

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 16 DECEMBER 2016

Statement from: Councillor C J Davie, Executive Councillor for Development

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Climate for investment

Water is a critical issue for businesses in Lincolnshire, whether it is protecting businesses from the risk of flooding or providing them with a reliable source of water for their operations. I have been working with the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (GLLEP) on raising the importance of this issue with decision makers at a national level. September 6 saw the GLLEP launch their Water Management Strategy at the House of Commons. The event was hosted by Matt Warman MP's office and attracted over forty key figures from the industry including representatives from The Chartered Institution of Water & Environmental Management, Anglian Water, the Environment Agency and DEFRA. The event was also addressed by the Rt Honorable Andrea Leadsom MP, Secretary of State, as well as Rory Stewart MP.

In South Holland, our Peppermint Junction project continues to move forward with Section 106 planning contributions now secured and permission for academic and residential space along the A151 obtained. Works are expected to start in the early summer of 2017.

Facilitating private sector projects

Team Lincolnshire is a group of businesses who are keen to promote Lincolnshire to investors. Our team facilitates their work, and helps them to arrange events with those clients and contacts who are considering positive projects in Lincolnshire.

September 29 saw Team Lincolnshire attend the East Midland Property Awards in Nottingham, with guests from major property investors in the county. The event is one of the most prestigious in the East Midlands attracting over 400 guests. It is important that we keep the Lincolnshire economy in the minds of people like that.

On 18 October we sponsored the 'Large Business of the Year' Award at the Lincolnshire Media Business Awards. Again, we facilitated Team Lincolnshire's presence at the event. The event, which attracts over 300 guests, is a key date in the calendar for Lincolnshire businesses, as well as companies from outside the region who are looking to work in the county.

MIPIM UK is the UK's largest property exhibition which includes 3 intensive days of conferences, exhibitions, networking events and an awards ceremony. MIPIM UK provides a marketplace for international and local investors, developers, occupiers and property professionals to meet, discuss opportunities and do business.

For the past three years the GLLEP has hosted a Property and Investment Dinner for Team Lincolnshire and potential investors and developers. This is a great opportunity to showcase Greater Lincolnshire to investors who ordinarily may not get to visit Lincolnshire. It has also proved to be a great opportunity to strengthen and build Team Lincolnshire, and facilitate collaborative working amongst our sponsors.

This year the GLLEP hosted their event at the Lansdowne Club, in Green Park, London on the evening of 20 October. Six companies sponsored the event; Delta Simons, Simons Group, Pygott & Crone, Gleeds, Bond Bryan and the University of Lincoln, and 80+ potential investors attended. The key note speaker was Ian Harrison, Acting Director, Exports & Investment for the Department of Trade and Industry.

Lincolnshire Business Week has become an important date in the Economic Development calendar. As well as the investment events that have been described above, a series of business support events were held.

We have assembled external funding to make our business advice service, the Greater Lincolnshire Growth Hub, one of the most comprehensive services available in England. The new service was promoted to 67 businesses at an event during Business Week.

Family owned businesses are a particular feature of the Lincolnshire economy. Occasionally they require a slightly different type of support, and this is something that we are keen to assist with. During Business Week we held a meeting to support family businesses at which we had 52 attendees.

Members will be aware that the number of businesses that we have dealt with is significant but it is important to stress that our focus is on outputs. The Economic Scrutiny Committee recently received a report showing that our work this year has already created 113 jobs and safeguarded a further 32. In addition, the direct support that we offer to business continues to have an impact on the Lincolnshire economy with our portfolio now at 91% occupancy – a recent headline is the letting at Oak House to Lincoln City Radio.

Elsewhere we are beginning to receive enquiries for our new Rose House property, whilst the new Crosskeys Marina has received more than 90 expressions of interest. The formal application process will open in December following a boater's open day when the mooring facilities will be open to view.

East West Link Road – Opening

Continuing the theme of new infrastructure, last month also saw completion of the Lincoln East West Link road. Not only does this scheme significantly add cross city vehicle movements, it also unlocks a number of regeneration sites. A business event was held on 18th November 2016, sponsored by Lincolnshire agents Lambert, Smith Hampton to profile these opportunities. The day has already yielded benefits with two potential land sales enquiries now being pursued.

Higher level skills

I previously announced to councillors that we had been working with the Skills Funding Agency to agree how they will tailor their funding towards the needs of Lincolnshire businesses. With our input, the Skills Funding Agency has now designed a programme and they have awarded the contract for doing this work to Calderdale College, who are actively contacting businesses and intermediary organisations to explain what training they can provide.

Finally, the number of international students taking advantage of our excellent higher and further education facilities continues to increase. A representative from Bishop Grosseteste University and the Managing Director of a local student placement business recently attended meetings in Hunan, China, as part of our partnership work. Both representatives report that their visits were very fruitful.

ENVIRONMENT AND STRATEGIC PLANNING

Sustainability

Verge Biomass

Following the successful pilot of verge biomass harvesting, fuller evaluation is being carried out in conjunction with Leeds University and options for the way forward are being developed.

Carbon Management Plan

The annual report on the Council's 2013/18 Carbon Management Plan has just been released. It shows a reduction in 2015/16 of 4.2% from the previous year. This means that Lincolnshire County Council is on target to meet its 22% reduction. Consultations on the detail of two recent announcements are expected anytime which emphasises the continued importance Government places on reducing emissions. Government is to reform energy taxation aiming to create an integrated approach to energy efficiency, carbon taxation and emissions reporting. Secondly, in the Housing and Planning Act 2016 there is a requirement for local authorities to prepare a report on improving efficiency and sustainability of buildings owned by local authorities. Again, we expect a consultation in the near future.

Lincolnshire County Council needs, therefore, to continue its progress to date and to lead by example by working to reduce carbon emissions from its own properties and services. The Council remains a major consumer of energy and must, as a community and business leader, continue to set a good example and take a leading role in contributing to the achievement of reduction targets. In times of decreasing budgets it becomes more important to reduce costs wherever possible. To date, the Council's Salix revolving fund has enabled £1,906,193 of investment in carbon reduction and as a result annual energy costs have been reduced by £394,506. In the last financial year £144,257 has been invested and will achieve annual savings of £25,488 (at today's energy prices).

Coastal Development

Consultation has begun on the way the east coast of Lincolnshire will be managed in the future. Funding for the current programme of coastal management is secure up to March 2021, so it is important that the time up to then is used in determining the best way of maintaining our coastal defences and sustaining and improving the vitality of our coastal areas and communities. County Councillors have been asked early on in the process for their views at a workshop held on 4 November. A series of these workshops involving a range of stakeholders is considering several possible methods, or a mix of methods, for managing the coast. Feedback from these sessions will identify a preferred option, which will then be subject to detailed

exploration with stakeholder and communities to ensure that it provides the best possible level of benefit for the coastal area, and that it can be properly resourced.

Central Lincolnshire Local Plan

The CL Examination In Public has been sitting since 1 November 2016. The hearing process is giving an opportunity for all parties to address concerns over the Plan proposals. The Inspector's report is expected in early 2017 which will then lead to adoption of the plan.

All the latest information on the Local Plan examination is contained on the CL Local Plan website at <https://www.n-kesteven.gov.uk/central-lincolnshire/local-plan-examination/>.

City of Lincoln, North Kesteven and West Lindsey Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The levy allows District authorities in England and Wales (and the London Mayor) to raise funds for a wide range of infrastructure. The levy is raised from developers undertaking new building projects in the relevant area. This is based on a locally set per square metre charge for the relevant land use in the relevant location.

To support the growth set out in the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan, the three relevant Districts (with support from LCC) have prepared draft CIL charging schedules. These have been progressed in parallel, for example with consultation periods undertaken at the same time (Autumn 2015 and Spring 2016), and evidence prepared jointly. A public examination of each schedule is necessary before adoption and in practice it is expected that each will run on consecutive days, likely to be early in 2017.

Funding from the levy in this part of Lincolnshire has provisionally been targeted for the Lincoln Eastern Bypass and secondary school provision in Lincoln, Gainsborough, Sleaford and surrounding areas. 'Section 106' (planning obligations) will continue to be used within the limitations enacted by national legislation in 2010.

South East Lincolnshire Local Plan

LCC has commissioned an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) to support the SE Lincolnshire Local Plan. This document identifies the strategic infrastructure required to deliver sustainable growth in the plan area. The findings of the IDP will be presented to the SE Lincolnshire Local Plan Steering Group on 18 November 2016.

East Lindsey Local Plan

The ELDC LP is out to pre-submission consultation with people having 8 weeks from 30 November to make further representations on the soundness of the Plan. The County Council have a number of outstanding issues and concerns regarding the content of the Plan and will make further representations accordingly.

Triton Knoll

The Secretary of State granted consent for the development on 5 September 2016. The Order as applied for would grant development consent under the Act for the construction and operation of:

- (a) a submarine cable route for exporting electricity generated by the, consented but not built, Triton Knoll Offshore Wind Farm (“TKOWF”), to the shore along a route of around 66 kilometres in length;
- (b) a landfall site with associated jointing of offshore and onshore cables to the north of the village of Anderby Creek (in Lincolnshire);
- (c) an onshore underground cable along a route of around 60 kilometres;
- (d) an Intermediate Electrical Compound, east of the village of Orby;
- (e) a new onshore substation for TKOWF to the north west of the village of Bicker;
- (f) a connection to the existing National Grid substation at Bicker Fen.

The Council continue to work with local groups e.g. Parish Council and landowners to protect the coastal environment.

Planning

Minerals and Waste Local Plan

Following on from the adoption of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan Core Strategy and Development Management policies on 1 June 2016, work on the second part of the Local Plan is under way.

The second part of the Local Plan is the site location document which sets out the Council's preferred waste and minerals sites to meet the projected need for minerals and waste sites over the plan period to 2031. The initial site location document was subject to the first round of public consultation in early 2016. A total of 100 representations were received. Following on from this consultation and in response to the representations received, a number of meetings have taken place over the summer with the minerals industry to discuss making changes to their sites and/or provide further information. A pre-submissions document capturing these changes was supported by the Environmental Scrutiny Committee and the Executive approved the document for a period of consultation which started on 7 November and will last for 6 weeks. Subsequent to this consultation, the site location document will be brought to Council in February seeking the Council's agreement for the document to be submitted for examination. It is anticipated that the site location document will then be subject to examination in summer 2017 and presented for adoption by the Council towards the end of 2017.

Processing of planning applications for waste and minerals developments has been undertaken significantly ahead of Government targets. In the first half of 2016 over 80% of applications for minerals and waste developments were determined within 13 weeks, well ahead of the Government's target of 65%. In addition, 80% of applications for the Council's own development were determined in eight weeks or

less. This ensures that appropriate developments are coming forward in suitable locations with minimal delay caused by the planning process.

Finally, Enforcement and Monitoring Officers have been checking sites to ensure compliance with planning conditions and reports of unauthorised developments are investigated and resolved. Over 120 monitoring and enforcement site inspections have been undertaken between April and October of this year to ensure the Council is pro-active in monitoring minerals and waste sites around the County.

Environment

We are continuing to work with the Environment Agency to secure the Transport and Works Act Order (TWAO) for the £100m Boston Barrier, which will protect over 14,000 homes. The consultation on the TWAO closed on 5 October and a number of statements of support, comments and objections were received. The Secretary of State has now confirmed that the TWAO will be subject to a Public Inquiry which will start no later than 4/4/2017 and LCC are continuing to support the EA in dealing with objections ahead of and throughout the inquiry.

Notwithstanding this, construction of the Barrier is still on track to meet the programmed completion of December 2019.

Heritage Coast

LCC's Environment and Economy Group is working with Natural England and other partners to establish a Heritage Coast for Lincolnshire. This will create a strategic partnership for the natural undeveloped stretches of the coast, improving them for wildlife and creating a year round green tourism destination that will compliment Lincolnshire's existing coastal attractions.

Louth and Horncastle Flood Alleviation

The Louth and Horncastle flood alleviation schemes are continuing to progress with elements of the Louth scheme due to be brought into service this month and both schemes are programmed to be completed by the end of the financial year. They will give much needed protection to the towns and LCC have provided £6m financial support to the overall cost of £15m, to enable these projects to be constructed.

Local Flood Risk – Capital Programme

As lead local flood authority we continue to deliver an annual programme of local flood risk schemes of around £1.2m, through the national Flood Defence Grant in Aid (FDGiA) 6 year medium term plan, attracting approximately 50% of external funding. This year we are building an £800,000 surface water flood alleviation scheme at Stamp End in Lincoln, which will protect 83 homes and the Shuttleworth House tower block. The scheme is on schedule to be operational by the end of March 2017.