

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 14 SEPTEMBER 2018

**Statement from: Councillor C N Worth
Executive Councillor for Culture and Emergency Services**

CULTURE

Libraries

GLL has now entered Year 3 of a five year contract with an option to extend the contract by a further five years taking us to 31 March 2021 or 31 March 2026 if extended.

Libraries Performance

Overall performance remains strong with website visits up 15% in Year 2 and over 68,000 adults and children attending events and community activities in libraries; an increase of over 50% compared to Year 1.

As well as regular activities at core libraries, such as job clubs, online Ancestry taster sessions, and writer's workshops, core libraries also participated in national library and literary promotions including Harry Potter Book Night, the BBC Love to Read Campaign, Where's Wally 30th Anniversary and National Bookstart Week.

GLL's main focus in Year 2 was improving back office services to ensure that library materials are purchased efficiently and are distributed quickly around the county. The effective management of stock has had a positive impact on performance, and issue figures for core libraries, mobile and e-services have increased by 14%,

Community Hubs

GLL continue to provide support to 36 community hubs through dedicated Library Development Officers. Of these 36, 34 are community group run. A library provision is provided at Belton Lane Children's Centre and at all three Lincolnshire Hospitals; these are managed by the staff at each location but again supported by GLL.

In May 2018 Learning Communities Community Hub sites (Birchwood, Boultham and Ermine) went into voluntary liquidation and within two weeks of their closure we were able to re-open these sites for approximately 21 hours per week with interim support provided by GLL. It is recognised that the current offer is a basic library provision, however; this has helped us achieve our aim to keep these sites open to the public during a transition period.

One group has expressed an interest in running the Birchwood and Boultham sites and at the time of writing we are working through the evaluation process, with a view to being able to award at the end of August.

A tentative enquiry has been made with a view to there being a possible collaboration between two groups to run the Ermine site. Discussions were due to take place but again, at the time of writing this statement, we are not yet aware of the outcome.

Heritage

Kingdom LEGO Brick Show

Almost 15,000 visitors have been to see the Kingdom LEGO Brick Show at Lincoln Castle since it opened on 14 July. The exhibition features a number of life sized sculptures including a 4m tall dragon that is located in the grounds of the Castle. There is also the opportunity for visitors to make their own creations in an interactive brick pit or the make and take activities.

Throughout each weekend of the exhibition there has been additional content in the Castle's exercise yard as part of the 'Castle of Legend' events where visitors got the chance to meet Robin Hood, King Arthur and the Castle's very own Jester.

A 16th century crossbow from our own collection is on display in the Magna Carta Vault to complement the exhibition.

World Cup Semi Final

Lincoln Castle collaborated with event organisers, Major Label, to screen England's World Cup Semi Final in the grounds of Lincoln Castle. There was a wave of public support for the screening and over 3,500 people enjoyed the opportunity to see the live screening at this unique venue.

Bastion in the Air exhibition

Bastion in the Air comprises two static exhibitions and two travelling exhibitions, which received £433,000 funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The County Council is partnered with WLDC in delivering this project.

The exhibition at the Dambusters' hangar at RAF Scampton, opened on the 5 April and focusses on the air defence of Lincolnshire from 1915 to 1918 and the county's contribution to British airpower in the First World War. The second exhibition at The Collection, which opened on the 24 May, focusses on the rising threat to Britain from aerial attacks by airships and the British response to that threat, featuring a host of artefacts, models, images, and much more.

The two travelling exhibitions Heroes of the Airfields and Heroines of the Home Front have been touring the whole of Lincolnshire since October 2017.

Accreditation Status achieved for heritage attractions

Following a review of the Museum Accredited status of The Collection, The Museum of Lincolnshire Life, Discover Stamford and Gainsborough Old Hall, the Accreditation panel appointed by Arts Council England, agreed on 28 June 2018 to award all the museums Full Accreditation status.

The Museum Accreditation scheme sets nationally agreed standards for museums in the UK. It defines good practice and identifies agreed standards, thereby encouraging development. It is a baseline quality standard that helps guide museums to be the best they can be, for current and future users.

The scheme focuses on three main points. Firstly, on the museums taking responsibility for all the collections it manages. Secondly, the museums must offer and develop good-quality, stimulating services for users and potential users, in order to get the best out of its collections, resources and local area. Finally, the scheme looks at organisational health, and in particular that the museums have a clear statement of purpose, excellent governance, effective forward planning demonstration of financial basis, and an appropriate workforce in numbers and experience to deliver the museums responsibilities and plans.

FIRE AND RESCUE

General

The dry weather over the past few months has seen a marked increase in field and moorland fires both locally and nationally. Within the county during June and July the number of grassland/field type fires more than doubled compared to the same period last year. Around 25% of these fires required two or more fire engines to attend. Following a request through the national resilience process, the Service also provided two fire engines to support Lancashire Fire and Rescue help tackle the Winter Hill moorland fire near Bolton at the beginning of July. Lincolnshire crews were deployed for a period of four days and engaged in both the provision of water and firefighting operations. Other notable incidents since May include a fatal house fire in Lincoln in June and attendance at a number of fatal road traffic collisions.

Blue Light Collaboration

Development of the new joint Fire, Police and Ambulance Station at the South Park site continues apace with much of the steel framework structure now in place. Plans for Fire and Ambulance to occupy the site by July 2019, and Police by the September, remain on target.

The new shared Fire and Ambulance Station and County Council office accommodation at Sleaford was officially opened on 15 June. Fire and ambulance crews have been operating from the facility since 1 May; the co-location supporting closer training and integration and improved service delivery. Work also continues exploring the potential for co-location at a number of other sites around the county including Stamford, Boston, Grantham, Bourne and Horncastle. In terms of broader integration, early scoping work is also underway to look at the development of a joint training facility based on the Waddington site and a joint Fire and Police command support vehicle.

Fire and Rescue Inspection

Over the past few months Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue have been inspected as part of the first tranche of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services' (HMICFRS) new inspection process. During this period the HMICFRS team have undertaken several visits to stations and departments, conducted numerous focus groups and interviews and been provided with a significant amount of Service data and documentation. The formal part of the process culminated at the end of July with the fieldwork inspection. Over the next few months HMICFRS will be analysing all the information collected and undertaking

a moderation process before publishing the results. The final report is not expected until October/November.

People

29year old firefighter Stefan Hawcroft, who served as a wholetime firefighter for 5 years with Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue and with Derbyshire Fire and Rescue as a retained firefighter for 10 years, sadly lost his long-term battle against cancer in July. Our thoughts remain with his family, friends and colleagues.

Bardney retained firefighter, Ivan Lintin, who was critically injured following a motorcycle race crash on the Isle of Man on 12 July, is now in a stable condition. He has been transferred to Queen's Medical Centre Nottingham to continue his long-term treatment.

While retained firefighter availability remains a challenge at a number of stations, our focus on recruitment continues to deliver benefits with 16 more on-call retained firefighter recruits passing out from their training course at Waddington on 1 July. The course, which runs for 32 days over a 3 month period, provides all the necessary knowledge and skills, ensuring new recruits are competent to ride when they join their stations.

A new Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Dan Quinn, has also recently been appointed within the Service. Dan will be joining from Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue at the end of September and will oversee the planning, prevention and protection portfolio within the Service.

EMERGENCY PLANNING

Since May, the Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Service has been required to switch their attention from planning for storms and severe cold weather to planning for the heatwave that has affected the UK. The Service has supported partner organisations with advice and guidance and has been actively involved in the review of current heatwave planning assumptions.

Following the visit to the Grenfell Tower site back in June last year, the Service produced a report which looked at possible implications for Lincolnshire County Council, concluding with nine recommendations which included the design of a new training package. This training has now been designed and includes guidance on the role of elected members during emergencies and information on how to engage with the media. The first training session took place on the 26 July. The session was jointly facilitated by the Service and the LCC communications team. Feedback has been very positive and further sessions with District councillors are planned over the next few months.

The Lincolnshire Resilience Forum (LRF) Command and Control review report has now been agreed by the LRF. The Service is a key partner of the multi-agency training team and is now actively involved in the design and delivery of updated procedural training for all LRF strategic and tactical commanders. New training packages being developed include strategic and tactical command, command support manager, cell chair and loggist training. This training will commence during

September. The County Emergency Centre remains the preferred choice of location for the co-ordination of LRF command and command support functions, and work is currently underway to identify and update IT and communications requirements when the Service moves into the old Fire and Rescue Control accommodation later this year.

The Community Resilience project continues to go from strength to strength with further community groups signed up to the five stage programme and two new volunteer groups joining the Voluntary Co-ordination Group. The second Resilient Communities Conference took place at the Showroom on 12 July. The event included speakers from various voluntary groups and was used to launch the new Resilient Communities initiative which was well received. Planning is already underway for next year's event as this provides an important platform for both volunteer groups and community groups to network and share good practice. The Service continues to be regarded as national best practice in this area.

REGISTRATION AND CORONER'S SERVICES

Coroner's Service

The position of Senior Coroner for Lincolnshire will become vacant in October 2018 on the retirement of Stuart Fisher. Stuart has been a Senior Coroner for a long period of time, and before that was an Assistant Coroner. I am sure the Council will want to wish him well in his retirement.

A recruitment process for a new Senior Coroner is nearing completion and the name of the successful applicant will be formally announced by the Chief Coroner's Office, Lord Chancellor and the Council in a co-ordinated way on completion of the recruitment process. We will be working with partner agencies to ensure the new Senior Coroner has a comprehensive induction and has the opportunity to meet a wide range of stakeholders.

The other key development for the Coroner's Service is the planning for the introduction of a new case management system which should go live this month. It will provide a more comprehensive case management system and allow for greater proactive monitoring of caseloads, which will improve timescales and efficiency.

There is also ongoing work and discussions with Lincolnshire Police, EMAS, and Medical Practitioners looking at how the process for notification of a death can be as timely as possible.

Registration Service

The Registration Service continues to meet the needs of families at times of key life events. The Service attended the County Show to promote the wide range of services they offer. In this connection, there is a new 'Celebrate in Lincolnshire' publication which was released in August 2018.

The Service continues to try and meet the needs of bereaved families in registering a death within five days. There is considerable ongoing and proactive management of appointments to try and ensure that appointments are available to meet this requirement, however, in many cases there is reliance on the appropriate paperwork being ready to proceed with the registration and this is often balanced with customer

choice on the location of their appointment. The Service is working with the General Register Office on this important aspect of service delivery.

The Service still has high aspirations for a new website, appointment diary system and electronic payment mechanism to facilitate customer choice, especially with regard to payment of fees.

In May 2018 the Codes of Practice linked to the Digital Economy Act were published and this provides greater powers for data sharing and the Service will be exploring how this may be facilitated locally.

Medical Examiners

The Government's response to its consultation on the Introduction of Medical Examiners and Reforms to Death Certification in England and Wales was published on 11 June 2018. It sets out an analysis of responses received and it addresses the issues raised. There was also a ministerial statement published.

The Registration and Coroner's Service fully support any endeavour to improve patient safety and note with interest this latest announcement.

The new proposal is that Medical Examiners will be introduced in the NHS healthcare setting. Whilst the Local Authority will not have responsibility for the implementation, we have made early contact with our own local healthcare colleagues to support these implementation plans especially in relation to timescales for early registration of the death or referral to the Coroner.

It is good to see that the key outcomes from the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 will be achieved i.e. improved clinical governance, learning from deaths and early contact with bereaved families.