![Lincolnshire County Council - Working for a better future]

Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson Executive Director - Place

Report to:	**Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee**
Date:	**25 October 2022**
Subject:	**Energy for Growth (utilities provision in Greater Lincolnshire)**

Summary:

This report provides an overview of the utilities work programme being delivered by the Economic Infrastructure Team within the Growth Service Area. This work programme is for the lead Officer to oversee and deliver in the short, medium, and long term, focussing on issues that Greater Lincolnshire currently faces. The work programme comprises four overarching, interrelated themes that will assist in developing a clear understanding of utility networks, provision, and constraints to enable growth of thriving environments and support high aspirations across Lincolnshire.

Actions Required:

The Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee is invited:

(1) to consider the work programme detailed in the report; and

(2) to comment on the contents of the work programme and agree that their feedback is shared with lead Officers and the relevant Executive portfolio holder for consideration as necessary.

1. Background

The provision of utilities is critical to support both new and existing commercial and residential developments in the County and throughout Greater Lincolnshire. The lack of infrastructure and network capacity without costly network reinforcements can hinder and prevent development and investment in particular areas and therefore needs to be properly understood to enable the growth of thriving environments and support high aspirations across Lincolnshire.

The importance of this was recognised by the Growth Service area where a new post of Project Officer - Utilities was recently established in the Economic Infrastructure team. The purpose of the role is to lead and assist as appropriate, with:

- Providing an integrated approach to performance management, quality standards and service delivery.
- Embedding new ways of thinking and working.
- Developing and maintaining strong, positive working relationships with members of Place directorate.
- Providing direct liaison with utility companies across Greater Lincolnshire to influence their strategic plans and assist the utility companies working with Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) where appropriate.

A comprehensive work programme has recently been developed, and this paper highlights the main work themes. The work programme currently focuses on energy as this is the priority at this time, but it is anticipated that the focus of the programme will evolve over time to include other utilities.

1.2 The work programme

The work programme comprises four overarching, interrelated themes to progress this work.

- **Intelligence**: Developing increased knowledge, awareness and understanding of current utility situation and future ambitions to assist growth in areas of Greater Lincolnshire, especially where supply is volatile.
- **Problem solving**: Understanding network capacity issues, and where constraints exist have the knowledge and awareness to look for potential local innovative solutions to assist growth in these areas.
- **Places - Specific sites and areas** - Understanding the local utility landscape, allowing informed decisions to be made for specific sites.
- **Breaking through communication barriers:** Liaising with utility companies, forming relationships and developing clear communication channels to gain understanding of how they operate, direction of travel and their future investment plans to link with plans in Greater Lincolnshire.

Each theme has a work programme attached to it and the main activities, and outcomes are considered below. The full work programmes can be found in the Appendices at the end of this report.

Intelligence:

- **Energy Option Analysis for Greater Lincolnshire commission** – by July 2023 RLB (appointed consultant) will have addressed the Key Lines of Enquiry (KLOEs) outlined in the work programme and identified the energy constraints and solution and promoted local innovative solutions.
- **Open Data Work** – By the end of June 2023 have knowledge and understanding of the current situation regarding open data, (i.e., what data is available to use freely and what is not) and have awareness of utilities future steps as they transition towards Net Zero.

- **UK Food Valley Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP)** – The LAEP will be commissioned by the GLLEP but the Project Officer - Utilities will be involved in this project to input and help prevent duplication.
- **Nationally Important Infrastructure Project (NSIP) repository of Information** – develop a repository of information on energy NSIP projects in the Lincolnshire area, including an overview sheet for all schemes. To have an understanding of the energy related NSIP applications within Lincolnshire.
- **Water** – South Lincolnshire Reservoir- to gain and maintain updated intelligence of South Lincolnshire Reservoir project.

Place – Specific sites and areas:

- **South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone (SL FEZ) Ph 2 and Ph 3** – Understanding the energy options available (including renewables) for Ph 2 and Ph 3 of the SL FEZ with the view that constraints could be resolved by undertaking one or more of the options.
- **Determine work programmes for Alternative Energy /Digital options in the locations below, looking at areas of - hydrogen, bio fuels, solar, wind, battery storage, energy from waste (EFW) in Greater Lincoln, Grantham A1 corridor, South Holland/Boston and the Coast** – This work programme will start once the Energy Options Analysis work has been completed (July 2023), and the order in which the local areas are reviewed will be to be determined. An agreed work programme and budget will be required to determine alternative energy options available in the project areas. This work programme will also help to establish options to help pathway to Net Zero.
- **Involvement in review of energy related NSIP applications** – Understanding what benefits these projects could have on the local area and helping to create thriving environments that have high aspirations as per LCC's Corporate Plan.

Problem solving:

- **The need for power in southeast Lincolnshire to enable the development of large-scale glass houses** – For developers to know how to contact the Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) to find out information regarding the network capacity in the area.
- **Alternative, especially hydrogen, fuel for public transport** – Viability of running vehicles on Hydrogen or alternative fuels.
- **How are Homes England and the electricity providers responding to the Levelling Up White Paper** – Developing intelligence on this to assist all areas of the work programme.
- **Links between Waste and Energy** – Enhancing and increasing knowledge and understanding of the links between waste and energy, and what opportunities might be available. Collaboration with other Council Services.

Breaking through communication barriers:

- **Regular communication updates to relevant groups to inform about progress in the utilities field** – Relevant groups having awareness of the utility work and LCC's leadership role in the field.

- **Establishing a programme of meetings with utility network providers to discuss growth priorities in the Lincolnshire area** – Creating clear communications channels, gaining efficient and effective answers to questions, and understanding their network assets, capacity, constraints, and plans.

- **Establishing relationship with Midlands Energy Hub to understand what work it is doing in Lincolnshire and collaborate where possible** – Enhancing dialogue and collaboration - information exchange and sharing best practice and increasing knowledge of projects across the East Midlands that Midlands Energy Hub is undertaking.

2. Conclusion

The exact tasks and activities undertaken by the lead Officer will evolve and expand as the post and work strands are more firmly developed, but the work programme will guide and prioritise the focus of activities. As the programme develops, some of the tasks may need additional expertise, where required, commissioning of these services will be done with support from Procurement Lincolnshire.

The committee is therefore asked to consider the work programme, provide comments and feedback on the breadth and depth of tasks outlined, and identify any additional tasks that may be relevant and feasible to include in this programme.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

- As different elements of energy and the transition towards Net Zero falls into a number of different teams, there is a risk that duplication, or similar tasks are undertaken by other departments within the Council. This risk can be avoided by having conversations with other teams, to ensure that the outcomes of any similar work activities compliment rather than duplicate each other, for example having regular update meetings with Infrastructure Investment, Sustainability Team and the GLLEP.
- Incorrect or out of date intelligence that is gained as a result of the work programme could be used to formulate business cases and feasibility for projects. This will be mitigated by having the relationships and dialogue with the Distribution Network Operators (DNOs) and having robust internal processes to make sure that documents are regularly updated.

- Due to the current energy situation, and the push towards energy security, things may rapidly change and therefore intelligence held may be quickly out of date. It is therefore important that intelligence held is regularly reviewed and updated so that informed decisions can be made. Intelligence held will be reviewed on a quarterly basis, or when policy changes, or new guidance is issued.

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Utilities Work Programme Overview
Appendix B	Utilities Work Programme

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 Johanna Rhoades, Project Officer, Utilities, Economic Infrastructure, who can be contacted on 07920 576720 or via email at johanna.rhoades@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

This page is intentionally left blank