

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY  
 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE  
 29 OCTOBER 2015**

**PRESENT: COUNCILLOR P J O'CONNOR (CHAIRMAN)**

Councillors W J Aron, C J T H Brewis, A Bridges, Mrs J Brockway, M Brookes, P M Dilks, R L Foulkes, A G Hagues, R J Hunter-Clarke, A J Jesson, Mrs M J Overton MBE, R B Parker, C L Strange, Mrs C A Talbot and R Wootten.

**Added Members**

Church Representatives: Mr S C Rudman.

Officers in attendance:-

Simon Evans (Health Scrutiny Officer), Andy Gutherson (County Commissioner for Economy and Place), David Hair (Member Services Manager) and Cheryl Hall (Democratic Services Officer).

**24 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor C E H Marfleet and Added Members: Mr C V Miller, Mrs E J Olivier-Townrow and Mr P Thompson.

It was noted that the Chief Executive, having received notice under Regulation 13 of the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990, had appointed Councillor W J Aron as a replacement member on the Committee in place of Councillor Mrs A M Newton, for this meeting only.

**25 DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Councillor R B Parker declared an interest in Minute 30 – 'Central Lincolnshire Further Draft Local Plan' as a Member of the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee.

Councillor Mrs C A Talbot also declared an interest in Minute 30 – 'Central Lincolnshire Further Draft Local Plan' as the County Council's Replacement Member on the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee, with no voting rights.

**26 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE HELD ON 30 JULY 2015**

The Committee was advised that the purpose of this item was to check the accuracy of the minutes and to approve them as a correct record. Any matters arising should be dealt with as future activity under the Work Programme, as detailed at Minute 31.

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## RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 30 July 2015 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

27 CONSIDERATION OF CALL-INS

No Call-Ins had been received.

28 PROPOSAL FOR SCRUTINY REVIEWS

There were no proposals for scrutiny reviews.

29 CONSIDERATION OF COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTIONS

There were no Councillor Call for Actions received.

30 CENTRAL LINCOLNSHIRE FURTHER DRAFT LOCAL PLAN

The County Commissioner for Economy and Place presented an update on the progress of the Central Lincolnshire Further Draft Local Plan and invited comments from the Committee on the second round consultation, which would conclude on 25 November 2015.

Members were reminded that the preparation of the Local Plan involved three draft stages, each with public consultation, followed by independent examination and final adoption. The first round consultation had taken place from October to November 2014. A timetable was agreed by the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee for the remaining stages, including the second round consultation from 15 October to 25 November 2015. The Local Plan, as detailed at Appendix A, was the version officers had recommended to the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee on 7 September 2015 and formed the basis of the consultation.

The County Commissioner for Economy and Place outlined some of the headline points, which were detailed on pages 14 and 15 of the Committee's report. It was highlighted that Members could access the Policies Map and Inset Maps by using the following link: <http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/central-lincolnshire/interactive-map/120659.article/> .

Members were provided with an opportunity to ask questions, where the following points were noted: -

- It was queried whether 'blue-light' services, for example, the police, would manage with the increase in housing developments and demand. In response to this, Members were advised that it was not a requirement on the Local Plan to take into consideration policing levels;
- A number of concerns were raised regarding Lincolnshire's road infrastructure and whether it could cope with an increase in housing developments. Further to this, Members felt that there would need to be improvements made to the

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network to ensure it could cope, for example an additional bridge on the Trent in Gainsborough and the introduction of more dual carriageways. In response to this, Members were assured that the overall capacity of the network already exists. However, each scheme would be expected to make the necessary changes to junctions that would be adversely affected;

- The Local Plan would not designate any site under 25 dwellings. Any site fewer than 25 homes would not be allocated, and instead would be determined via planning applications on a case-by-case basis, using the generic criteria based policies found in the plan;
- It was suggested that the Committee should consider at its meeting on 28 January 2016 the South East Lincolnshire Draft Local Plan, as Lincolnshire County Council was a partner;
- Members were advised that district councils were currently consulting on the Community Infrastructure Levy, as this was a district council function;
- It was essential that local planning documents were brought up to date and therefore it was necessary for the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee to produce this Local Plan to ensure that there was a robust position statement in place. The Local Plan would be implemented by 2016;
- It was hoped that all Neighbourhood Plans would link into Local Plans;
- Members were advised that the evidence base behind each policy decision could be found by visiting the web link, as detailed above;
- The Committee commended the consultation document and recognised the considerable amount of work undertaken by officers to produce this further draft of the Plan;
- Generally, the Committee supported the need for additional housing in the Central Lincolnshire area, although there were concerns whether public and community facilities would be able to cope with the additional housing. Further to this, Members in particular queried whether there were plans for additional schools and GP practices to support the increase in housing. Members were assured that all developers would be required to ensure that these types of facilities would be delivered, at the appropriate time;

NOTE: At this point in the proceedings, Councillor Mrs C A Talbot declared an interest as the Chairman of the Lincoln Area Committee of the Lincoln Cathedral Fabric Fund Council.

- The Committee highlighted the need for more affordable housing and stressed the importance of having it close to local services;
- It was emphasised that the locations of traveller sites should be safe and not along main roads, similar to the criteria set for fixed dwellings;
- Members were advised that the meeting of the Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee on 9 November 2015 had been cancelled as it fell part way through the consultation period;
- A Member shared with the Committee a graph which had been produced by the Local Government Association which argued that the level of growth was unsustainable;
- Members were advised that the collective view from the Committee would be fed into the consultation process, which would cover: additional housing and

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the importance of its location; the long-term viability of those areas proposed for additional housing development; the capacity of 'blue-light' services; and the need to provide sufficient levels of local access to education and health and well-being services and for necessary transport infrastructure to be in place. In addition, Members were reminded that they could submit their individual views as part of the consultation.

### **RESOLVED**

- (1) That the report and comments made be noted.
- (2) That the comments be forwarded onto the County Commissioner for Economy and Place, along with an extract of the minutes.
- (3) That an item on the South East Lincolnshire Draft Local Plan be added to the work programme for the meeting on 28 January 2016.

### **31 OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME**

Consideration was given to a report by Tracy Johnson (Senior Scrutiny Officer), which provided the Committee with an opportunity to consider its work programme and the work programmes of the Council's other Scrutiny Committees. Copies of the individual work programmes were appended to the report and the following updates were received: -

#### **i) Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee**

The Chairman advised that further to Minute 30 – 'Central Lincolnshire Further Draft Local Plan', as detailed above, the South East Lincolnshire Draft Local Plan had been added to the work programme for the meeting scheduled to be held on 28 January 2016.

The Member Services Manager advised Members that the Scrutiny Review Group was progressing well, with a further meeting of the Group taking place on 17 November 2015. It was noted that this meeting would be considering a draft report of Stuart Young (Executive Director of East Midlands Councils), which would also include proposals for structural change of overview and scrutiny committees.

In response to a question, the Committee was advised that the report would be presented to the meeting of County Council on 18 December 2015. The report would not be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Scrutiny Committee beforehand as the review of overview and scrutiny had been commissioned by County Council.

A Member requested an update on three specific issues which had previously been considered by the Committee: fire alarms; defibrillator at County Offices; and NHS contributions to winter maintenance, as there had not been an update on progress since 28 May 2015.

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Members were advised that the issue concerning alarms at County Offices had been resolved by the Member Services Manager, who had sent an email on 17 June 2015 to all County Councillors, which had included two sound recordings for the fire and terror alarms to enable councillors to familiarise themselves with each alarm.

On the issue of the possible installation of a defibrillator at County Offices, Members were advised that the Executive Councillor for Finance and Property had been made aware of this matter and had commissioned a review by corporate health and safety to ascertain how many, and the locations of, any defibrillators. Further to this, it was requested that the Chairman urgently contacted the Executive Councillor for an update on the matter, as the Committee agreed that there was a need for a defibrillator within County Offices.

With regard to the issue of the local NHS potentially contributing towards the County Council's winter maintenance costs, it was requested that the Chairman emailed the Leader of the Council to suggest that this could potentially form part of the current talks regarding devolution and the potential for future increased collaboration with partners up to and including combined authority status.

ii) Adults Scrutiny Committee

The Health Scrutiny Officer advised that the Adults Scrutiny Committee would be holding its Financial Challenges Workshop on Wednesday 9 December 2015, between 10.00 am and 11.00 am. The formal Committee meeting would commence at 11.00 am.

iii) Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

The Vice-Chairman advised the Committee that there were no changes to the work programme.

The Committee's next meeting is scheduled to be held on 27 November 2015 and the Committee would be receiving an update on the implementation of the recommendations from the Frontline Social Workers and Safeguarding Scrutiny Review. It was noted that as part of this item, officers had arranged for a couple of social workers in Children's Services to talk to the Committee about their work.

In response to a question on the league table for the attainment of GCSEs A\* - C, in particular the under-performance of Lincoln's secondary schools, it was agreed that the Vice-Chairman would raise this at the next pre-meeting with officers and report back to the Committee at its next scheduled meeting.

Further to this, it was noted that the School Improvement Working Group was also concerned about this issue and was looking at it further.

iv) Community and Public Safety Scrutiny Committee

The Chairman advised the Committee that a report on 'Future Options for Lincolnshire Archives' had been added to the work programme for the meeting on

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9 March 2016. This item was for pre-decision scrutiny prior to a decision by the Executive on 5 April 2016.

NOTE: At this stage in the proceedings, Councillor R B Parker declared an interest as a Member of the Usher Gallery Friends.

A Member of the Committee queried when the item on the Council's cultural offer, which had been deferred from a previous meeting of the Committee, would be re-added to the work programme. The Chairman agreed to make some enquiries.

It was noted that Dave Ramscar (Chief Fire Officer) was set to retire at the end of November 2015. The Committee requested that its best wishes for his forthcoming retirement were noted.

### v) Economic Scrutiny Committee

The Chairman advised that a report on the 'Tourism Review' had been deferred from the Committee meeting on 8 December 2015 to 12 January 2016 to allow the Tourism Working Group to meet with officers on 18 November 2015 to discuss and input into the review before it was reconsidered by the Committee.

It was also noted that a Financial Challenges Workshop would be held on 8 December 2015, commencing at 1.00 pm.

Members of the Committee congratulated Mary Powell (Tourism and Development Manager) and her team for the Lincoln Castle Revealed project.

### vi) Environmental Scrutiny Committee / Flood and Drainage Management Scrutiny Committee

The Chairman advised that the meeting on 4 December 2015 would now commence at 11.00 am at County Offices, and not at the premises of Mid-UK in Caythorpe, as previously reported. The later start would enable the Committee to hold its Financial Challenges Workshop between 10.00 am and 11.00 am.

The Committee was also looking to schedule an additional item from DEFRA on 'Rural Funding' either on 4 December 2015 or a future meeting.

It was noted that the meeting of the Committee scheduled to be held on 29 January 2016 would take place at Mid-UK in Caythorpe. Members would receive a tour of the premises.

It was also noted that the Committee had agreed to put its Waste Working Group on hold until the details of the budget settlement and how it could impact on the delivery of waste services.

### vii) Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire

The Chairman provided the Committee with the following updates: -

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18 November 2015

It was noted that the item on 'Health and Wellbeing Board Annual Report and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy – Theme Dashboards' scheduled for 18 November 2015 would now be considered by a working group, which would report its findings to the Committee. In addition to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Councillors J Kirk (City of Lincoln Council); S L W Palmer; Mrs J Renshaw and Mrs S Wray formed part of the working group.

The second item on the work programme for 18 November 2015 on 'Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – Finalising the Response to the Consultation' would now be considered by the Committee at its meeting on 16 December 2015.

The Chairman also advised Members that the Committee would be receiving training on 18 November 2015, which would cover several topics to improve the Committee's background knowledge. In particular, the training would target the new district councillors who were appointed to the Committee in June 2015.

16 December 2015

It was noted that an item on 'Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – Finalising the Response to the Consultation' had been added to the work programme for the meeting on 16 December 2015.

17 February 2016

The Committee would be receiving an update from United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust on its 'Portfolio Improvement Programme', which would include its financial position. The Committee would also be receiving an item on 'Pharmacy Services' at the Trust, which would update the Committee on its developments of electronic prescribing and medicines administration system.

Working Group Activity

In addition to the working group, as detailed above, the Committee had also established a further working group on the 'Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust's Clinical Strategy', which would need to meet in early / mid November 2015. In addition to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, Councillors T Boston (North Kesteven District Council); Dr G Gregory (Boston Borough Council); S L W Palmer; and a nominee from Healthwatch, would form part of the working group.

In response to a question, the Committee was advised that the new consultation date for the Lincolnshire Health and Care programme was not yet known but it was likely to be in February 2016.

viii) Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee

The Chairman advised that at the meeting on 26 October 2015, the Committee had received a presentation on 'Lincolnshire County Council's Role in Planning'.

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At the meeting on 26 October 2015, two items had been added to the Committee's work programme: 'Highways Asset Management Policy' had been included to the agenda for 14 December 2015 and an update on the 'Total Transport Initiative' had been added to the work programme for the spring.

Further to Minute 30, it was queried whether the Committee had considered the potential impact of the possible future increased usage on the transportation network. Members were advised that the Committee had not yet considered this but could at a future meeting.

### ix) Value for Money Scrutiny Committee

The Vice-Chairman advised Members that at the meeting scheduled for 24 November 2015, the Committee would continue to scrutinise Serco Performance and it had previously agreed to add this item to each agenda, as a standing item.

It was also noted that a Financial Challenges Workshop would be held on 24 November 2015 following the formal Committee meeting, commencing at 2.00pm.

The Vice-Chairman advised the Committee that during the course of the meeting, she had emailed the Executive Councillor for Finance and Property requesting an update on the issue of installing a defibrillator at County Offices. The Executive Councillor's response had stated that this issue had recently been discussed at the Strategic Health and Safety meeting, and it was requested by the Executive Councillor that a Policy and Strategy were put in place to take this issue forward. Further to this, it was agreed that the Chairman would still contact the Executive Councillor for a more detailed update.

A general discussion took place regarding the meeting of the Audit Committee on 23 September 2015, where members of the Value for Money Scrutiny Committee were invited to attend, in order to discuss the report on the Council's Financial Control Environment and Serco Performance.

It was suggested that the 'Property Update', which was on the work programme for 22 February 2016 became a broader item to enable the Committee to reflect on the County Council's property portfolio.

### RESOLVED

- (1) That the content of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee work programme, as detailed at Appendix A to the report, be approved.
- (2) That the work programmes from the Council's other Overview and Scrutiny Committees, as detailed at Appendix B to the report, be approved.
- (3) That the Working Group activity, as detailed at Appendix C to the report, be noted.



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- (4) That the Forward Plan of Key Decisions from 2 November 2015, as detailed at Appendix D to the report, be noted.

The meeting closed at 1.05 pm.