisure
3. Knowledge Campus, Scunthorpe - development of a higher education concept working with existing education and business institutions including North Lindsey College, John Leggott College and the Kingsway Centre
4. New Century Garden Town - improvements to open spaces greenways and gateways into Scunthorpe
5. Lincolnshire Lakes - developing a major waterside setting to the west of Scunthorpe providing a high quality environment in which to live and work and a significant wildlife habitat. This will be delivered through the creation a masterplan as part of the development of an Area Action Plan
6. Crowle - development in the Market Place to expand the range and quality of shops and other facilities and improve the quality of the environment.

New development supported by this policy must be designed to the highest standards to meet energy efficiency, accessibility and sustainable waste management and construction techniques. All development will meet the highest possible flood risk management standards, including the use of sustainable drainage systems to be incorporated, where practicable and viable.

- 6.14 This policy sets out the major transformational projects which are aimed at delivering area wide renaissance in North Lincolnshire. Implementation of these schemes will be dependent on working closely with partners such as Yorkshire Forward, other public sector bodies and the private sector as well as ensuring that the local community are involved throughout the process.
- 6.15 The design of The Pods and Central Park project was commissioned through an international design competition to ensure the building and surrounding parkland is modern, iconic, state of the art to drive forward the Urban Renaissance of the town. Work has commenced and is due to be completed in 2011. The work on Central Park also forms a key part of the creation of the New Century Garden Town.
- 6.16 The Knowledge Campus is dependent on partnership working between the Council and education and skills providers to provide opportunities for education and the development of skilled and talented people and develop a lifelong learning culture.

- 6.17 To deliver the Lincolnshire Lakes scheme, feasibility studies have been undertaken which considered economic, transport, legal, environmental, and planning issues. The feasibility studies outlined potential development scenarios for housing, employment, sustainable power generation, recreation and tourism, and the creation of a significant body of water. The next stage will be the development of a masterplan for the Lakes area which will form part of the Lincolnshire Lakes Area Action Plan. The Area Action Plan will ensure that the planning and delivery of the uses set out in the masterplan is co-ordinated and phased appropriately. It will also be the key document which will guide developers and decision makers on what form development should take and the levels of infrastructure to be provided to support that development.
- 6.18 As part of the Renaissance Market Town Initiative Crowle has seen the completion of a major £3m redevelopment of the market place. This first phase has seen a new modernised, pedestrianised market square, changes to the layout of the road network to create an easier flow of traffic and new bus stops. North Lincolnshire Council and Crowle Market Place Delivery Group are now working on Phase 2 of the project, and will work in partnership with English Heritage during the planning application stage to ensure that the final phase of the scheme will be in keeping with the Conservation Area Status. Phase 2, which is still subject to securing funding, will hopefully include: - a brand new bistro/café in the market place, including an area for outside seating; the relocation of the public toilets; an overall increase in parking spaces; small business units and retail space, with development opportunities for residential accommodation on first and second floors.

## Monitoring

- 6.19 The following indicators and targets will be used to monitor the implementation and effectiveness of the policies contained in this chapter.

Indicator	Target
Delivery of The Pods and Central Park.	To create an innovative and iconic new sports facility for the residents of North Lincolnshire together with the reinvigoration of Central Park by April 2011
Knowledge Campus	Increase Higher Education offer within North Lincolnshire
Lincolnshire Lakes The securing of the principles of the Exception Test Strategy The phasing of development in line with the provision of water infrastructure. Change in areas of biodiversity importance	Mitigation measures delivered in accordance with a timetable and masterplan to be agreed through the Lincolnshire Lakes Area Action Plan (AAP) Outline Water Cycle Strategy for North Lincolnshire Council (October 2010) -and any further up dated information- to be applied where relevant to the Lincolnshire Lakes project area together with an appropriate phasing plan for the delivery of development to inform the Lincolnshire Lakes AAP Change in areas (hectares) of biodiversity habitat sites of international, national, regional, sub-regional or local significance.
Crowle Market Place redevelopment	Improve public realm and public space in Crowle Market Place. Increase usage of Market Place.

## Key Documents

- The Yorkshire & Humber Plan – Regional Spatial Strategy to 2026 (GOYH, 2008)
- Many Faces, One Community – North Lincolnshire’s Sustainable Community Strategy (NLSP, 2006)
- Scunthorpe Strategic Development Framework (Gillespies/Yorkshire Forward, 2005)
- Lincolnshire Lakes Feasibility Study (Halcrow, 2008)
- Isle of Axholme Development Framework (Spawforths, 2005)
- Isle of Axholme Delivery Plan (Spawforths, 2005)
- Isle of Axholme Business Plan (Spawforths, 2005)
- Crowle Market Place - Consultation Document (Baumann Lyons, 2009)

## Link to Key Objectives

### **Spatial Objectives:**

1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10

### **Sustainability Objectives:**

SA1; SA2; SA3; SA4; SA5; SA6; SA7; SA8; SA9; SA10; SA17; SA18; SA19; SA24; SA25; SA26; SA27; SA28