

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 14 DECEMBER 2018

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

CULTURE

Libraries

Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL) are in Year Three of their five year contract, which commenced on 1 April 2016 and has the option to be extended for a further five year period until 31 March 2026.

Libraries Performance

Overall performance remains strong with the majority of Key Performance Indicators exceeding their anticipated target for this time of year.

GLL have continued to have a positive influence within the service, delivering a number of events across the sites and increasing community use within the libraries. As well as regular activities at core libraries, such as job clubs and online ancestry taster sessions, they also participated in National Bookstart Week which saw special Story and Rhyme time sessions, and the distribution of free resources to attending families.

In collaboration with Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln Central Library co-created and hosted an exhibition linked to the national Vote100 campaign. Using resources from the library's local studies collection and university archives, as well as other national organisations, the exhibition included the campaign for a woman's right to vote. The exhibition received good media coverage and attracted a wide variety of new customers into the library.

GLL's main focus in Year Three is to build upon the successes of Year Two, paying particular attention to exploring new IT developments. GLL and LCC are committed to working together; moving forwards to ensure a modern IT offer can be implemented in the near future, ensuring that customer needs are fully met.

Community Hubs

GLL continue to provide support to 36 community hubs through dedicated Library Development Officers. Of these, 34 hubs 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.

This is with the exception of Birchwood, Boutham and Ermine who are currently managed via GLL, due to Learning Communities voluntary liquidation in May 2018. 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 it is anticipated they will be operational by the end of the year.

A tentative enquiry has been made from another provider to run the Ermine site. Discussions are ongoing, but at the time of writing this statement, we are not yet aware of the outcome.

Christmas Emporium

Plans for a Christmas Emporium are progressing well. There are 30 traders on board, offering a wide range of gifts including food and drink, handcrafted jewellery, ceramic sculptures and art works amongst others. We are very pleased to have established brands such as Pin Gin and Lincolnshire Poacher Cheese as part of the chalet offer. We are also very excited to work with new brands including Moments of Sense and Style - a luxury lifestyle brand specialising in scented candles and hand-bound notebooks.

We will be working with Lincoln based Open Air Events on the tepee bar offer and will have a number of street food traders who have participated in the very successful Comedy Feast event joining us for this highly anticipated event.

The video teaser alone has been very successful and over 350 tickets for the event have already been sold.

Dog Friendly Days

Lincoln Castle has held two dog-friendly weekends; 15/16 September, with over 100 dogs visiting the site and 17/18 November 2018, which the Lincolnshire Daschund Group attended. Visitors were able to bring their four-legged friends to explore and enjoy all parts of the attraction, and these events were very well received.

LCC Learning Team

The LCC Investigate Learning Team has collaborated to take part in national engagement events this Autumn, such as The Big Draw and Kids in Museums Takeover Day. Both events feature in the national campaigns of these organisations.

The Big Draw describes itself as the 'world's biggest celebration of drawing' and promotes drawing, inclusivity and well-being. In October a series of Big Draw: PLAY events brought increased numbers of visitors to the Usher Gallery (including a large increase in those under age 16 for October half term since last year).

Creative art workshops encouraged participants to develop their artistic skills and respond to the stimulus provided by the landscape exhibitions. Fun activities such as 'Funky Life Drawing' and 'Doodle Disco' brought a lively feel to the events and feedback from visitors was extremely positive. Artwork from the events will be on display in the Clore learning room and an upstairs gallery until January 2019. This has built upon the work started earlier in the year for The Collection & Usher Gallery Arts Council Artsmark Partnership collaboration.

The Kids in Museums Takeover Day at Lincoln Castle in November 2017 saw children taking over the adult jobs and learning the skills required for working at a heritage site. This experiential learning opportunity showed just what children are able to do when faced with new challenges and author Damian Dibben, a patron of Kids in Museums, also came to join in the fun.

Building on the success of the event last year, there were Takeover Days at three sites on 23 November 2018. Jobs at Lincoln Castle, The Collection Museum and also Lincoln Cathedral were taken over by pupils from Sir Francis Hill Community Primary School. Pupils took on a variety of roles, for example costumed Victorian prison guides, media crew, exhibition and heritage skills designers, curators, visitor experience officers and many more. The collaboration between the LCC Investigate and Cathedral Learning Teams is exciting and swapping sites broadened the experiences for the pupils involved in the Takeover Day.

FIRE AND RESCUE

General

In September the Service attended a significant fire at the Mid-UK recycling site near Ancaster. At its height there were twelve fire engines present along with a number of specialist vehicles. The incident was closed after four days although follow-up work at the site, in conjunction with the Environment Agency, continues. In October, two firefighters from Stamford were injured following the collapse of a wall during a domestic garage fire in Collyweston. One of the firefighters suffered a relatively serious back injury and, while making a good recovery, the incident continues to highlight the potential risks associated with the role.

Crews have also attended a notable number of fatal road traffic collisions over the past few weeks. The Service continues to work closely with the road safety partnership in order to minimise the impact of such incidents.

At the end of November, the Service celebrated its twenty year partnership with the Lincolnshire Red Cross Fire Victim Support Service. Supported by volunteers, the Service continues to provide post-incident advice and support to members of the community.

Blue Light Collaboration

Development of the new joint fire, police and ambulance station at the South Park site continues with visible progress currently being made on a weekly basis. Plans for fire and ambulance to occupy the site by July 2019, and police by the September 2019, remain on target. Work on the wider estate also continues with the focus for Fire and Rescue remaining in Stamford, Boston, Grantham, Bourne and Horncastle.

In September, key stakeholders attended a Blue Light Symposium designed to discuss key strategic issues in relation to collaboration and to help provide continued direction to the wider integration and interoperability and wider estates projects. Key progress in relation to the broader integration activities include the signing of a memorandum of understanding between fire and police, which will enable sharing of the police's drone capability, early scoping work to look at the development of a joint

training facility based on the Waddington site and a joint fire and police command support vehicle.

The Service was also represented at the Lincolnshire Ambulance Summit in November where partners re-committed to work together to deliver an improved emergency ambulance response service for the county. The Service already supports response to medical emergencies through its co-responder and Joint Ambulance Conveyance schemes; work is continuing with partners to refine these as appropriate.

Fire and Rescue Inspection

During July, Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue were inspected as part of the first tranche of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) new inspection process. The final report will be published in early December, with the results being presented to the Public Protection and Communities scrutiny committee in January 2019.

People

The Service will be recruiting a number of new wholetime firefighters in January 2019. There were over eight hundred applications received following advertisement for the roles; this has now been filtered down to a shortlist of around thirty five with final selection being undertaken over the next few weeks. The Service also saw eight new on-call firefighter recruits pass-out from their training course at Waddington on 9 December 2018. The on-call course, which runs over a three month period, provides all the necessary knowledge and skills, ensuring new recruits are competent to ride when they join their stations.

Long Service Awards

On 15 November 2018, the Service held its annual Long Service Awards Ceremony at the Lincolnshire Showroom. The Lord Lieutenant presented seventeen recipients with their Long Service and Good Conduct medals, recognising their twenty years of meritorious service and good conduct. Five members of the Service also received their thirty year certificate, the total commitment representing a commendable four hundred and ninety years collective service to Fire and Rescue and the County Council.

EMERGENCY PLANNING

The Emergency Planning and Business Continuity Service are entering a busy period with several high profile Lincolnshire Resilience Forum (LRF) projects due for delivery in the next two months. They are also working closely with partners preparing for autumn and winter weather and flooding related contingency planning scenarios.

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 for elected members. The first training session took place in July and the training package has now been delivered to elected members at all but one

District Council. This final session will take place later this month. All sessions have been well attended and feedback has been very positive.

Exercise Faraday took place on 7 November. This exercise was the LRF's major exercise for 2018 and was held at the County Emergency Centre. The scenario focussed on the H41 national risk which is a national five day loss of power. Full command and command support functions were exercised with all LRF partners participating. There were over seventy participants and an Exercise debrief report will be produced in due course.

The Service have recently taken over the Secretariat role for the LRF and the Cabinet Office have asked all LRF's to undertake two pieces of priority resilience planning work. The first is planning for a No Deal BREXIT scenario; a multi-agency sub group has been established to identify any specific risks and to provide a forum for agencies to share intelligence and discuss any mutual aid arrangements. The second is cyber resilience; again a sub group has been established with the same remit. These two groups will report through the LRF and feed into future national planning assumptions.

Following the LRF command and control review, the Service has been a key partner of the multi-agency training team tasked with the design and delivery of updated procedural training for all LRF strategic and tactical commanders. New training packages include strategic and tactical command, command support manager, cell chair and logistic training. Strategic command training commenced in November and there will be over 140 commanders attending one of the five planned sessions; training will be complete by mid-December.

The Community Resilience project continues to go from strength to strength; we now have one hundred and seventy nine community groups signed up to the five stage programme. The new Resilient Lincs initiative has recently been launched with its own standing group made up of category one responders, town and parish councils and members of the community to oversee project work. Planning for the third Resilient Communities Conference is underway and is set to take place in July 2019 at the British Red Cross Headquarters in Grantham. The Service continues to be regarded as national best practice in this area.

REGISTRATION AND CORONER'S SERVICES

Coroner's Service

The new Senior Coroner for Lincolnshire, Timothy Brennand, took up his appointment on 5 November 2018. He was called to the Bar in 1987 and was a senior member of St. John's Buildings - one of the largest sets of chambers in the country. As a top graded prosecutor, he has lead the prosecution teams in a large number of high profile cases - including homicide, serious and organised crime and historic sexual abuse cases.

Timothy Brennand, in a statement to the press, shared his delight on his appointment. He recognised the huge sense of responsibility to lead the coronial service and to ensure that all Coroners' Court users receive sensitive, expeditious and professional treatment. He also thanked and paid tribute to his predecessor,

Stuart Fisher, stating his aim to build on the solid foundations that he and his dedicated team have created.

One of Timothy's first tasks was to affirm his commitment to the role and the people of Lincolnshire as follows:

'I, Timothy William Brennand solemnly, sincerely, and truly declare and affirm that that I will well and truly serve our Sovereign Lady the Queen and her liege people in the office of Coroner for the County of Lincolnshire and that I will diligently and truly do everything appertaining to my office to the best of my power for the doing of right without fear or favour, ill-will or affection and for the good of the inhabitants within the said jurisdiction.'

The latest issue of County News provides an introduction to the new Coroner. The implementation of the new Coroners Case Management software has gone smoothly and already, staff are becoming more challenging in its application to improve efficiency, communication and effectiveness.

Registration Service

The service is delighted to confirm that they have retained the high levels of customer service to meet the requirements of the Government's Customer Service Excellence award. This was evidenced in the annual review in October 2018. Lincolnshire is one of only a handful of registration services who hold this award. The assessor joined the team over two days visiting a large number of registration offices and meeting staff at training events.

Staff flexibility is recognised by the wide range of unusual events that have occurred over the last few months; for example, a large number of deathbed marriage ceremonies and speedy registrations to meet the needs of families with urgent requirements for burial. These have required a dynamic approach to individual circumstances outside the normal role of registration and conducting ceremonies.

Lincolnshire will be one of the first Local Authorities to pilot a European Settlement Scheme supported application service for those applying for settled status in the UK. This pilot will initially be for Tier 4 education workers and was rolled out to social care workers by early December. The aim is for the Registration Service to support individuals with their applications, and provide a biometric 'chip checker' service. It is hoped that this pilot will be further extended in early 2019 to support our local European residents. The full application process commences in March 2019.