

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 20 MAY 2011

Statement from: Cllr E J Poll, Executive Councillor for Economic Development

ECONOMIC REGENERATION

Continuing to invest in new economic infrastructure and the regeneration of our towns and villages is viewed as a priority for this council, if we are to equip the private sector to maximise the potential for future economic recovery.

Our newest Business Centre at Market Deeping (Eventus) has already exceeded its target occupancy level for the first year of operation.

The remediation and development of the former coal yard at Kesteven Street in Lincoln, supported by a recent successful bid to the European Regional Development Fund, has now been approved by the scrutiny committee and is progressing to planning approval and site works have commenced at Teal Park.

As we approach the summer holiday period I would like to confirm our ongoing commitment to tourism in the county. Despite the demise of Visit Lincolnshire, we have kept the visitlincolnshire.com website online, and have been glad to support the creation and operation of business led tourism promotion partnerships across the county.

CULTURAL SERVICES

The Collection secured over £70,000 each year for the next three years from the Arts Council for its visual arts programme. Lincolnshire's Rural and Community Touring Scheme, which is run in partnership with Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire, was also successful in securing funding, as was the Lincolnshire One Venues collaboration.

Lincolnshire Archives has been awarded a three star status in the National Archives 2010 Self Assessment Scheme. Star status ranges from 0-4. In addition to this, Lincolnshire's 2010 score increased in each section, showing an improvement in all key aspects. These results reflect the hard work and dedication shown by all Archives staff to ensure that the county's written history is preserved and made available to the public.

Congratulations to everybody involved in developing a disused former chapel in Caistor into a superb community space. The café, library services and meeting rooms all blend together, providing modern facilities whilst maintaining the character of the building. A visit is highly recommended.