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3 July 2023

Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee will be held on **Tuesday**, **11 July 2023 at 10.00 am in the Council Chamber**, **County Offices**, **Newland**, **Lincoln LN1 1YL** for the transaction of the business set out on the attached Agenda.

Yours sincerely

Debbie Barnes OBE

Chief Executive

<u>Membership of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee</u> (11 Members of the Council)

Councillors I D Carrington (Chairman), M A Griggs (Vice-Chairman), Mrs A M Austin, A J Baxter, M D Boles, I G Fleetwood, A G Hagues, H Spratt, G J Taylor, L Wootten and R Wootten

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA TUESDAY, 11 JULY 2023

Item	Title	Pages
1	Apologies for Absence/Replacement Members	
2	Declarations of Members' Interests	
3	Minutes of the previous meeting held on 30 May 2023	5 - 10
4	Announcements by the Chairman, Executive Councillors and Lead Officers	
5	Adult Learning Provision 2022-23 and plans for the 2023-24 academic year (To receive a report from Thea Croxall, Adult Learning and Skills Manager – Economic Development which provides an overview of the activity delivered by the Adult Skills & Family Learning Service 2022-23)	
6	Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub Annual Performance and Future Business Landscape (To receive a report from Samantha Harrison, Head of Economic Development, and Angela Driver, Enterprise Growth Manager - Economic Development which updates the Committee on the Annual Performance of the Growth Hub in 2022, and future plans for business support initiatives)	!
7	Broadband Programme - Interim Update (To receive a report from Justin Brown, Assistant Director – Growth, and Stephen Brookes, Broadband Programme Manager which provides an update on the Broadband Programme in Lincolnshire)	
8	Service Level Performance Reporting Against the Corporate Performance Framework 2022-2023 - Quarter 4 (To receive a report from Samantha Harrison, Head of Economic Development, Chris Miller, Head of Environment, and Mike Reed, Head of Waste, which enables the Committee to comment on 2022-23 Quarter 4 performance for Economy, Flooding and Waste)	1
9	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee Work Programme (To receive a report by Kiara Chatziioannou, Scrutiny Officer, which enables the Committee to comment on the content of its work programme for the coming year to ensure that scrutiny activity is focused where it can be of greatest benefit)	•

<u>Democratic Services Officer Contact Details</u>

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Please note: for more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for servicing this meeting

- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements

Contact details set out above.

Please note: This meeting will be broadcast live on the internet and access can be sought by accessing <u>Agenda for Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday</u>, 11th July, 2023, 10.00 am (moderngov.co.uk)

All papers for council meetings are available on: https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/council-business/search-committee-records



ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 30 MAY 2023

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR I D CARRINGTON (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors M A Griggs (Vice-Chairman), Mrs A M Austin, A J Baxter, H Spratt, G J Taylor, L Wootten and R Wootten

Councillors M Clarke and T Dyer also attended the meeting

Officers in attendance:-

Justin Brown (Assistant Director Growth), Kiara Chatziioannou (Scrutiny Officer), Mick King (Head of Economic Infrastructure), Marianne Marshall (Communications) (Strategic Communications Lead), Chris Miller (Head of Environment), Vanessa Strange (Head of Infrastructure Investment), Jess Wosser-Yates (Democratic Services Officer) and Simon Wright (Regeneration and Portfolio Manager)

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

It was reported that under Regulation 13 of the Local Government Committee and Political Groups Regulation 1990, Councillor P Skinner was replacing Councillor I Fleetwood for this meeting only.

2 <u>DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS</u>

There were no declarations made at this point in proceedings.

3 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 11 APRIL 2023

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the previous meeting held on 21 April 2023 be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS AND LEAD OFFICERS

Councillor T Dyer, Support Councillor for Economic Development, Environment and Planning, encouraged members to use public rights of way in their community and provide feedback on their quality to the Countryside Team's improvement plan. The deadline to submit comments was 9 June 2023.

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 30 MAY 2023

5 <u>SCRUTINY PANEL B - AGRICULTURE SECTOR SUPPORTS IN LINCOLNSHIRE SCRUTINY</u> REVIEW

The Committee considered the Agriculture Sector Supports in Lincolnshire Scrutiny report which was developed by Scrutiny Panel B (SPB). Kiara Chatziioannou, Scrutiny Officer, introduced the report and Councillor G Taylor, Chairman of SPB, summarised its key findings and recommendations. Councillor Mike Clarke, Vice-Chairman of SP, Vanessa Strange – Head of Infrastructure Investment, and Justin Brown, Assistant Director – Place were also in attendance for this item. The following matters were reported:

- SPB examined the agricultural sector and analysed skills, practices and challenges
 experienced in farming communities across Lincolnshire, and sought to verify
 whether contemporary practices were encouraging farming communities to adhere
 to the Lincolnshire Green Masterplan.
- The Panel also aimed to identify potential opportunities for LCC to assist with unmet needs of farmers and agricultural workers, and to propose subsequent interventions.
- Several recommendations were identified by the Panel and were corroborated by industry experts, organisations and businesses.
- As part of its remit, SPB identified and analysed challenges experienced by the agricultural sector which included Avian Influenza outbreaks, changes to government policy, labour shortages, training provision, increased automation, and poor mental health.
- Members were requested to provide feedback and comment on the recommendations outlined in the report; this feedback would be reported to the Executive for their consideration on 4 July 2023.

During consideration of the report, the following comments were highlighted:

- The Committee welcomed that the mental health of farmers held a central position within the report.
- Members stressed the importance of balancing migration concerns whilst acknowledging the necessity of seasonal labour, which often required on a foreign workforce population. The Head of Infrastructure Investment further noted the value of developing skills locally to reduce dependence on seasonal labour.
- Substantial investment was made to the Bishop Burton Showground campus, Riseholme University of Lincoln campus, and Barclays Eagle Lab to stimulate local skills infrastructure and recruitment in manual farming work.
- There was a potential opportunity to innovate some County Farms to support young farmers to secure tenancies.
- Sessions were held with colleagues within Trading Standards, and it was noted that no concerns were raised regarding skills and expertise.
- The reinstatement of the Champion Farmed Environment Scheme focused on accommodating transitions caused by the Agriculture Bill and various environmental schemes.
- The Committee accepted there were local and manufacturing farming opportunities, however retention of the overall farming workforce could improve in Lincolnshire.

- Subsequently, the Chairman requested that LCC worked with the University of Lincoln to emphasise the range of agricultural careers available to students.
- Ill soil health was an issue for farmers and was a topic included within the action plan; the Chairman requested this topic was included in the recommendations passed to the Executive.
- Members suggested that improved rural broadband could help support rural
 connectivity and combat feelings of isolation; the Head of Infrastructure Investment
 further highlighted that businesses also had noted the need for better technology,
 particularly 5G, drone technology and robot weeders.
- The Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Trust (LFPT) supported farmers struggling with mental health, and third sector organisations worked with agricultural workers directly such as the Lincolnshire Rural Support Network (LRSN) which had funding for a mental health nurse within their team.
- Some members welcomed that the report included an assessment on the impact of Britain leaving the European Union.
- The Head of Infrastructure Investment agreed to circulate information on how the new migration routes outlined in the report would affect the availability of labour in Lincolnshire.
- Given the amount of agricultural technological innovation in Lincolnshire, it was suggested that LCC could work with the University of Lincoln to introduce a specialised course in agricultural engineering and manufacturing.
- It was questioned whether agricultural waste could be better utilised in Lincolnshire as out of 32 anaerobic digestion sites, only two provided biomethane to the national grid. The Head of Infrastructure Investment expressed that LCC was undertaking work regarding energy efficiency, such as the Energy Options Analysis report which was currently being developed.
- Members questioned whether officers were confident that smaller individual farming enterprises could sufficiently access capital to technologically modernise. The Head of Infrastructure Investment accepted that accessing capital was a significant challenge for farmers; despite there being new funding opportunities, businesses had to initially pay for capital investment and claim it back in arrears. It was assured that advice from land agents and agricultural consultants was available, and shared learning with other farmers was encouraged. Further, LRSN and various land agents had taken on contracts from DEFRA to offer individual advice services around succession farming.
- It was questioned whether officers were satisfied with coordination from agencies in supporting individual farming enterprises. The Head of Economic Infrastructure informed that SPB found that many bodies were attempting to coordinate multiple agencies, therefore LCC adopting a similar role was seen as unnecessary and could cause a proliferation of information. It was further noted that there were many remote sources and webinars available to support individual farming enterprises, and the Growth Hub sought to link farmers together.
- Members questioned how agricultural space was being maximised within Lincolnshire; it was noted the report discussed biodiversity net gain and using land for energy, and approaches such as vertical farming were briefly discussed by the Panel. It was

ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 30 MAY 2023

further noted that in some cases, crops were being grown by using surplus heat generated by farming.

- The Panel had found that more land was being used for solar panels, and that there were significant number of applications being submitted.
- Relevant to page 64 of the report [Table 1: Lincolnshire County Council Area Food Chain Employment (2021)], it was explained that the "10 employed in fishing an aquaculture" reflected on individuals who ran fish farms where more individuals were being employed.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the Committee receive and endorse the Scrutiny Panel report.
- 2. That the Committee supports the recommendations to the Executive as set out on page 15 of the report.
- 3. That any comments recorded be passed on to the Executive ahead of their consideration of the item on 4 July 2023/

6 <u>LCC BUSINESS CENTRES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PORTFOLIO -</u> PERFORMANCE REPORT

Consideration was given to a report by Simon Wright, Regeneration and Portfolio Manager – Economic Infrastructure, which updated the Committee on the performance of the Council's portfolio of business centres and industrial units including occupancy levels and tenant feedback on the suitability of the Council's premises to support the needs of small businesses. The following matters were reported;

- The Council aimed to provide business space for small and start up businesses in situations where development viability meant that the private sector was unable to provide this space. Furthermore, by offering flexible lease terms the council was able to support the economic growth of Lincolnshire.
- The report was the result of ongoing and direct engagement with tenants. This process had included structured interviews and open questioning on the areas of accommodation, management, support that was offered and what further could be
- Occupancy levels were considered as being good overall; variation was observed between industrial units and business centres.
- A major refurbishment of the Eventus Business Centre in Market Deeping had created an additional 2,365 sq ft of lettable space.

During consideration of the report, the following comments were noted:

- Local government continued to maintain an important role in supporting the private sector; such interventions provided an opportunity for LCC to stimulate greater economic growth locally.
- The Regeneration and Portfolio Manager Economic Infrastructure informed the Committee that the Covid-19 pandemic acted as a catalyst in helping bigger businesses move on from LCC premises.

- PA number of tenants also requested further support in encouraging networking and businesses to business events and similar promotional activities.
- Business centres had an occupancy rate of 75.5%, and it was noted that there were
 different general occupancy levels between industrial premises and business centres.
 The Regeneration and Portfolio Manager Economic Infrastructure informed
 members that occupancy was measured by the total lettable area, not by the number
 of businesses that were supported, and therefore reflected the recent completion of
 the Eventus reconfiguration and The Hub in Holbeach where there were still a
 number of vacant offices which were being actively marketed.

RESOLVED

- 1. That the report be endorsed; and
- 3. That the Committee's satisfaction be recorded on activity undertaken in engaging with tenants.
- 4. That comments and suggestions made in relation to the overview of activity discussed are taken under consideration by the relevant Officers and the Executive Portfolio Holder.

7 ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

Consideration was given to a report by Kiara Chatziioannou, Scrutiny Officer, which invited the Committee to consider and comment on the content of its own work programme for the year to ensure that scrutiny activity was focused where it can be of greatest benefit.

Clarification was made that October's meeting was scheduled for 24 October rather than 23 October 2023 as per the Work Programme; this was due to a mistake to be rectified by the Scrutiny Officer following the meeting.

RESOLVED

That the proposed work programme be approved, subject to the amendment above.

The meeting closed at 11.40 am



Agenda Item 5



Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director - Place

Report to: Environment & Economic Scrutiny Committee

Date: | 11 July 2023

Subject: Adult Learning Provision 2022-23 and plans for the 2023-24

academic year

Summary:

This report provides an overview of the activity delivered by the Adult Skills & Family Learning Service in 2022-23, highlighting key successes made during the academic year.

A dashboard outlining key performance indicators is provided at Appendix A for information, and a dashboard detailing planned Adult Skills & Family Learning provision for 2023/24 is provided at Appendix B for committee members to comment on.

Actions Required:

The Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee is invited to:

- (1) Review and comment on the successes reported for the 2022/23 Academic year; and,
- (2) Highlight additional areas for consideration to meet the needs of businesses and constituents at a District Council level to inform the 2023/24 Adult Skills & Family Learning programme planning.

1. Background

The Adult Skills & Family Learning programme is funded by the Adult Education Budget grant provided by the Education & Skills Funding Agency. This funding enables flexible tailored programmes of learning to be made available, which may or may not require a qualification, to help hard to reach learners engage in learning, build confidence, and enhance their well-being. Meeting the government's adult skills priorities, the funding's principal purpose is to engage adults and provide the skills and learning they need to equip them for work, an apprenticeship or further learning.

Lincolnshire County Council's Adult Skills & Family Learning Service raises achievements and aspirations by providing high quality learning opportunities in a safe environment that

enables learners to progress according to their ability, needs and interests. Through skilful partnership working with other Adult Education providers the provision is designed to add value and provide inbuilt progression routes to other provision.

This unique provision fills the gaps and meets the needs of Lincolnshire communities that are not able to be met by other funded provision. This important programme increases the confidence and skill levels of residents of Lincolnshire, giving them new career opportunities whilst helping local businesses to recruit the talented employees they need to develop.

Adult Learning programmes are planned and delivered via a range of commissioned and directly delivered arrangements, to support the delivery of key strategic priorities of Lincolnshire County Council, as well as alignment to the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership's (LEP) priority of increasing skills in Lincolnshire and driving economic growth. The subsequent programme is designed to meet the specific needs of residents and Employers in Lincolnshire. The Greater Lincolnshire LEP has identified six priority sectors of agri-food, engineering, manufacturing, the visitor economy, health and social care, and ports and logistics. Funding is concentrated in areas of market failure.

1.1 - Programme delivery

To provide a wide spread of provision across the county the Adult Learning programme is delivered by a range of sub-contracted partners, as shown in the table below, as well as via in house Tutors. Between August 2022 and June 2023, a total of 5,576 unique learners have been engaged on Adult Learning Programmes, delivering over 1,500 qualifications in the 2022/23 financial year.

Provider Type	Names	
	Abbey Access Training Centre; Children's Links,	
Third Sector and Community	Community Learning in Partnership (CLIP); TaylorItex;	
Interest Companies	Gainsborough Trinity Foundation; Riverside Access and	
	Training Centre Gainsborough	
Trusts	Lincoln Pelican Trust; Seagull Recycling Ltd; Lincolnshire	
Trusts	Action Trust	
	Soteria Solutions; ESH Consultancy; Three Counties	
Training Organisations	Accounts Training Services (3CATs); East Lindsey	
Training Organisations	Information Technology Centre (First College); Train4;	
	LAGAT Ltd; Skills 365	
FE Colleges	Boston College; Grantham College; Lincoln College	

A wide range of Adult Learning courses are offered, via the two strands of Adult Skills and Wellbeing provision. This wide-ranging provision encourages engagement with adult learning for personal development, as well as developing skills and supporting improved employability. Courses include GCSE and Functional Skills maths and English, computerised accounts, Makaton, CV writing and Interview Skills, Customer Service Skills, nursing and social care, health & safety, Paediatric First Aid, construction skills, Pilates, modern foreign

languages, mental health and wellbeing, digital employability skills and computing, and where appropriate include a qualification.

In addition to the Adult Skills and Wellbeing programmes, Family Programmes are delivered in partnership with schools, children's centres and in community venues across Lincolnshire ranging from 1-week short, engagement workshops of 3-hours duration, to 18-week long courses of 66 hours. Courses include the traditional Keeping up with the Children in literacy, numeracy, and Information and Communication Technology (ICT), as well as play-based provision such as Learning through Play, Fun with Numbers, etc.

A small number of Traineeship programmes are delivered which include Functional Skills maths and English, and work experience.

Learning programmes are delivered in schools, colleges, military bases, and community venues.

1.2 - Key data

Target groups

Target category	Annual target	Actual (31.5.23)
Unemployed learners	50%	58%
Male learners	36%	32%
Learners from ethnic minority groups	9%	20%
Learners with Learning difficulties or disabilities	20%	30%
Learners with no/low qualifications (under level 2)	40%	36%
Learners from areas of deprivation	25%	30%

Outcomes data

Target category	Annual target	Actual (31.5.23)
Attendance	92%	93%
Retention	95%	98%
Qualification pass rate	80%	91%
Progression into work or further learning	75%	73%
Satisfaction	96%	99%

1.3 - Things we are proud of, academic year 22/23

- Good recruitment of our target, hardest to reach, groups as outlined in 1.2 above.
- High levels of attendance, retention, qualification achievement and progression into work or further learning, as provided in 1.2 above.

- Strong partnership working with our sub-contracted providers to enable a county wide programme to be delivered that achieves a high learner satisfaction rate and very good outcomes for those involved. This includes a learner from Gainsborough who began his learning journey in 2021 looking for support to build his confidence and gain skills and qualifications to help him find work. He has since completed English and maths qualifications as well as taking part in customer services and employability skills courses. All his hard work has paid off and in January he gained a role with a prestigious employer. Other success stories include a learner working at The Priory Hotel in Louth who has been promoted to General Manager as a result of undertaking his Level 3 Diploma in Hospitality, Supervision and Leadership with ourselves.
- Good partnership working with the county library service to widen participation.
- Over 1,000 learners on our Family Learning programmes achieving good outcomes for those involved. This includes one learner, who because of the Family Learning intervention now has a job, has lost a lot of weight, has a much more appropriate relationship with herself and her children and has also given up energy drinks – the transformation in her is staggering.
- Strong partnership work with local community groups and family hosts to provide learning opportunities for Ukrainian families. This includes provision provided in South Kesteven, Stamford, Grantham, Bourne, Boston, Market Deeping, and Lincoln. Additional ESOL provision has been organised to meet this extra demand in year reflected in the recruitment of high numbers of learners from ethnic minority groups.
- Good progression into employment through our construction and security sector routeway provision supporting employers including Security4, Beal Homes and Lincolnshire Co-op.

2. Conclusion

Members of the Committee are invited to note the successes made by the Adult Skills & Family Learning Service in 2022/23, and comment on the planned 2023/24 programme highlighting any additional areas for consideration to meet the needs of businesses and constituents at a District Council level to inform future curriculum planning.

3. Consultation

a) Risk and Impact Analysis

N/A

4. Appendices

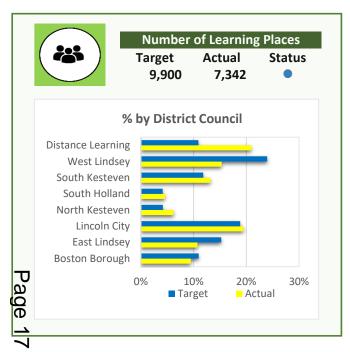
These are listed below and attached at the back of the report		
Appendix A Adult Skills & Family Learning 22-23 key performance indicators		
Appendix B	Adult Skills & Family Learning planned programme 2023-24	

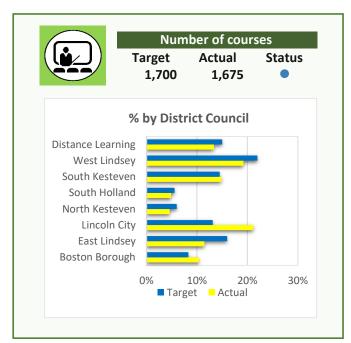
5. Background Papers

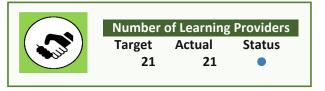
No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Thea Croxall, Adult Learning & Skills Manager- Economic Development who can be contacted on 07789 982248 or via email at thea.croxall@lincolnshire.gov.uk.



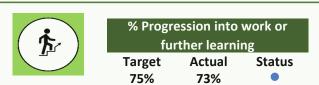








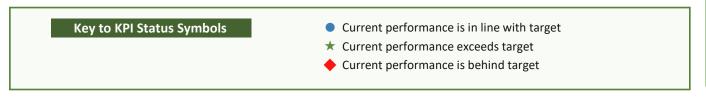


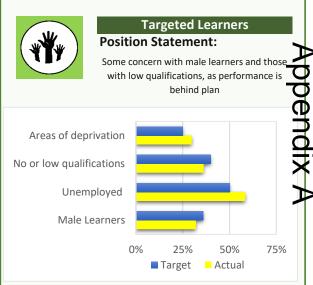












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Appendix B

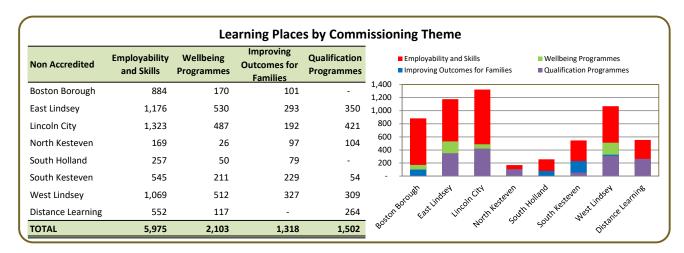
Adult Skills and Family Learning Service Planned Provision for 2023/2024

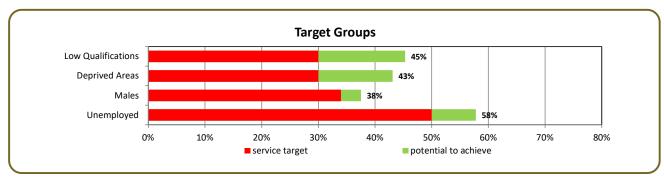


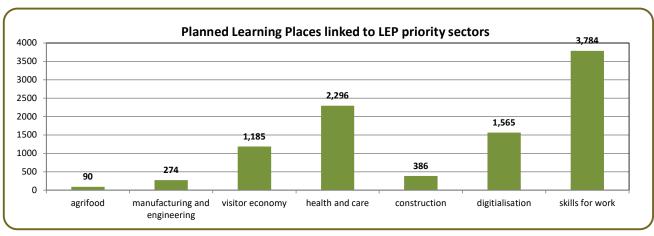
The LCC Adult Skills & Family Learning programme is designed to provide accessibility to provision for learners where there are gaps in FE provision. Skilful planning and good partnership working ensures inbuilt progression routes are in place to other government funded provision.

High Level Overview *					
Theme Employability and Skills Wellbeing Programmes Improving Outcomes for Families Qualification Programmes TOT					TOTAL
Learning Places	5,975	2,103	1,318	1,502	10,898
% of total	55%	19%	12%	14%	100%

^{*} For details of courses relating to each commissioning theme please see page 2







Adult Skills and Family Learning Service A flavour of the courses planned for 2023/2024

Employability and Skills

Emergency and Basic First Aid for Work - range of locations across Lincolnshire

Computers and introduction to IT - range of locations across Lincolnshire

Using the Internet / Google Office / MS office suite - range of locations across Lincolnshire

Introduction to Care Certificate - Boston and the Wolds

First Aid - range of locations across Lincolnshire

Get into Groundskeeping - Gainsborough

Animal Welfare - Care Farming and Conservation - Grantham

Get into Retail - Gainsborough

Introduction to Baking / Get into Bakery - Skegness and Lincoln

Introduction to the Benefits of Sports Massage - Boston

First Words in Ukrainian - Grantham

Speaking & Listening / Reading and Writing in English - Lincoln

Introduction to the Role of a Teaching Assistant - Boston, Spalding and the Wolds

CV writing / Get that Job / Interview Skills - range of locations across Lincolnshire

Community volunteer skills - Skegness

Wellbeing Programmes

Crafts for mindfulness and wellbeing - range of locations across Lincolnshire

Fit for Life, Work and Study - range of locations across Lincolnshire

Grow Your Own Confidence - range of locations across Lincolnshire

Healthy Eating Healthy Body - Gainsborough, Grantham, Skegness, Lincoln and Spalding

Introduction to fitness and wellbeing - Boston

Introduction to Mental Health Awareness - Lincoln and Distance Learning

Positive steps towards Employment - range of locations across Lincolnshire

Personal Safety and Self Defence for Women - Boston

Thriving with ADHD - Gainsborough, Mablethorpe and the Wolds

Walking for health and wellbeing / Wellness in the Forest - Gainsborough / Skegness

Yoga for wellbeing / Chair Yoga - Gainsborough, Grantham, Mablethorpe and Market Rasen

Improving Outcomes for Families

Building family relationships - range of locations across Lincolnshire

Childs Physical Development ABC's - Gainsborough

Crafting for the Family - Gainsborough

Family fun outdoors - Skegness

Healthy Families / Healthy Habits - Gainsborough

School based Family Learning programmes – range of locations across Lincolnshire

Taking Time To Stop Understand Move On - Grantham, Lincoln, The Wolds

Qualification Programmes

Award in essential digital skills for work and life - Lincoln and Distance Learning

Award in Health and Safety in a Construction Environment - Mablethorpe

Award in Introduction to health, social care and children and young peoples settings - Lincoln

BIIAB Level 1 Award in Essential Catering - Distance Learning

Bookkeeping and Accounting Certificates L1 & L2 - Grantham and Distance Learning

British Sign Language Level 1 - Distance Learning

Business Administration and Customer Services L1 & L2 - range of locations across Lincolnshire

Certificate in Counselling Skills L2 - Market Rasen

Certificate in Personal Licence Holder Skills Level 2 - Skegness, The wolds and Distance Learning

Certificate in the Principles of Care Planning - Sleaford

City and Guilds Level 2 Food Beverage and Service - Skegness

City and Guilds Level 2 Professional Cookery - Skegness

Functional Skills English and maths - range of locations across Lincolnshire

GCSE English, maths - Mablethorpe, Gainsborough, Market Rasen and Distance Learning

NOCN Awards Level 1 Award in Basic Construction Skills - Gainsborough

Occupational Studies Level 1 (Horticulture) - Market Rasen

Psychology Level 2 - Distance Learning







Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director - Place

Report to: Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee

Date: 11 July 2023

Subject: Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub Annual Performance and

Future Business Landscape

Summary:

This report provides an update on activity delivered by the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub and the activity of other business support delivery partners during the 12 months ending March 2023. Businesses continue to face economic challenges and continue to manage impacts from rising costs, supply chain and recruitment issues. Overall, the Growth Hub continues to perform very well, achieving, or exceeding output targets and with client satisfaction levels remaining at or above 92%.

The many projects that have been funded through European Regional Development Fund projects close on 30th June. A new support programme has been developed under the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, but there will be less support available, there are geographic limitations and there will be significantly fewer grants for businesses.

Businesses in Boston Borough Council, East Lindsey District Council and South Holland District Council will now access advisory support through their relative District Council, whereas businesses in City of Lincoln, North Kesteven, South Kesteven and West Lindsey as well as businesses in Rutland and North East Lincolnshire will continue to access advisory support through the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub Shared Service.

Online self-help support will continue to be available to all businesses regardless of location through the www.businesslincolnhsire.com website.

Actions Required:

The Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee is invited to:

- (1) Review and comment on the current progress and provide input to assist Officers plan future Growth Hub Services;
- (2) Note the impact of the change to the funding landscape and the geographical boundaries that now exist in the type and avail ability of support; and,

(3) Continue to support the Growth Hub in highlighting services to business contacts.

1. Background

- **1.1.1** The Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub was launched in April 2015 following the requirement from UK Government for all Local Enterprise Partnerships to facilitate the development of a Growth Hub to provide a single place to go for business support, for all sectors and all growth stages. The joint economic development strategy between the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (GLLEP) and Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) aligned funding and officer time to ensure a robust, highly acclaimed Growth Hub service.
- **1.1.2** The Department for Business and Trade (DBT), fund Growth Hubs to provide a doorway for businesses to access a package of information, diagnostic, advisory, coaching, mentoring and development programmes. Furthermore, the Hub aims to raise awareness and uptake of both public and private sector support, by improving coordination and signposting to other local and national provision. Growth Hus can develop a delivery mechanism that meets local needs within the available funding envelope. Every LEP is required to provide a Growth Hub.
- **1.1.3** There have been a plethora of business support programmes and grant funds available across the county over many years. The majority of funds have come through successful European Funding allocations. Through the most recent European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) 2014-2020 programme, which ends on 30th June, there has been approximately £20m contracted to business support providers, delivering schemes under the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub umbrella brand. These schemes have delivered wide ranging support services from start up, innovation, international trade, investment funds, technology support and grants. The impact report on page 4 highlights the impact of all of this collective support since 2015.
- **1.1.4** The £7.12m ERDF Business Lincolnshire Sustainable Business Growth 2 (BLSBG2) programme has been delivered by the Council's Economic Development Officers. In the last 4 years, BLSBG2 has engaged 2,342 businesses. 1,226 have received at least 3 hours of support and 594 have received at least 12 hours of support. There have been 535 successful Grant Applications with a total value of £1.562m awarded.
- **1.1.5** The UK Government has replaced ERDF funding with UK Shared Prosperity Funds (UKSPF). Allocations have been awarded to Lead Local Authorities in Lincolnshire these are the seven District Councils.
- **1.1.6** UKSPF has the advantage of a less restrictive rule book. It also has a much wider remit in terms of the types of projects it can be used to support, including community and skills support as well as support to businesses.
- **1.1.7** The County Council Economic Development Team have been working with the Lead Local Authorities, to develop a UKSPF funded business support 'Shared Service' to deliver

across the GLLEP geography by the Growth Hub. All Lead Local Authorities had the option to access the service in return for a contribution equivalent to 5.2% of their local UKSPF allocation. Intrinsically, the 'Shared Service' sought to ensure a universal offer that all businesses would be able to access regardless of geography.

- **1.1.8** Lead Local Authorities have made local decisions about the distribution of their UKSPF allocations utilising various methods. In terms of the Business Lincolnshire Shared Service, of the seven Local Authorities in Lincolnshire:
 - Boston, East Lindsey and South Holland have opted to deliver a local business support service and NOT opt into the Shared Service. Businesses in these areas requiring support, will need to access the support being provided by their respective Local Authority and are being signposted accordingly.
 - City of Lincoln, North Kesteven, South Kesteven and West Lindsey have opted to buy into the Business Lincolnshire UKSPF Shared Service (along with Rutland and North East Lincs). Businesses in these areas will access support via the Business Lincolnshire Shared Service.
 - Note that a decision from North Lincolnshire Council is pending.

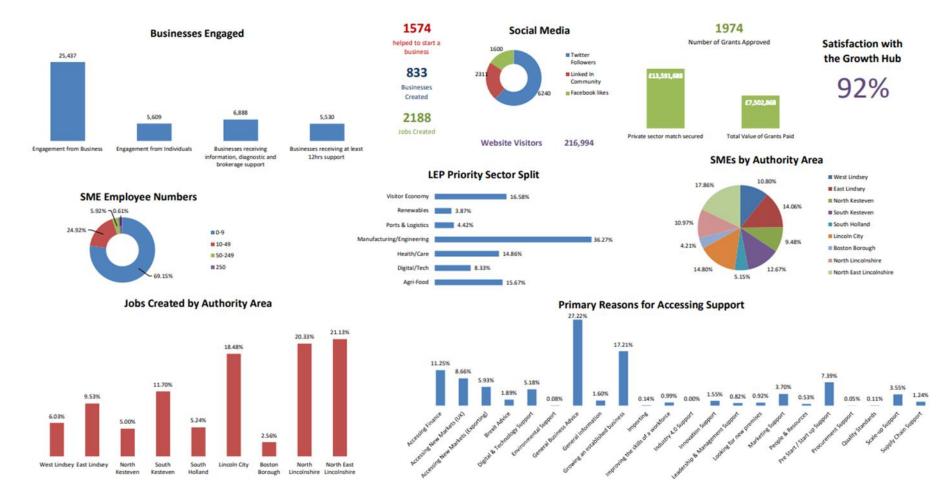
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Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub Performance & Impact Report

Cumulative from Start of Growth Hub to March 2023





1.2 - Delivery in 2022-23 Highlights

In 2022-23 the Growth Hub received direct funding to deliver vital business support offers.

2022/2023 Funding	Amount	Requirements
DBT Core Funding	£286,625	Enquiry and triage systems, Scale Up
(award)		Support and specialist advisory support,
		PR and Marketing, CRM, website,
		research and evaluation. East Midlands
		resilience programme. East Midlands
		cluster role
ERDF Sustainable	£901,901 (income for	BLSBG2 provides a comprehensive and
Business Growth 2	22-23 activity)	enhanced offer of one-to-one and one-
(BLSBG2)		to-many support, capacity building and
Programme		growth funding.
(successful bid)		
Total	£1,188,526	

Programme Highlights During 2022-23

- → The Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub services consistently score 92% or more in terms of the quality of services provided and 93% of clients were very or somewhat likely to recommend the service to a friend or colleague.
- → The 4-year ERDF funded Sustainable Business Growth 2 programme has:
- Engaged with 2342 SMEs¹
- Provided 1226 SMEs with 3 hours of support.
- Provided 594 SMEs with 12 hours of support.
- Created 155 new to firm products.
- Created 340 jobs.
- Delivered 249 events to 2990 delegates.
- Processed 574 grant applications, awarding 535 successful grants with a value just under £1.562 million.
- → We were delighted to receive the very positive news that both our East Midlands Growth Hub Cluster wide bids for the national Made Smarter East Midlands and national Create Growth Programmes were both successful. Both bring an injection of funding to support capacity building and skills development in two important local sectors. This highlights the strength of the Growth Hub team in being able to develop strong bids for funding that are well received by national government.

Made Smarter:

The Made Smarter programme brings funding of £3.25m to the region, with delivery over 3 years (ending 31st March 2025). LCC are the lead for this programme and are

-

¹ Small and Medium Enterprises.

providing the Accountable Body function. Despite a challenging compressed start, the Made Smarter East Midlands in year 1, engaged with 87 businesses and awarded 12 grants totalling almost £210 thousand.

Create Growth:

The East Midlands Create Growth programme is one of only 6 successful regional bids, which brings £1.275m of support activities. Leicester and Leicestershire Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP) are leading the activity through to the end of March 2025. The programme is targeted to high-growth potential creative businesses in sectors such as creative agencies, architecture, software development, film, gaming, etc. and incorporates 3 complementary strands:

- Bespoke business support
- Investor outreach activities (delivered by Innovate UK)
- A finance fund (delivered by Innovate UK)
- → We delivered a number of highly innovative and successful local programmes in addition to the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) funded activity, including an advisory programme for 20 pubs to undertake Diversification projects, a 'Fit For Business' Podcast series talking business owners through business basics, a 'Creative Catalyst' workshop series helping traditional businesses with innovation and problem solving, a 'Hospitable Boost' programme for Retail, Leisure and Hospitality businesses incorporating adviser, peer groups and workshops, all showcasing local success stories, and the 'Momentum' programme to support growth in Creative, Digital and Tech businesses
- → Our Next Level Scale-Up programme offers a gold standard programme for Greater Lincolnshire's fastest growing businesses. It brings together a mix of Leadership and Management development with Senior Management Team Profiling, Coaching, Growth Sprints, a 1-year licence for the 'Zellar' carbon footprint assessment tool, plus an engaging Alumni programme. The feedback from participants has been fantastic and we have now supported our 261st Scale Up client. Almost half of the Alumni joined us for our first event for those that had been through the programme a half day conference where they learned new tools, listened to experts, and made new local connections.
- → We launched the Greater Lincolnshire International Strategy in October 2022 and we have been working on delivery of the actions from the associated activity plan, which includes so far, a communication campaign, improved web content, training for Advisers and an Export Peer Network and Roundtable programme. We are already seeing stronger connections between organisations locally and improved cross referral.
- The Greater Lincolnshire Engineering and Manufacturing Network (GLEAM) is being delivered in partnership with the University of Lincoln and has seen an upturn in membership due to a vibrant rebrand last year. Members and partners join free and

- are able to gain free affiliate membership to MakeUK and access fully funded 'Zellar' 12-month carbon footprint assessment tool licence.
- → The 'Made in Lincolnshire' online brochure continues to attract interest with 119 businesses featured currently. Ongoing marketing of the brochure to promote inclusion and support inter-trading with likeminded manufacturers.
- ➤ Using a similar format, this year we have developed and launched the 'Digital Lincolnshire' online brochure to highlight the fast growing creative, digital and tech sector in the region. There have been almost 70 expressions of interest to be featured in the brochure an excellent response in a short timeframe. The first 36 entries are now available to read online. Also for this sector is a new events programme which is delivered in partnership with Lincolnshire Coop at the Mosaic Digital Hub, including sector networking and lunch and learn events.

Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub Key Performance Outcomes

Indicator	Annual Total (1 April 2022- 31 March 2023)	Cumulative Total (since launch of growth hub)
Number of businesses that have received 'light touch' triage, information and/or signposting support (excluding website traffic)	1,392	25,690
Number of individuals that have received 'light touch' triage, information and/or signposting support (excluding website traffic)	1,201	5,729
Total number of unique visitors to Growth Hub website	21,349	216,994
Number of businesses receiving 'medium intensity' information, diagnostic and brokerage support	979	6,938
Number of businesses receiving 'high intensity' support e.g., account management / intensive support directly provided by the Hub or partner organisation	735	5,535
Total number of individuals who been helped to start a business	246	1635
£Private sector match secured	£3,529,274	£13,852,060

Figures from April 2022 to March 2023	Number	
Number of jobs created	304	
Facebook likes	1600 (up 4% since last year)	
Twitter followers	6240 (up 2% since last year)	
Linked In	2311 (up 25% since last year)	

1.3 – Future Business Support Landscape

The fundamental role of the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub will continue to be to:

- Improve the awareness and coordination of local and national business support offers.
- Provide clear signposting and diagnosis to help businesses find the right support easily, without charge and in an impartial way.

This 'doorway' service will continue to be supplemented with additional advisory support funded through other sources. The Enterprise Growth Team have a strong track record in successful funding bids, with European Funding of course, but also more recently to Department for Business and Trade (DBT) for the East Midlands Made Smarter programme and to Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (DCMS) for the Create Growth programme. Officers will continue to seek out other sources of funding to provide supplementary support options.

UK Shared Prosperity

UK Shared Prosperity funding and the linked Rural England Prosperity Funding, has a wide focus. It is aimed at undertaking activity which contributes to restoring a 'sense of community, local pride and belonging'. 'Strengthening the social fabric of communities, building pride in place and creating the foundations for economic growth at the neighbourhood level'.

Supporting local businesses is highlighted as one of 3 central themes that investment is aimed at, with the following objectives:

- Creating jobs and boosting community cohesion, through investments that build on
 existing industries and institutions, and range from support for starting businesses
 to visible improvements to local retail, hospitality, and leisure sector facilities.
- Promoting networking and collaboration, through interventions that bring together businesses and partners within and across sectors to share knowledge, expertise, and resources, and stimulate innovation and growth.
- Increasing private sector investment in growth-enhancing activities, through targeted support for small and medium-sized businesses to undertake new-to-firm innovation, adopt productivity-enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies, and techniques, and start or grow their exports.

In terms of supporting businesses, the UKSPF prospectus provides us with an opportunity to widen access, reduce the eligibility restrictions and encourage broader outputs and outcomes. Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has allocated the Rural England Prosperity Fund to eligible Lead Local Authorities, and it is to be used to benefit businesses and communities in rural areas.

The 3-year allocations are as follows:

	UK Shared Prosperity Funding	Rural England Prosperity Funding	Total
Boston	2,194,351	429,355	Х
East Lindsey	4,438,286	1,791,546	Х
Lincoln	2,810,773	0	2,810,773
North East Lincolnshire	5,282,105	0	5,282,105
North Kesteven	3,195,139	747,556	Х
North Lincolnshire	5,466,833	789,520	Х
Rutland	1,000,000	400,000	Х
South Holland	2,693,049	699,884	Х
South Kesteven	3,898,582	540,460	Х
West Lindsey	2,700,436	795,821	х
Total Greater Lincolnshire	33,679,554	х	х
Total Lincolnshire	21,930,616	х	х

UKSPF has a much wider focus than just supporting businesses. UKSPF is aimed at undertaking activity which contributes to restoring a sense of community, local pride and belonging. 'Strengthening the social fabric of communities, building pride in place and creating the foundations for economic growth at the neighbourhood level'.

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- Increasing private sector investment in growth-enhancing activities, through targeted support for small and medium-sized businesses to undertake new-to-firm innovation, adopt productivity-enhancing, energy efficient and low carbon technologies, and techniques, and start or grow their exports.

Lincolnshire County Council does not have direct access to Shared Prosperity or Rural England Prosperity funds and has no alternative funding sources to deliver business support at a scale that would support a replacement service to the BLSBG2 programme.

The Enterprise Growth Team have therefore been working with the 10 Local Authorities within the Greater Lincolnshire LEP area over the last 12 months, to identify a suitable

replacement service following the end of European funding. The resulting 'Business Lincolnshire UKSPF Shared Service' has been offered to individual Local Authorities to 'buy into' from their UKSPF allocations, in return for a contribution of just over 5% of their UKSPF allocations.

Once agreements are confirmed with all opted in Local Authorities, a collective UKSPF pot of approximately £1.4m is expected to fund the Shared Service for 2 years from 1st April 2023 to end March 2025. Procured contracts are expected to exceed this amount, but any shortfalls will be supplemented with funding from DBT to enable the full-service delivery as planned.

The BL UKSPF Shared Service aims to provide a universal core business support service, that incorporates as much as possible from the BLSBG2 programme to meet thematic and sector priorities, thereby reducing the proliferation of individual services and helping to reduce patchwork provision.

Local Authority Decision Making is as follows:



Business Lincolnshire UKSPF Shared Service

The Business Lincolnshire UKSPF Shared Service will utilise the core Business Lincolnshire services which are delivered by the County Council Enterprise Growth Team. This core service relies on County Council budgets and our grant award from the Department for DBT, which for 23-24 is £316,625. This grant will continue to enable specialist advisory support, PR and Marketing, CRM, website, research and evaluation and the East Midlands Growth Hub Cluster Lead role. It will also be used to cover any funding shortfalls to deliver the 'Shared Service'.

The core elements of service delivery include:

Core Business Lincolnshire Services

- · Delivery of
 - Enquiry management and onward referral service web, email and telephone enquiries (01522 782067)
 - Greater Lincolnshire Engineering and Advanced Manufacturing Network (GLEAM)
 - Financial Intermediary Forum (FIF)
 - · 'Flagship Events'
 - · 'Other programmes'more on this later
 - · www.businesslincolnshire.com website
 - Programme Management, Research, Relationship Management & Partnership work

This core service will be enhanced with other business support products funded through various routes.

The main support programme will be the Business Lincolnshire UKSPF Shared Service, which consists of the following. The Enterprise Growth Team will commission these services mainly through existing contracts:

Business Lincolnshire UKSPF Shared Service

Dedicated Geographic Growth Hub Advisor

- Noreen Read, Trudy Roberts, Toni Coupland, Amy Clark

Specialist advisers covering:

- Retail, Leisure and Hospitality Hayley Toyne
- Agri / Horti Paul Ward
- Manufacturing Gordon Stewart
- Digitalisation David Regler & CDI Alliance
- Carbon Reduction to be confirmed

Specialist Programmes including:

- Start Up Academy virtual programme to be procured
- Social Economy Academy through BGU GLSEA
- Manufacturing Programme to be procured
- Carbon Reduction Programme to be procured
- Retail, leisure and hospitality Programme to be procured
- High Growth (Scale up) Programme Next Level

Virtual Workshops / gated website content – to be procured PR & Marketing, website, social media, newsletter

In addition, there will also continue to be wider provision commissioned and directly managed by the Enterprise Growth Team, which is intended to complement the Shared Service, filling gaps as much as possible within funding envelopes. Currently, these include:

Other Programmes

Digital Sector Growth Activity

Mosaic Digital Hub

Mosaic Connects & Mosaic Talks – see <u>Business Lincolnshire events calendar</u>

Digital Lincolnshire

International Strategy & Action Plan

- Export Peer Network and Roundtable Programme
 - 6 sessions of 2-3 hours for cohorts up to 10 delegates plus dedicated 1 to 1 support from experts
 - · Overcome any international trade challenges and explore new opportunities
 - Build a trusted network of connections to support you now and in the future
 - Improve your long-term personal and business performance
- Empowering SMEs in International Trade Programme
 - Workshop programme see Business Lincolnshire events calendar
 - Advisory support, webinars, factsheets and case studies

Linking through to wider support provided through DIT and Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce

Businesses are also able to benefit from some nationally funded support programmes available in our area. Access to these programmes is also facilitated through the Growth Hub. These include:

Other Programmes

Made Smarter Adoption Programme East Midlands

Digital experts will provide advice and support to manufacturing businesses on how to switch to advanced and automated technologies. The programme provides digital transformation road mapping, leadership development, grant funding and access to industrial digital technology expertise to help with implementation.

Contact Louise Higham

Create Growth East Midlands

Aimed at high-growth potential creative businesses in sectors such as creative agencies, architecture, software development, film, gaming, etc., to help them to scale and become investment ready through bespoke business support, investor outreach activities and a finance fund managed by Innovate UK.

Contact Angela Driver / Sally Denton sdenton@lincoln.ac.uk

Multiply Champions

Employers and community groups in Lincolnshire can apply for a £1,000 grant to support numeracy development within their organisations and with their customers. The money can be used to pilot activates that help teach everyday maths skills that might be needed in the workplace or in life. This links with the wider Multiply numeracy programme delivered through Thea's team.

Contact Jeannine Thornley / Holly Wells / Sean Gray

The Growth Hub also facilitates access to other publicly and privately funded business support, such as national programmes like Help to Grow Management, Innovate UK, Department of International Trade (DIT), Intellectual Property Office (IPO) and business support programmes run by several banks. Information about all the support programmes that Business Lincolnshire are aware of are available via the Business Lincolnshire website.

Our local education institutions will also be keen to continue to support businesses and we will continue to work closely with the University of Lincoln, Bishop Grosseteste University, and all of the local FE Colleges. Similarly, we are in regular contact with the Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), Lincolnshire and Hull and Humberside Chambers of commerce, local incubator spaces, etc. to ensure that as many opportunities are being highlighted.

Some Local Authorities also plan to allocate additional UKPSF to support businesses with local needs. At the time of writing these include:

WLDC

- Local Retail and Hospitality Advisor
- Business Sustainability (Green Growth) Grant (capital and revenue) £1,000 to £15,000, 30% match funding required.
- Rural England Prosperity Fund (Non-Agricultural Farm Diversification and Agri Tech Business Development) Grants (capital only) - £1,000 to £15,000, 70% / 30% match funding required.
- West Lindsey District Council Agri Tech Business Development Grant (revenue only) - £1,000 to £10,000, no match funding required.

NKDC

- Business Adviser, Phil Means
- Sleaford Shopfront Grant Scheme 10% match
- Rural England Prosperity Fund Grant (capital) minimum £5000, possible match funding required.
- Low Carbon programme details tbc
- Social media training with 'Maybe'

It should be noted that grant funding post ERDF will be very limited.

2. Conclusion

The Growth Hub has consistently performed well. Service users value the support that is provided.

Business Lincolnshire will continue to provide a doorway to support for all businesses, regardless of their location, through online channels and telephone enquiry lines. However, the move away from ERDF funded support marks a significant change. Overall, there will be fewer advisory programmes and significantly fewer grants available for businesses and there will be different services available depending on geography.

The proposed UKSPF Shared Service offers a broad spectrum of advisory support similar to that available through the Sustainable Business Growth 2 programme, offering a ladder of progression from Start Up to Export to Scale Up, and including a geographic Generalist Advisers, Specialist Advisers covering Sector and Thematic priorities, small scale workshop programme and an ongoing comms campaign raising awareness of support and providing inspiration to business owners.

However, not all Local Authorities have chosen to opt into the Shared Service so there is no longer a universal advisory support service for the whole of Lincolnshire.

Members of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee are invited to review and comment on the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub activity and to note the future changes to provision as a result of the funding changes.

3. Consultation

a) Risk and impact analysis

N/A

4. Appendices

N/A

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Samantha Harrison, Head of Economic Development who can be contacted on 01522 550576 or via email at samanthaL.harrison@lincolnshire.gov.uk and Angela Driver, Enterprise Growth Manager - Economic Development Enterprise Growth Manager who can be contacted on 01522 552815, or via email at angela.driver@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Agenda Item 7



Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham, Executive Director - Resources

Report to: Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee

Date: 11 July 2023

Subject: Broadband Programme – Interim Update

Summary:

The purpose of this paper is to provide summary information to members of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee on the current work of the Council's Broadband Programme.

Actions Required:

The Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee is invited to review and comment on the contents of the report.

1. Background

What follows is a summary and overview of the Council's Broadband Programme current work streams; this update report was requested by Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee in January 2023.

1.1 – Contract 3 – Quickline

- The contract between Lincolnshire County Council (LCC), Building Digital UK (BDUK) and Quickline to deliver 8K premises to Ultrafast broadband in rural areas prefixed by postcodes LN & DN. Currently 4.9K premises upgraded to download speeds > 100Mb/s. Completion due between December 2023 and 31st March 2024.
- Discussion is ongoing regarding the addition of further available funding under an agreed contractual Change Control. This Change Control will be utilised to 'infill' areas that Project Gigabit will not cover, and any such deployment will run in tandem with Lots 10 & 23 of Project Gigabit (see following). It is expected that data down to property level will be available towards the end of 2023.

1.2 - Project Gigabit

- The Government's BDUK project to deliver gigabit capable broadband to rural areas that are deemed to be non-commercially viable to existing providers. Where Lincolnshire is concerned, the county has been broken down to 2 'Lots', Lots 10 & 23.
- Lot 10 will go to Tender in May 2023. The eligible premises count for Lincolnshire Lot 10 is 13.6K.
- Lot 23 is still being finalised in terms of eligible premises and at the time of writing this
 report, 'Supplier Engagement' concluded at the end of April, and we are awaiting
 details of interested suppliers from BDUK, although at this point, we are aware of two
 interested suppliers. Currently, the eligible premises count for Lincolnshire Lot 23 is
 75.3K.
- The Broadband Team will work in a partnership agreement with BDUK to deliver both contracts.

1.3 - Commercial Investment

- Commercial investment is moving rapidly and well above what we would have envisaged two years ago.
- Full Fibre (FTTP) is now 39.5%, Ultrafast (>100Mb/s) = 56.7%, Gigabit capable = 56% up from 50% in January and 38.7% in March 2022.
- We expect in excess of 220 thousand premises to be upgraded by commercial investment by the end of 2025, but we are starting to see slightly concerning trends where operators are downsizing staff.
- Some ongoing planning difficulties are being experienced, but work is continuing with District colleagues, Lincolnshire County Council and commercial providers to resolve them.
- BT/Openreach has just announced a technology enhancement that will trial in one area of rural Lincolnshire.

1.4 – Project Gigahub

 A BDUK funded project to deliver full fibre connectivity to publicly owned rural buildings such as schools, doctor's surgeries, blue light stations etc. From this 'Hub site' commercial providers would be encouraged to upgrade adjacent communities. The Broadband Team had identified 185 sites across Greater Lincolnshire and their Tender documents had been approved by BDUK for a procurement. However, BDUK has since reduced the site numbers to 62 on the basis that those sites removed were likely to be picked up under Project Gigabit. We have raised the point that Project Gigahub would both deliver in a timelier manner than Project Gigabit and would guarantee delivery to the chosen sites.

• Other Local Bodies across the region are experiencing similar issues and BDUK has now pushed all eligible East Midlands premises into a single Tender.

1.5 – Rural Gigabit Voucher Schemes

- A BDUK funded project to deliver full fibre connectivity to publicly owned rural buildings such as schools, doctor's surgeries, blue light stations etc. From this 'Hub site' commercial providers would be encouraged to upgrade adjacent communities. The Broadband Team had identified 185 sites across Greater Lincolnshire and their Tender documents had been approved by BDUK for a procurement. However, BDUK has since reduced the site numbers to 62 on the basis that those sites removed were likely to be picked up under Project Gigabit. We have raised the point that Project Gigahub would both deliver in a timelier manner than Project Gigabit and would guarantee delivery to the chosen sites.
- Other Local Bodies across the region are experiencing similar issues and BDUK has now pushed all eligible East Midlands premises into a single Tender.

2. Conclusion

An overview of the current Broadband Programme is being presented to the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee. The Committee is invited to review and comment on the content of this report.

3. Consultation

a) Risk and Impact Analysis N/A

4. Appendices

N/A

5. Background Papers

No background papers within section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Stephen Brookes, Broadband Programme Manager who can be contacted via email on stephen.brookes@lincolnshire.gov.uk





Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director - Place

Report to: Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee

Date: 11 July 2023

Subject: Subject: Service Level Performance against the Corporate Performance

Framework 2022-23 - Quarter 4

Summary:

This report summarises the Service Level Performance against the Success Framework 2022-23 for Quarter 4. All performance that can be reported in Quarter 4 is included in this report.

Appendix A details the proposed key performance indicators to be reported to Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee for 2023-24.

Full-service level reporting to all scrutiny committees can be found here <u>Service level</u> <u>performance data</u>.

Actions Required:

The Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee is invited to:

- (1) Consider and comment on the Environment and Economy Service Level Performance for 2022-23 Quarter 4; and,
- (2) Review and agree the 2023-24 Performance Indicators for Environment and Economy as shown in Appendix A.

1. Background

This report details the Service Level Performance measures for the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee that can reported in Quarter 4.

- 4 measures that exceeded their target
- 0 measures that achieved their target ✓
- 4 measures did not meet their target ×
- 1 measure that does not have a target (contextual)

1.1 Economy

1.1.1 Measures that exceeded their target

PI 69 Businesses supported by the Council 💢

Actual: 2,527 Target: 1,358

During Q4 an additional 661 businesses were supported bringing the total for the year to 2,527, above the overall target of 1,358. This target has been exceeded due to the clear need to support the business community to recover from challenges the economic climate brought and help them to develop and grow.

The Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub has supported 519 businesses in Q4 with a further 24 grants being paid from the European Regional Development Fund programme.

The Growth Hub's programme for high growth businesses, 'Next Level' Scale Up programme has been very well received through 22/23 as have the Pub Diversification, Manufacturing Transformation and Supply Chain Support programmes. These have been complemented by two flagship conferences - 'Go Digital 23' focusing on the Customer of the Future and a Scale Up Alumni event for over 100 of our Scale up businesses.

The new Create Growth and the Made Smarter East Midlands programmes are underway and are generating significant interest from businesses and our drive to increase internationalisation is continuing with the launch of a new Exporting Peer Network and Roundtable Export Programme.

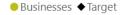
Through the Inward Investment team, Team Lincolnshire and the account management of foreign owned businesses, our services have supported 138 businesses during Q4. This includes investment enquiries from the agrifood, renewables and digital/technology sectors and support for our existing foreign owned businesses to develop and grow which has helped to create 383 jobs across a number of projects.

Team Lincolnshire have supported businesses with the delivery of five events; an Economic briefing, Investor event at St Modwen, networking event Lincoln City FC, Humber Zero Industry insight, Fresh Produce Consortium futures event at Peterborough and a joint Property & Construction event with the Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce. In addition, members of the Team attended MIPIM, the international property event in France, and hosted 23 meetings with potential investors to Lincolnshire.

The Economic Infrastructure Business Accommodation Portfolio consists of 242 Units comprising 154 managed workspaces, 80 light industrial and office units and 8 miscellaneous properties. The overarching aim of the service is to provide suitable premises and tenancies to support new and young small and medium businesses and enhance economic growth and job creation across Lincolnshire.

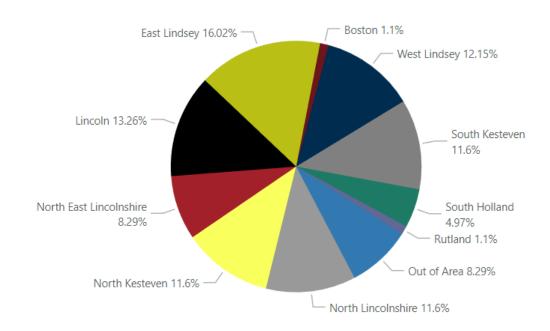
The Economic Infrastructure Portfolio team enhances that service level to its tenants, continuing to support them by nurturing though effective relationships and physical and financial support. The team also refers businesses to enable them access to advice, support, and potential upskilling from Business Lincolnshire to assist them and help them to grow.

Throughout Q4, 143 small business tenants continued to receive accommodation support alongside 5 new public sector tenants. 4 of the small business tenants also received specific support for a range of business needs. This is a direct result of enhanced relationship management.

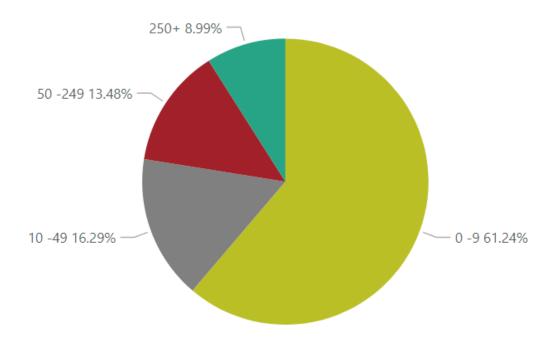




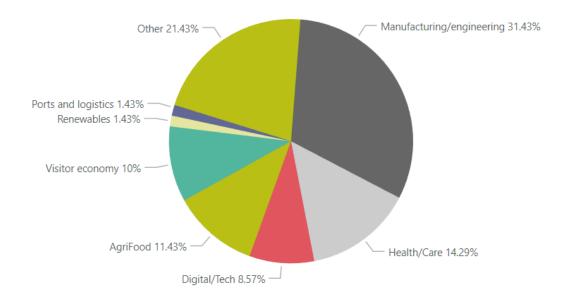
Businesses Assisted by Location



Businesses by Size



Businesses by Priority Sectors



PI 70 Qualifications achieved by adults 🌣

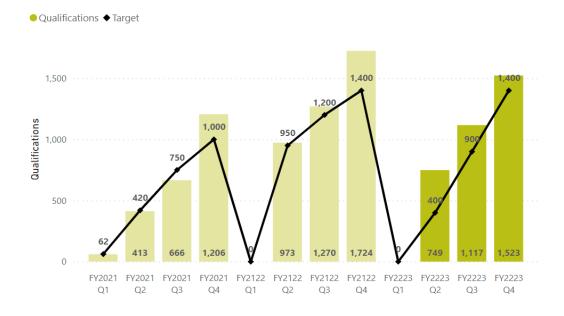
Actual: 1,523 Target: 1,400

The number of qualifications achieved by adults during Q4 was 406. This brings the total for 22/23 to 1,523, above the target of 1,400.

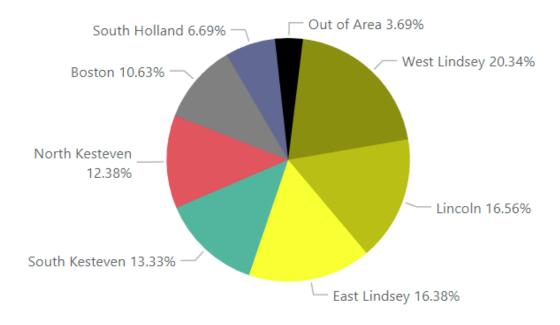
The qualifications achieved has exceeded target due to several factors, including a successful increase in learner engagement following the return to classroom based provision post covid (which meant that 70% of qualifications were delivered in classroom settings as opposed to on-line), as well as changes to demand in year which resulted in several courses being delivered that had multiple qualifications attached to them, primarily in the construction and hospitality sectors.

With a continued focus on supporting employability, the range of qualifications achieved is varied and included 120 GCSE's or functional skills in English or Maths as well as a host of other vocational qualifications including 122 that directly link to enhancing digital skills. In support of Lincolnshire's priority employment sectors, 520 (34%) of qualifications related to the wider care sectors, with a further 360 (24%) to construction, 165 (11%) to customer services, accountancy and business administration and 162 (11%) to hospitality.

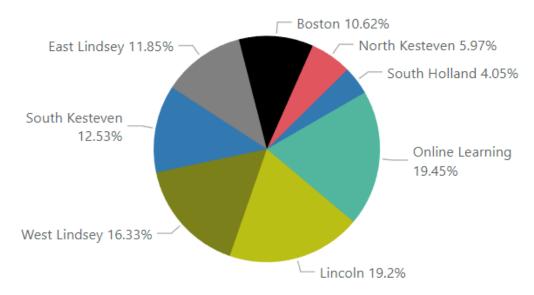
Provision is planned, delivered and aimed at targeted learners with the effect that 53% of qualifications were achieved by male learners, 69% were achieved by unemployed learners and 77% were achieved by learners with no or low qualifications. Of the 1,523 qualifications achieved, 62% were at Entry Level, 18% were at Level 1 and 20% were at Level 2. Focusing on 'filling the gaps' in areas of deprivation across the County, and without duplicating learning delivered by other Employment and Skills Funding Agency funded Learning Providers in those same localities, 51% of all qualifications achieved were delivered in Lincoln, 27% in West Lindsey, 10% in East Lindsey, and 7% in Boston, which is in line with District learner populations needs.



Total adult learners by location (including those on qualification programmes)



Total adult learner enrolments by location (including those on qualification programmes)



1.1.2 Measures that achieved their target

None in Quarter 4

1.1.3 Measures that did not meet their target

PI 71 Amount of external funding attracted to Lincolnshire *

Actual: 13,552,460 Target: 17,525,673

During Q4 an additional £4,114,588 of external funding has been received bringing the total received for 22/33 to £13,552,460, below the overall target of £17,525,673.

Additional Funding received in Q4 is broken down as follows:

- Funding of £89,201 was secured from the Department for Business and Trade (DBT)
 for the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub services.
- The Sustainable Business Growth 2 programme delivered by the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub has received £416,605 from European funds in Q4. This enabled the provision of dedicated Advisor Support, Business workshops and grants.
- The Department for Business and Trade (DBT) provided their final contribution for 2022/23 of £13,750 to support foreign owned businesses who are being key account managed across the region. These businesses are expanding, and fifteen investment projects are underway. Intensive support is being given to those businesses to help with their investment plans with further assistance given regarding skills and recruitment advice including introductions with academic establishments.

Further funding received during Q4 is:

- Education Budget from DfE £394,117.
- Multiply numeracy Programme £1,215,854.
- Career Hub Activity £178,016.
- Family Hub £10,241.
- Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure programme £1,091,004.
- East Midlands lead to LCC on Made Smarter Manufacturing Programme £600,000.
- Local Enterprise Partnership funding received:
 - Supporting Food Valley £50,000
 - o Ambassador Network £50,000
 - Defence initiatives £5,800

Overall, during Q4 we received less Levelling Up and European Regional Development Funds than forecast, this is due to the governmental financial phasing, which will mean that these funds will now come in during 2023/24, so we will not meet our target. There are also significant changes within the external funding landscape for 2023/24 including the closure of European Regional Development Funds and the new localised UK Shared Prosperity Fund which are of a smaller scale delivered through the district councils. This will have a direct impact on future external funding opportunities.



1.2 Flooding

1.2.1 Measures that exceeded their target

None in Quarter 4

1.2.2 Measures that achieved their target

None in Quarter 4

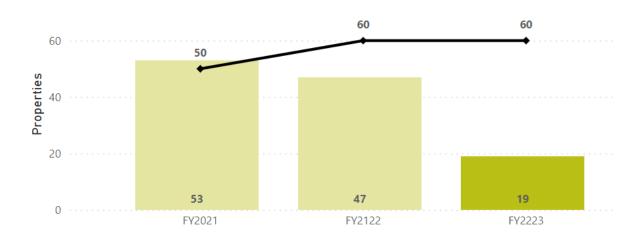
1.2.3 Measures that did not meet their target

PI 73 Properties protected from flooding *

Actual: 19 Target: 60

During financial year 2022-2023 two projects were delivered across the county which will collectively better protect 19 properties from future surface water flood risk as well as reducing the impact of flooding on the highway network. Whilst this total falls short of the expected 60 properties better protected on an annual basis, a number of proposed schemes are currently in development, included three which are planned for delivery in 2023-2024 and will collectively better protect in excess of 60 properties. In addition to this, a programme of capital flood risk works is continually being reviewed to adapt and respond to recent weather events to ensure a series of pipeline schemes can be delivered to provide improved protection from flood risk across the county.

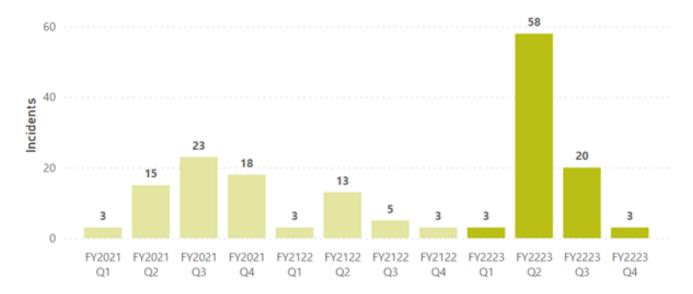
● Properties ◆ Target



1.2.4 Contextual Measure, does not have a target

PI 72 Flooding incidents investigated

A total of 3 Section 19 Investigations were commenced during Q4 of 2022-2023 (January to March). This low figure is positive and is reflected by the lack of significant heavy rainfall during the period. The same number (3) Section 19 Investigations were commenced during the same period in Q4 of 2021-2022.



1.3 Waste

1.3.1 Glossary of terms of the waste hierarchy

All local authorities and businesses have a legal responsibility to apply the "waste hierarchy" in dealing with waste. The waste hierarchy is a simple ranking system used for the different

waste management options according to which is the best for the environment. The most preferred option is to prevent waste, and the least preferred choice is disposal in landfill sites.



Prevention

Reducing the amount of waste which is produced in the first place is the highest priority as it helps sustain raw materials for longer which is a major objective of a Circular Economy. This can be achieved by using less material in design and manufacture and keeping products for longer. We have a KPI for the amount of "Household Waste Collected" in kilograms per household which has an annual target of 1000kg/HH. This can be affected by economic factors as people produce less waste if they spend less money but overall and is difficult to influence. However, it does show the trends in how much waste we produce.

Re-use

Preparing materials for re-use in their original form is the second best approach to dealing with waste. This can be achieved by checking, cleaning, repairing and refurbishing items. Using charity shops is a good method of reusing. In Lincolnshire we are planning to introduce a re-use process at Household Waste Recycling Centres whereby residents can present materials which is then passed onto other residents without having to recycle or incinerate.

Recycling

Recycling involves processing materials that would otherwise be sent to landfills and turning them into new products. It's the third step of the waste management hierarchy because of the extra energy and resources that go into creating a new product. We measure recycling rates for all material which is presented at Household Waste Recycling Centres where it is delivered by the public. We also measure the overall recycling rate which includes all materials including wheely bins at the kerbside and recycling centres.

Recovery

When further recycling is not practical or possible, waste can be treated through such processes as incineration or anaerobic digestion which recover energy. In Lincolnshire we

operate an Energy from Waste facility which turned 57% of our waste into energy in 2020/21 which was sold as electricity to the National Grid. Material for recovery is normally collected in the black bin at each household or can be collected at recycling centres.

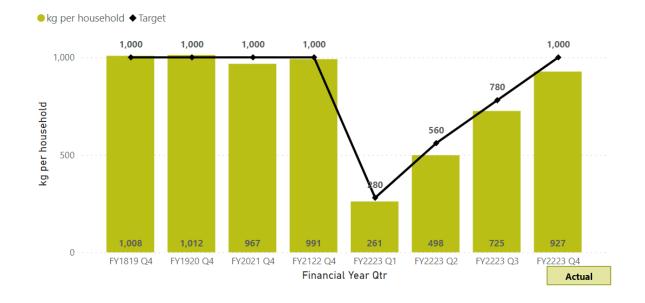
Disposal

When all else fails, materials that cannot be reused, recycled or recovered for energy will be landfilled. This is an unsustainable method of waste management because waste that sits in landfills can continue to have a damaging environmental impact as such sites continuously release large amounts of damaging carbon into the atmosphere. In 2020/21 we sent 3% of our waste to landfill and such material includes hazardous waste which cannot be treated and certain inert materials such as soil and rubble. Landfills can also leak chemicals and toxic liquids that can contaminate the soil and groundwater.

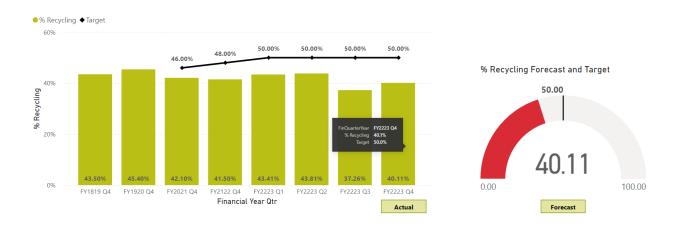
1.3.2 Quarter 4 Waste performance graphs

PI 161 Household waste collected (kilograms per household per year) 💢

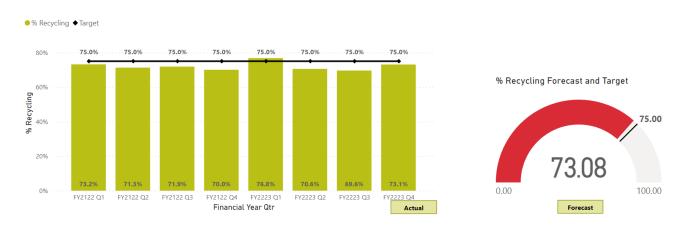




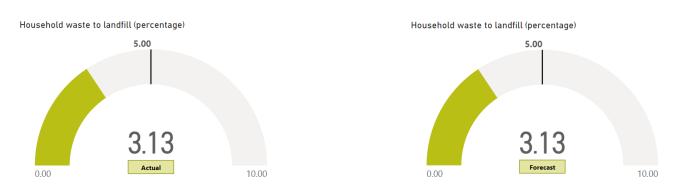
PI 160 Recycling Rate (new national formula) ×



PI 76 Recycling at County Council owned Household Waste Recycling Centres ×



PI 162 Household waste to landfill (percentage) 💢



1.3.3 Quarter 4 summary of Waste performance

Quarter 4 data for PI 161 shows that less material is being produced by households which is excellent news as it meets the highest priority of the Waste Hierarchy which is to Reduce waste.

The amount of material recycled is represented by PIs 160 and 76 and these show an increase from the previous quarter which is good news. Overall, for the year the recycling rates are below the target, but this is due to the low recycling rates earlier in the year when less garden waste was produced, but they are heading in the right direction.

The amount of waste being sent to landfill is represented by PI 162 and is still below target which is excellent news as we have strong aspirations to reduce further to 0%. We now have a separate agreement in place for accepting residual waste when the Energy from Waste facility is not operational to help us with this target.

2. Conclusion

The Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee is requested to consider and comment on the report.

3. Consultation

a) Risk and impact analysis

n/a

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report		
Appendix A	2023-24 Service Level Performance Indicators	

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by:

Samantha Harrison, Head of Economic Development, who can be contacted on 07920 750343 or Samanthal.harrison@lincolnshire.gov.uk;
Chris Miller, Head of Environment, who can be contacted on 01522 782020 or Chris.Miller@lincolnshire.gov.uk; and,
Mike Reed, Head of Waste who can be contacted on 07557 169890 or Mike.Reed@lincolnshire.gov.uk.



Appendix A 2023-24 Service Level Performance Indicators

PI	Performance Indicator	Directorate	If this PI is	Targets		
Number			reported in Corporate Plan, Pl number is given	2022-23 Q4 Outturn Trajectory is 'Bigger is better' unless stated otherwise	2023-24 target Targets have been approved unless stated otherwise	
Service Area	: Economy					
PI 69	Businesses supported by the Council <i>(Targeted)</i>	Place	Yes PI 82 New for 23-24	2,527 Businesses (Target 1,358 Businesses)	1,700 Businesses	
170 וי	Qualifications achieved by adults (Targeted)	Place	Yes PI 75 New for 23-24	1,523 Qualifications (Target 1,400 Qualifications)	1,400 Qualifications	
71 וי	Amount of external funding attracted to Lincolnshire (Targeted)	Place	no	£13,552,460 (Target £17,525,673)	£14m	
Service Area	: Flooding					
יו 72	Flooding incidents investigated (Contextual)	Place	Yes PI 84 New for 23-24	3 Incidents Contextual	Contextual	
l 73	Properties protected from flooding (Contextual)	Place	Yes PI 85 New for 23-24	19 Properties (Target 60 Properties)	Contextual WEF 2023/24 reportir	

Scrutiny Co	Scrutiny Committee: Environment and Economy (9)							
PI 76	Recycling at County Council owned Household Waste Recycling Centres (Targeted)	Place	PI 38	73.08% (Target 75%)	75%			
PI 160	Recycling Rate (new national formula) (Targeted)	Place	PI 37	40.11% (Target 50%)	50%			
PI 161	Household waste collected (kilograms per household per year) (Targeted)	Place	PI 36	927 kg per household (Target 1000kg per household) Smaller is better	1000kg			
PI 162	Household waste to landfill (percentage) (Targeted)	Place	PI 39	3.13% (Target 5%) Smaller is better	5%			

Agenda Item 9



Report to: Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee

Date: 11 July 2023

Subject: Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

Summary:

This item enables the Committee to consider and comment on the content of its work programme for the year to ensure that scrutiny activity is focused where it can be of greatest benefit. The work programme will be reviewed at each meeting of the Committee to ensure that its contents are still relevant and will add value to the work of the Council and partners.

Actions Required:

Members of the Committee are invited to review the work programme and highlight any additional scrutiny activity which could be included for consideration in the work programme.

1. Background

Overview and Scrutiny should be positive, constructive, independent, fair and open. The scrutiny process should be challenging, as its aim is to identify areas for improvement. Scrutiny activity should be targeted, focused and timely and include issues of corporate and local importance, where scrutiny activity can influence and add value.

All members of overview and scrutiny committees are encouraged to bring forward important items of community interest to the committee whilst recognising that not all items will be taken up depending on available resource.

Members are encouraged to highlight items that could be included for consideration in the work programme.

2. Work Programme

	11 July 2023					
	ltem	Contributor				
1.	Adult Skills & Family Learning Programme 2022/23- Annual Position Report	Thea Croxall, Adult Learning & Skills Manager- Economic Development				
2.	Growth Hub Annual Performance 2022 and future plans for business support initiatives -23 - Annual Position Report	Samantha Harrison Head of Economic Development Angela Driver Enterprise Growth Manager - Economic Development				
3.	Broadband Programme - Interim Update	Justin Brown, Assistant Director – Growth Stephen Brookes, Broadband Programme Manager				
4.	Service Level Performance Reporting Against the Performance Framework 2022 - 2023 – Quarter 4: Economy, Flooding and Waste Samantha Harrison, Head of Economy Chris Miller, Head of Environment Mike Reed, Head of Waste					

	12 September 2023					
	Item	Contributor				
1.	Waste Transfer Station Improvements [Pre-decision Scrutiny] (Executive Councillor Decision 18 – 22 Sept 2023)	Mike Reed, Head of Waste				
2.	Food Waste Disposal Contract Procurement [Pre-decision Scrutiny] (Executive Councillor Decision 18 – 22 Sept 2023)	Mike Reed, Head of Waste				
3.	Energy Option Analysis for Greater Lincolnshire Final Report, Outcomes, and Next Steps	Mick King, Head of Economic Infrastructure Johanna Rhoades, Project Officer – Utilities				
4.	Sutton Bridge place-making Scheme	Hayley Redford, Project Officer – Economic Infrastructure Mick King, Head of Economic Infrastructure Ian Walker, Infrastructure Team Manager				
5.	Motorhomes & Campervans Working Group – Outcomes and Recommendations	Justin Brown, Assistant Director -Growth Chris Miller, Head of Environment Samantha Harrison, Head of Economic Development				
6.	Service Level Performance Reporting Against the Performance Framework 2023 - 2024 – Quarter 1: Economy, Flooding and Waste	Samantha Harrison, Head of Economic Development Chris Miller, Head of Environment Mike Reed, Head of Waste				

	24 October 2023					
Item					Contributor	
1.	Lincolnshire Report 2022-2	-	Council	Carbon	Chris Miller, Head of Environment Dan Clayton, Sustainability Manager	

	28 November 2023				
	ltem	Contributor			
1.	Provision of Careers Advice to All Age Groups in Lincolnshire	Thea Croxall, Adult Learning & Skills Manager Clare Hughes, Employment and Skills Executi Manager			
2.	Draft Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Preferred Approach [Pre-decision Scrutiny] (Executive Decision 5 Dec 2023)	Adrian Winkley, Minerals and Waste Policy and Compliance Manager			
3.	Service Level Performance Reporting Against the Performance Framework 2023 - 2024 – Quarter 2: Economy, Flooding and Waste	Samantha Harrison, Head of Economic Development Chris Miller, Head of Environment Mike Reed, Head of Waste			
4.	Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Pilot – Contract Procurement EXEMPT REPORT	Justin Brown, Assistant Director -Growth Tanya Vaughan, Senior Commissioning Officer Economic Investment			

3. Items to be Programmed

Topic/Author	Est Date
Alternative Fuels	TBC
Climate Change Impact [Chris Miller, Head of Environment]	TBC
Elements of Environment Act- (Waiting for Gov Guidance/Updates)	2023
Food Waste Collection- (Waiting for Env Act Updates)	Winter/Spring 2023
Green Technology Grant	TBC
Historic Places Team Strategy	TBC
Horncastle Industrial Estate extension [Mick King, Head of Economic	TBC
Infrastructure & Ian Walker, Infrastructure Team Manager]	
Introduction to East Atlantic Flying Way Heritage Site Bid [Chris Miller,	Autumn 2023
Head of Environment] NEW	
Lincolnshire Reservoir – Progress Updates [Matthew Harrison, Flood	Spring/Summer 2023
Manager]	
Local Nature Recovery Strategy (inc. Greater Lincolnshire Nature	TBC
Partnership Update) [Chris Miller, Head of Environment & Dan Clayton,	
Sustainability Manager]	
New Burdens Doctrine – Funding for Net Additional Costs	TBC
Property Green Agenda – potential guest presentation facilitated by	TBC
Sustainability [Chris Miller, Head of Environment & Dan Clayton,	
Sustainability Manager]	
Verge Biomass Management	TBC

Topic/Author	Est Date
Waste Performance Targets - Setting of Targets [Mike Reed, Head of	TBC
Waste]	

4. Conclusion

Members of the Committee are invited review and comment on the work programme and highlight any additional scrutiny activity which could be included for consideration in the work programme.

5. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

6. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report					
Appendix A	Appendix A Forward Plan of Decisions relating to the Environment and Economy				
	Scrutiny Committee.				

7. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Kiara Chatziioannou, Scrutiny Officer, who can be contacted on 07500 571868 or by e-mail at kiara.chatziioannou@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Forward Plan of Decisions relating to the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee

MATTERS FOR DECISION	DATE OF DECISION	DECISION MAKER	PEOPLE/GROUPS CONSULTED PRIOR TO DECISION	HOW AND WHEN TO COMMENT PRIOR TO THE DECISION BEING TAKEN	KEY DECISION YES/NO	DIVISIONS AFFECTED
Scrutiny Panel A: Town Centres Improvements Review – Report Overview/ Outcomes and Recommendations [TBC]	ТВС	Executive	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee	Scrutiny Officer, E-mail: kiara.chatziioannou@lincolnshire.gov.uk	No	All Divisions
Waste Transfer Station Improvements [I029445]	Between 18 September 2023 and 22 September 2023	Executive Councillor: Waste and Trading Standards	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee	Head of Waste, E-mail: mike.reed@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Yes	All Divisions
Food Waste Disposal Contract Procurement [I029446]	Between 18 September 2023 and 22 September 2023	Executive Councillor: Waste and Trading Standards	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee	Head of Waste, E-mail: mike.reed@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Yes	All Divisions
Draft Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan: Preferred Approach [I028138]	5 Dec 2023	Executive	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee	Minerals and Waste Policy and Compliance Manager, E-mail: adrian.winkley@lincolnshire.gov.uk	No	All Divisions

MATTERS FOR DECISION	DATE OF DECISION	DECISION MAKER	PEOPLE/GROUPS CONSULTED PRIOR TO DECISION	HOW AND WHEN TO COMMENT PRIOR TO THE DECISION BEING TAKEN	KEY DECISION YES/NO	DIVISIONS AFFECTED
Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) Pilot – Contract Procurement EXEMPT [TBC]	Between 5 – 12 December 2023	Executive Councillor: Highways, Transport and IT	Economy Scrutiny	Senior Commissioning Officer Economic Investment, E-mail: Tanya.Vaughan@lincolnshire.gov.uk	Yes	All Divisions