



**Open Report on Andrew Crookham,
Deputy Chief Executive & Executive Director – Resources**

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Management Board
Date:	29 February 2024
Subject:	Update Report – Lincolnshire Public Law

Summary:

This report seeks to update the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on the progress on the creation of the legal services company, Lincolnshire Public Law (LPL).

Actions Required:

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board is invited to review the progress made in relation to setting up of LPL.

1. Background

On 7 January 2020, the Executive approved the final documentation underpinning the establishment of a company wholly owned by the County Council with the object of the company being licensed by the Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) for the purpose of providing legal advice and services.

The driver for the company was to enable Legal Services Lincolnshire (LSL) to continue to provide services to its partner Councils when they deliver services through new structures such as companies without risk of it acting contrary to the requirements of the SRA as our professional regulator.

At this meeting the Executive approved the Articles of Association and Shareholders Agreement, appointed the Company Directors, and delegated to the Chief Legal Officer authority to take all necessary procedural steps to establish the company to include amendments to the documentation to the extent necessary to meet SRA requirements and to determine the final terms and the entering into of a cash flow facility.

The company was incorporated on 17 March 2020 under the name of Legal Services Lincolnshire (Trading) Limited and approval from the SRA and the granting of a license to operate as a legal practice was granted on 5 August 2022.

2. Current Position

A report was brought to this Board in December 2022 updating the Board as to the progress that had been made in setting up the company. This report seeks to further update the Board on the outstanding actions that were identified in that report.

Since then, work has been underway to ensure that the company which trades as Lincolnshire Public Law has in place the policies and procedures necessary to ensure compliance with SRA requirements. These include the following:

- Information Governance
- Money Laundering
- Term and Conditions between the ABS and LSL
- Terms of Business
- Conflicts of interest
- Client care

In addition, a dedicated physical workspace has been provided within the LSL accommodation to conduct LPL's business. This is a secure office that allows LPL's business to be conducted separately from the work of LSL and ensures compliance with the SRA requirements.

A dedicated LPL website has been created to establish an online presence, provide contact details and publish documents required for transparency purposes. This website is now live and can be viewed at: www.lincolnshirepubliclaw.co.uk.

On completion of the above, LPL commenced trading and in January 2024 received and accepted its first set of instructions in relation to a property transaction on behalf of a company wholly owned by a District Council. At the time of writing this report the company has two live instructions and has received enquiries from a unitary council seeking its services.

Due to the imminent retirement of one of the company Directors, David Coleman – the Executive Councillor for People Management, Legal and Corporate Property has, in accordance with LPL's Articles of Association, been presented with a report seeking approval to appoint Lisa Tremble, Head of Legal Services as a new Director to replace David. Subject to the aforementioned Executive Councillor's approval, in due course, LPL will be invited to appoint Lisa as both its Compliance Officer for Legal Practice and Anti Money Laundering Officer, again to satisfy SRA compliance requirements.

3. Conclusion

LPL is now operational, and trading and this report provides an update on its progress.

4. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

No risks or impacts have been identified from preparation of this report, that are not managed in accordance with LPL's operating practice and procedures.

5. Background Papers

The following background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

Background paper	Where it can be viewed
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board Report 15 December 2022 – "Establishment of the Legal Services Company – Update Report"	Agenda for Overview and Scrutiny Management Board on Thursday, 15th December, 2022, 10.00 am (moderngov.co.uk)

This report was written by Will Bell, Chief Legal Officer who can be contacted at will.bell@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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