

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 12 FEBRUARY 2010**

**Statement from: Cllr E J Poll, Executive Councillor for Economic Development**

**ECONOMIC REGENERATION/SPATIAL PLANNING**

Government and the national press are telling us that the country is emerging from recession. Indeed, our research is telling us that Lincolnshire businesses are reporting higher or maintained levels of performance.

This fairly positive picture does, however, mask some problems in the economy. We've seen jobs in traditional manufacturing businesses decline, and we were very sorry to hear the announcements of job losses at Siemens' Lincoln plant. The indications, though, are that some parts of the local Siemens operation will be strengthened. We have now achieved planning permission for the Teal Park technology site on the edge of Lincoln, and next month we will launch a £1.5m scheme to help 70 local businesses benefit from low carbon technologies. We are also making sure that training programmes meet the needs of business, and this month we awarded a contract to a partnership led by Lincoln College for them to provide 30 apprenticeships to small and medium sized companies across the county.

Negotiations are ongoing with Her Majesty's Court Service to replace the not fit for purpose crown court building. Provision of modern facilities on a new site will give access to a modern justice service for Lincolnshire residents and enable us to turn Lincoln Castle into a tourist attraction that the city and county can be proud of.

Lincolnshire County Council is leading the Coastal Communities Alliance, which has launched a 'coastal handbook' to MPs and Government officials, raising the need for strong action to regenerate coastal communities.

**CULTURAL SERVICES**

**Radio-frequency identification (RFID) Improvement**

Lincoln Central, Spalding and Skegness libraries re-opened in November following refurbishment and installation of self service technology. Self service has been successful in all libraries. Spalding library recorded a 99.2% use of their self service machines in their second week of opening, Skegness library achieving 97.6% of discharges on their go-live day and Lincoln Central reported 96.2% of issues all going through self service on the first day.

Library	Future 'go live' date
Boston	22 February 2010
Gainsborough	8 March 2010
Sleaford	29 March 2010

Report Reference: **5.0**  
**Statements/Announcements**

**Library Awards**

In December, the Council held an awards ceremony for the first time to celebrate the achievements of individual library sites. The ceremony, held at the Engine Shed, gave recognition to staff for collectively achieving an impressive total of 2.7 million library visits and 3 million borrowed items across the network. The awards were divided into three key categories;

- performance in key performance indicators
- performance in customer care
- innovation awards.

<b>Award</b>	<b>Library</b>
Key Performance Indicators: <b>Best Performing Branch Library</b>	Lincoln Central
Key Performance Indicators: <b>Highly Commended Branch Library</b>	Woodhall Spa, Alford, Boston, Bourne
Key Performance Indicators: <b>Most Improved Branch Library</b>	Wragby
Key Performance Indicators: <b>Highly Commended Branch Library</b>	Gainsborough, Sleaford, Coningsby & Tattershall CAP, Ermine
Public Library User Survey (PLUS): <b>Rated Best Branch Library by Customers</b>	Skegness
Public Library User Survey (PLUS): <b>Highly Commended Branch Library by Customers</b>	Belton Lane, Long Sutton, Mablethorpe, Pinchbeck, Skellingthorpe, Stamford
Public Library User Survey (PLUS): <b>Rated Most Improved Branch Library by customers</b>	Coningsby/Tattershall
Public Library User Survey (PLUS): <b>Highly Commended Branch Library</b>	Birchwood, Boston, Bracebridge, Skegness, Spilsby
<b>Most Innovative Branch Library</b>	Holbeach Group (Holbeach, Long Sutton, Crowland)
Highly Commended: <b>Most Innovative Branch Libraries</b>	Branston, Kirton, Deepings