

## **COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 14 DECEMBER 2012**

**Statement from: Councillor Eddy Poll – Deputy Leader and  
Executive Councillor for Economic Development**

### **ECONOMY**

#### **Progress with major projects**

We continue to progress well with the Lincoln Castle project, and we have now appointed contractors to repair and improve the remaining walls. The successful contractors have made a proposal which will help us to keep some parts of the wall walks open at all times. This will allow visitors to get more from their experience at the castle during the rebuilding phase.

The castle has recently played an important role in two tourism events in uphill Lincoln: the 1000 Years of Traditional Crafts event was held in late September and had 4,000 visitors, and the Lincoln Sausage festival was held in late October with a further 10,500 attendees.

In Grantham we have secured planning permission to develop (using ERDF funding) a new business incubator as part of the Station Approach project.

#### **Business and Employment**

The last two months have delivered mixed news for employment opportunities in Lincolnshire.

The recently announced job losses at Cummins in Stamford are a major blow to manufacturing employment in the south of the county. There has however been some positive news as Cummins has been awarded a Regional Growth Fund grant to help research and development. The investment of this money will hopefully ensure that the future for this company is one of growth on the back of new products.

Just along the road from Stamford at Market Deeping the County Council has secured full occupancy of the Eventus Business Innovation Centre, with all 36 units let to thriving SMEs. We are also aware that there is further demand for space and we hope to be able to accommodate this through some minor internal alterations to create additional units.

At a similar Business Innovation Centre in Gainsborough, we have been working with businesses to help them to secure new customers. The Mercury Expo at Mercury House gave occupiers and other local businesses the opportunity to learn how to promote themselves better and to open up new markets. Feedback from those attending indicates that the event was well received.

Colleagues will have seen the Heseltine report into economic growth, which puts Local Enterprise Partnerships into a strong position – albeit one which requires them to work closely with upper tier authorities like the County Council. We have helped the Greater Lincolnshire LEP to get established and develop its priorities, and the LEP recently

unveiled its business plan at an event attended again by more than 100 of the county's major businesses.

## **CULTURE**

### **The Collection Wins Contemporary Arts Award**

The Collection has won the Contemporary Arts Society's Annual Award of £60,000 for a proposal to create a new artwork for the museum's permanent collection. The aim of the Contemporary Art Society's Annual Award *commissioning to collect* is to support museums to commission new work that will remain within the museum's permanent collection. This will enable emerging artist Oliver Lirac to be commissioned to use the latest 3D scanning technology to scan some of the museum's collections and create new physical and virtual artworks. The digital files created through this process will be available through the Lincs to the Past and The Collection websites and will enable new 3D versions of the artworks to be created anywhere in the world. This activity complements the Lincolnshire Broadband Plan and will serve to demonstrate the huge potential of the latest digital technology.

### **Aviation Heritage Lincolnshire**

Lincolnshire County Council has stepped forward to take on the running of Aviation Heritage Lincolnshire (AHL).

For the past three years, AHL has been promoting the county's aviation history across Lincolnshire and beyond. However, its grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund comes to an end in Spring 2013. Now, the County Council has agreed to continue the good work.

### **Investor in Volunteers**

Economy and Culture have secured the Investor in Volunteers Award from Volunteering England. The award recognises our dedication to volunteering and delivery of best practice and was judged against national standards.

The authority has also created a new user-friendly website to make cultural volunteering in Lincolnshire easier than ever before. The site features a full list of opportunities across the county – everything from behind-the-scenes work to being a computer "buddy" or helping out at story time at your local library.

For the first time, people can even submit an application online, meaning it's simpler than ever to offer your support.

The new website can be found at [www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/culturalvolunteering](http://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/culturalvolunteering).