

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 17 DECEMBER 2010

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

ECONOMIC REGENERATION/SPATIAL PLANNING

Local Enterprise Partnerships - Following the agreement of the Lincolnshire LEP we have begun the process of recruiting a Foundation Board. We hope to meet soon to discuss the potential support for the Board available from Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and other Government Departments, and to prioritise a range of potential Regional Growth Fund bids.

Crown Court - We are very disappointed by the blinkered decision of HMCS to keep the “not fit for purpose” Crown Court in the Castle. A building that does not comply with the DDA and fire regulations, that puts people’s health and safety at risk and compromises access to a fair trial, cannot be allowed to continue in use.

Broadband - Our discussions about pulling together the tenders for an LCC Wide Area Network and a new Schools’ WAN provide some real opportunities to realise the considerable potential enhanced broadband will offer to key communities in Lincolnshire.

CULTURAL SERVICES

Usher Gallery Re-Opens - The Usher Gallery is open and accessible to all thanks to vital works that have been carried out over the past year. The new look Usher now boasts a fully accessible entrance, visually linking it to The Collection and providing views that have not been seen since the 1950s.

New Community Room In Birchwood Library - Birchwood Library’s community room has been brought up to date with a refurbishment from the Community Access Point Programme and already good use is being made of the new facilities – several charities have held Saturday coffee mornings, Lincoln City Council hold regular housing and benefit surgeries, the Police hold a fortnightly surgery and Lincoln College run a variety of learning courses.

Summer Fun and Medieval Market at Lincoln Castle - Summer Fun at Lincoln Castle was a fabulous weekend full of activities and acts from top class medieval entertainers for all the family to enjoy. Lincoln Castle's Re- enactors brought history to life inside the prison and outside in the grounds. The Medieval Market transported visitors back in time, recreating the look and feel of a bustling market place with traders, traditional crafts, re-enactors and minstrels.

The Summer Fun event attracted 1,500 visitors on the Saturday and 1,400 on the Sunday. The Medieval Market attracted even bigger crowds with 1,600 visitors on Saturday and 1,800 on Sunday.