



Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director - Place

Report to:	Executive
Date:	02 June 2021
Subject:	Usher Gallery - Update
Decision Reference:	n/a
Key decision?	n/a

Summary:

This report serves as an update on the plans for culture and heritage in the context of the post Covid-19 recovery planning.

Recommendation(s):

The Executive is asked to note and comment on the current situation in relation to plans for culture and heritage.

Alternatives Considered: n/a

Reasons for Recommendation: n/a

1. Current situation

We require the City of Lincoln Council to make a decision, and formally notify us of their intentions regarding the termination of the Collections Management Agreement and associated plans for the future of the Usher Gallery from October 2021. In order to inform actions we will be required to carry out, we require this notification by 1 July 2021.

Lincolnshire County Council continues to be open to a revised collections management arrangement to enable the artefacts in the legal ownership of City of Lincoln Council to be maintained as part of our vision for Lincolnshire's County Heritage offer. We remain open to finding a resolution which allows this material to stay in the county, to be managed alongside the wider artefacts in our on-going care, where they have the greatest relevance and benefit to our shared residents.

The City of Lincoln Council have previously informed us of their intention to progress alternative arrangements for management of the collections in their legal ownership from the expiry point of our current agreement in October 2021. The City of Lincoln Council are liable for the undertaking of removal, packing and transport associated with the transfer and we understand future arrangements for collections management are being developed with Nottingham City Council. Clarification is required as to the continuation of these plans, versus any potential further negotiation for a revised collections management agreement to be reached between Lincolnshire County Council and the City of Lincoln Council.

The impact of Covid-19 on the cultural sector has been significant over the last 12-18 months with venues remaining closed during much of this time as part of the lockdown precautions. During this time, the culture service has worked successfully to maintain engagement with the county's communities, including delivering digital projects in partnership with the organisations such as the Imperial War Museum. It has also been clear that our cultural venues play an important role as safe places for our communities to visit.

Speaking with colleagues across the East Midlands and beyond has shown an increasing trend, as part of the sector's response to the Covid-19 situation, for opening to the public on certain days of the week where the visitor experience is a pure cultural experience and on the alternative days to open for schools workshops and complimentary activity.

The Usher Gallery, Museum of Lincolnshire Life and Lincolnshire Archives are currently open three days a week, with the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Visitor Centre open four days a week, The Collection five days a week and Lincoln Castle open seven days a week.

We are actively working to accommodate school group visits to sites the days they are not open to the public as well looking at other activity on these days.

2. Our proposal

2.1 Seek a sustainable commercial collections management agreement:

- A cost recovery collections management rate has previously been proposed to replace arrangements with Nottingham City Council and allow the collections to remain in the county. The re-visiting of this arrangement for a commercial management agreement is recommended.
- To amend the terms as part of a modern, fit for purpose arrangement allowing review and rationalisation of material in line with national best practice with an emphasis on retaining collections which best tell the story of Lincolnshire.
- To agree alignment between the collections agreement and any lease arrangements for the Usher Gallery to allow improved response to changes within the sector. For example, a ten year agreement.

- That the new agreement provides clarity over discrete collections, for example that responsibility for discharging the Usher bequest sits wholly with the City of Lincoln Council.
- With regards to the Usher Gallery Bequest, and although independent legal advice differs, Lincolnshire County Council's understanding, based on QC advice, is that the City of Lincoln Council hold singular responsibility to deliver and comply with the ensured public display of this material within the Usher Gallery building.

2.2 Broaden the use of The Usher Gallery

- In line with recovery planning proposal to retain general opening to public three days per week for exhibitions and permanent displays.
- In keeping with the ethos of a publically owned gallery, on days the building isn't open purely as an art gallery, it would be used for wider public access for community, cultural and creative industry use. This would be combined with the flexibility for income generating activity in line with use as a gallery including the opportunity for hire associated with talks & tours, weddings, ceremonial celebrations, educational and children's activities. Conversations with stakeholders and partners have shown support for this kind of activity to take place in the Usher Gallery.
- Our intent is to meet with the City of Lincoln Council to discuss changes to the lease to align the timescales of the lease to those for a future collections management agreement, to embed increased flexibility and address the imbalance of the current lease with regards to notice periods.
- The Usher Gallery is already licensed for civil ceremonies and has hosted weddings in the past. We would encourage wider flexible use for ceremonies in line with the above without a need for dedicated ceremony spaces or associated offices- i.e. retaining art gallery offer throughout.
- Attract the external funding for investment made possible if the building remains as an art gallery.

2. Legal Issues:

Equality Act 2010

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.

Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.

Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
- Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.

Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to tackle prejudice, and promote understanding.

Compliance with the duties in section 149 may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.

The duty cannot be delegated and must be discharged by the decision-maker. To discharge the statutory duty the decision-maker must analyse all the relevant material with the specific statutory obligations in mind. If a risk of adverse impact is identified consideration must be given to measures to avoid that impact as part of the decision making process.

As an update there are no Equality Act implications arising out of this Report.

Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS)

The Council must have regard to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Joint Health & Well Being Strategy (JHWS) in coming to a decision.

As an update there are no JSNA implications arising out of this Report.

Crime and Disorder

Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council must exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area (including anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area and re-offending in its area.

As an update there are no crime and disorder implications arising out of this Report.

3. Conclusion

This report serves as an update on the plans for culture and heritage in the context of the post Covid-19 recovery planning for comment.

4. Legal Comments:

The Report sets out an update on plans for culture and heritage and does not call for a decision by the Executive.

The matters on which the Executive are being invited to comment are within the remit of the Executive

5. Resource Comments:

This update will not directly impact on the budgets of the Council. The financial implications of future changes to the service will need to be incorporated in to our budget setting process for future years.

6. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

n/a

c) Scrutiny Comments

The Report has not been considered by a Scrutiny Committee

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

n/a

7. 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 Nicole Hilton, who can be contacted at Nicole.hilton@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director for Place

Report to:	Executive
Date:	02 June 2021
Subject:	Household Waste Recycling Centres
Decision Reference:	n/a
Key decision?	n/a

Summary:

This Report seeks to inform the Executive about the use of a booking system at Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) introduced in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and to provide comments prior to a decision as to whether the system should remain in future.

Recommendation(s):

That the Executive considers the issues and provides guidance on any future changes to the operation of Household Waste Recycling Centres to be considered by the Executive Councillor for Waste and Trading Standards.

Alternatives Considered:

- | | |
|----|----|
| 1. | NA |
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Reasons for Recommendation:

To establish the future aspirations of the Executive in relation to HWRC operation.

1. Background

The government lockdown in March 2020 and associated restrictions on essential travel due to the Covid pandemic had a consequence of HWRCs closing. Guidance on what services could operate was ambiguous and clarity was eventually received in May to provide confidence that HWRCs could be safely re-opened under social distancing rules. In the following weeks LCC worked closely with the site contractors, container haulage company and material end processors to establish how the HWRCs could become operational again. The three main issues which were discussed were:

1. How to manage the number of people on site at any one time, to ensure social distancing.
2. How to enable the site containers to be supervised and managed to enable social distancing whilst preventing contamination of material bins and containers.
3. How to guarantee the material could be processed once removed from HWRCs as the rules on the handling of waste was unclear.

Once issues 2 and 3 were satisfied regarding the handling of waste, it was agreed that a booking system would be the best method of controlling residents' access to sites. It requires visitors to book online or via the telephone in advance and provides access during a 15 minute booking slot. Additionally, the booking system provided a record of who had been on site and the ability for contractors to plan for and manage the flow of waste onsite.

Other restrictions were initially introduced to assist with site management, namely:

- A restriction on waste types on specific days. This was later gradually removed as sites became more manageable and material end processors re-opened business, thus enabling public complaints on waste acceptance to be addressed.
- Vans and trailers limited with a permit required to allow a maximum of 12 visits per year. This was introduced in an effort to deter trade waste and also restrict unloading times.

It should be noted that the HWRC booking system was only ever intended to be a temporary measure and has been regularly reviewed and refined throughout this challenging period. Nationally, there has been little consistency by Local Authorities. A minority remained open throughout, some remained closed for a much more substantial period, most, introduced a booking system of some form.

Costs

The HWRCs were closed for approximately 6 weeks during April/May 2021 so the opening hours are not completely comparable, however there is a significant reduction in the total amount of material delivered during the period of the booking system. The table below shows the total HWRC material and kerbside collected material for the last 2 years as a comparison:

	HWRC (tonnes)	Kerbside (tonnes)	Total (tonnes)
2019/20	71,450	275,778	347,228
2020/21	24,558	294,405	318,963

There is a significant decrease of 46,892 tonnes through the HWRCs with an increase of 18,627 in kerbside material and overall there is a decrease of 28,265 tonnes (8%).

During the same period, fly-tipping has increased from 881 tonnes to 1,277 tonnes.

There are several possible reasons for this reduction in HWRC waste which could include:

- People may not have been visiting HWRCs due to Covid concerns with more material remaining in the kerbside stream.
- Trade waste may not be presented due to the need to register on the booking system. Trade waste was always a problem under the previous system but was very difficult to enforce as visits could be unregistered. Local waste managers have reported significant increases in trade waste business from the private sector whilst the booking system has been operating.
- The public may be producing less waste during the pandemic. Due to fewer purchases.
- The public may be hiring skips to dispose of material. Waste management businesses are reporting a significant increase in skip hire and general increase in business from the public.

This reduction in waste presented has the effect of reducing the haulage and disposal cost which is estimated to be circa £900k. However it must be borne in mind that this did not include a 6 week closure period, however the cost saving is still significant.

Creating the HWRC booking system has been resource intensive, including several teams, working together to constantly refine and develop the process to be as simple as possible. It has not been possible to easily quantify this resource cost, however it has, at times, required almost daily attention and the staff time required in future maintenance of the booking system is estimated to be at least 8 hours every week. Additionally, there have been associated costs within the CSC, processing of complaints, digital team (Jadu) and Waste Management Team.

Complaints

The number of complaints received in 2020/21 was 282 compared to 5 for the whole of 2019/20 (Appendix A). The breakdown of complaints are as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| • Booking system | 58% |
| • Staff conduct | 22% |
| • Waste type restrictions | 14% |
| • Permit requirement | 6% |

It is acknowledged that prior to the changes introduced within the Service as a direct result of Covid-19 measures, Waste traditionally experienced a very low number of complaints. Since the booking system became operational there have been over 600,000 bookings in a 14 month period with 96% of transactions being self-service on-line. Complaint numbers are a considerable increase, however there are many examples of visitors expressing a positive opinion of the booking system. Anecdotally, many have stated that visits are faster and in a less stressful environment where the public have appreciated the "safety" assured to them onsite. Queuing does not occur outside of the

sites as was previously experienced during peak hours. Some sites have previously had to be closed when queues back onto the public highway have created a safety hazard. It should be noted that the large majority of complaints that have been in relation to the booking system were directly related to the decision to limit waste types to different days. This position, whilst reviewed regularly, remained in place and once lifted, was universally welcomed by residents.

In a recent small survey of 4 HWRCs, 50 people were asked for an opinion of whether they preferred the booking system or the previous uncontrolled system. 87% stated that they preferred the booking system.

Fly-Tipping

There has been an increase in fly-tipping from 881 tonnes to 1,277 tonnes but this is insignificant compared to the 46,892 tonnes decrease in HWRC material. However there is still a perception that the initial closure of the HWRCs and re-opening under restrictions has led to an increase in fly-tipping incidents. This assumes that residents who don't want to make a booking will act illegally and is difficult to imagine that law abiding residents will act in that way. In any event it is a theory which is difficult to prove unless more fly-tippers are caught. There has been an increase in industrial scale fly-tipping where bulk trucks have disposed of material on remote country roads and this type of material would not be appropriate for acceptance at HWRCs.

It must be noted that there are still complaints from residents that fly-tipping is caused by HWRC restrictions, but fly-tipping has always been a problem even when HWRCs allowed unrestricted access. If there is a return to the old system, fly-tipping will probably still be an issue. It should also be noted that there is more of a concerted approach to addressing fly-tipping with all stake holders and there is a clear drive to increase penalties for such offences on a national level.

National Approach

Many other authorities have introduced booking systems are looking to continue with its usage on a permanent basis. The benefits are that it allows a safer environment for disposal. It also requires residents to be more mindful of how they dispose of material as they have to plan visits to stick to the time restrictions. Site plans have now been produced and are available online to show locations of the different waste containers to enable residents to better plan their visits. This whole approach should help with our ambition of having material separated correctly to increase recycling rates and reduce contamination which should ultimately obtain a better price from material end processors.

Future Consequences

If there is a return to the uncontrolled access to sites there could be a backlash from the public who currently support the booking system. Some of the early complaints about the closure and restrictions may have been justified but as the sites have lifted some waste acceptance restrictions and simplified the booking system complaints may be subsiding. It was only as recent as March 2021 when we allowed all waste on all days.

A return to unrestricted access may increase queues at sites during peak periods and sites may have to be closed as they have been in the past. This has not happened once under the booking system.

There may also be an increase in trade waste if controls are lifted and we unwittingly dispose of commercial material which should not be part of the municipal waste stream at tax payers' expense.

Contractors Feedback

The external contractors who staff and manage the sites are in support of the booking system for the reasons stated in this report. They have also confirmed that the sites have fewer health and safety issues. For several years there have been an increase in reported health and safety issues at HWRCs by our internal audit team and the Health and Safety Executive. The contractors are also reporting fewer visitors from out of county as the booking system requires an address check for Lincolnshire residents.

2. Legal Issues:

Equality Act 2010

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.

Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.

Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
- Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.

Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to tackle prejudice, and promote understanding.

Compliance with the duties in section 149 may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.

The duty cannot be delegated and must be discharged by the decision-maker. To discharge the statutory duty the decision-maker must analyse all the relevant material with the specific statutory obligations in mind. If a risk of adverse impact is identified consideration must be given to measures to avoid that impact as part of the decision making process.

The Council's Equality Act duties will be taken into account in any final decision as to the future of the HWRC booking system. Overall it is considered that the booking system may benefit people with limited mobility as it reduces the number of people on site at any one time. Uncontrolled access may be of benefit for groups for whom English is not a first language as it eliminates the requirement to book.

Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS)

The Council must have regard to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Joint Health & Well Being Strategy (JHWS) in coming to a decision.

The JSNA and JHWS will be considered in any future decision on the future operation of the HWRC sites

Crime and Disorder

Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council must exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area (including

anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area and re-offending in its area.

Crime and disorder matters will be considered in any future decision on the future operation of the HWRC sites. Relevant to this will be an assessment of the impact of the booking system on fly tipping.

3. Conclusion

As the country emerges from Covid-19 lockdown a decision is required on the future operation of the HWRC sites including the booking system which was introduced as a means of managing safety at the Council's HWRC sites during the pandemic.

This Report sets out the issues relating to the sites and particularly the system and its future and invites the Executive to comment on the issues in order to inform a future decision by the Executive Councillor for Waste and Trading Standards

4. Legal Comments:

The Report sets out the issues relating to the operation of and the booking system for Household Waste Recycling Centres and invites comments from the Executive to inform a future decision by the Executive Councillor for Waste and Trading Standards.

The Report does not in itself call for a decision from the Executive.

The Council has a statutory duty under section 51 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to provide places at which persons resident in its area can deposit their household waste. It is for the Council to determine how best to manage and operate the sites provided.

5. Resource Comments:

It is difficult to isolate the increase in on-going costs caused by the current booking system with many of them representing opportunity cost rather than additional resource requirement. However, the current cost of processing "click and tip" calls through the Customer Service Centre (CSC) is known to be around £8,000 per month and the cost of staff time estimated at £1,000 per month. Although the implementation of a booking system is likely to be only one of the factors that has contributed to the reduced volume of waste being presented at HWRCs, the estimated saving in haulage and processing costs of £900,000 p.a far exceeds the on-going cost of the booking arrangements.

6. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

No

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes

c) Scrutiny Comments

The Report has not been considered by a Scrutiny Committee

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

NA

7. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	HWRC Annual Complaints

8. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

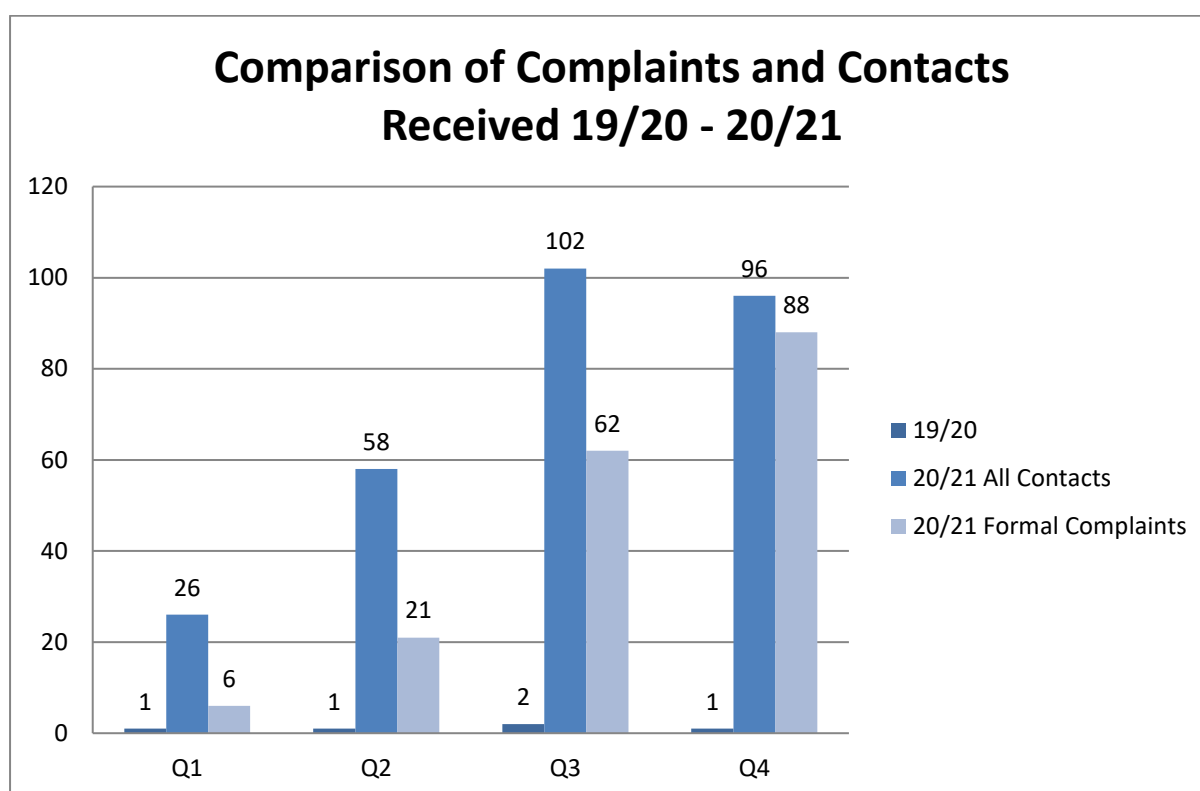
This report was written by Mike Reed, who can be contacted on 07557 169890 or mike.reed@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Household Waste Recycling Centre Annual Complaints

Waste services have seen a large increase in the number of contacts and complaints received this year in comparison to previous years. The data shows a 3440% increase in complaints in 20/21 in comparison to 19/20. Given this increase the management of complaints has been an evolving process for the service area.

20/21 saw a total of 282 contacts received from the public to express dissatisfaction with the service that was being delivered. Of these contacts 177 entered the formal complaints process, with the remaining 105 being resolved early to the satisfaction of the customer.

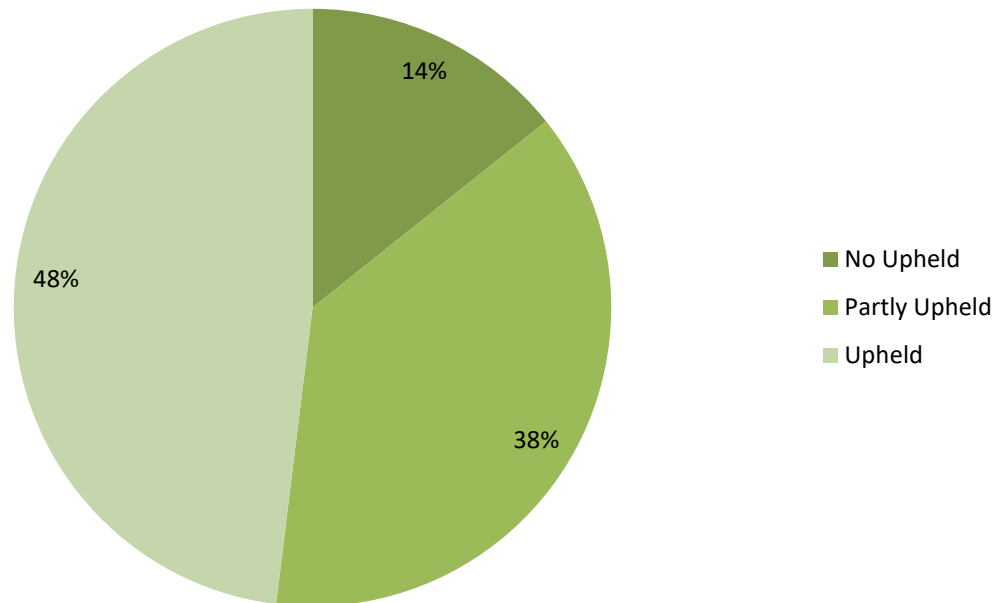
The following shows the number of complaints received per quarter against the same data of last years;



We have seen an increase every quarter of this year in the contacts and complaints that have been received in relation to this area. It should be considered that procedures have continued to be updated and adapted when new guidelines around Covid-19 have been provided. The introduction of strict social distancing measures are a key contributing factor to this increase and the general dissatisfaction with the new measures that have been put in place.

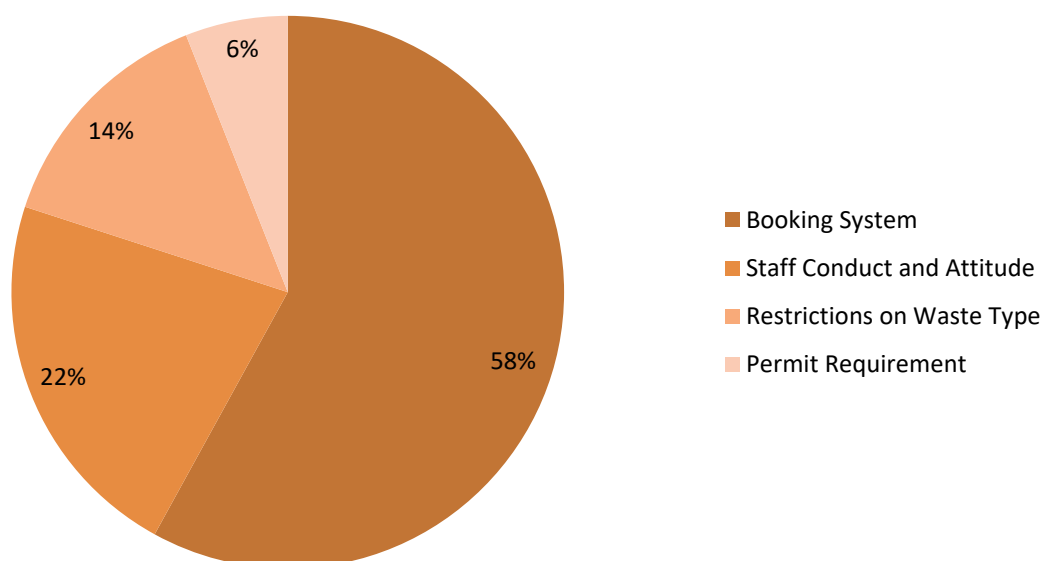
When looking at the outcomes of these complaints a total of 37 complaints were upheld in full. 29 of the complaints raised found some fault in the way in which the service had been delivered, so were partly upheld, and the remaining 111 were not upheld. This breakdown is shown below.

Outcomes of Complaints Received



Analysis was undertaken on those complaints partly or fully upheld in order to determine any common themes and trends. The following shows where fault was found in complaints that were upheld and the aspects of those complaints partly upheld.

Reasons for Partly Upheld and Upheld Complaints



Issues with the booking system accounted for over half of all upheld or partly upheld complaints. Review of these complaints shows that the cases where the complaints were upheld was due to there being issues with using the site, particularly when the system was first introduced, some misinformation on the website as things evolved during the course of the year and 2 in regards to there being a lack of assistance in using the system when an individual had called in.

Issues with the customer service on site have been raised with the service area and it is recommended that where staff require additional training in regards to the expectations of how customer service should be delivered, this is provided at the earliest opportunity. This area continues to be monitored and further cases are being escalated immediately.

Of the 177 cases received 2 cases were escalated to the 2nd stage of the complaints process as not all issues had been addressed in the 1st stage. Both of these cases were not upheld.

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Open Report on behalf of Andy Gutherson, Executive Director - Place

Report to:	Executive
Date:	02 June 2021
Subject:	Levelling Up Fund - Update
Decision Reference:	n/a
Key decision?	n/a

Summary:

The county council has the opportunity to make two bids into the funds that the government has made available for regional growth – the UK Community Renewal Fund and the Levelling Up Fund. This paper explains that LCC is the lead organisation for Community Renewal Fund and has run a consultation programme which has led to projects which will support employment, skills, business, and place. The paper goes on to explain that as the local highway authority LCC can make one bid to the Levelling Up Fund. Because of the economic impact and because of deliverability the bid that is being developed by LCC is for transport improvements on the A16 between Boston and Spalding. Bids should be submitted on 18th June 2021.

Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that the Executive notes and comments on the work being carried out to prepare full bids by LCC for the UK Community Renewal Fund and for the Levelling Up Fund.

1. Background

LCC, along with the LEP and other partners, produced an economic recovery strategy which seeks to tackle the problems created by Covid-19 and the subsequent lockdown. The government's UK Community Renewal Fund and Levelling Up Fund provide a good opportunity to deliver aspects of that economic recovery strategy.

UK Community Renewal Fund

This is a revenue based programme which will operate for just one year, until March 31st 2022. The government's intention is to learn from the implementation of the UK Community Renewal Fund in order to design its long-term successor, the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. County councils have been asked to lead UK Community Renewal Fund

programmes, following an open and transparent call for projects. LCC has been told that our bid can have a financial ceiling of £9.000m. However, it should be noted that the entire UK Community Renewal Fund budget is smaller than the amount of budgetary ceilings which have been announced, so it is quite possible that even strong bids will receive less funding than their ceiling budget.

LCC can be an applicant as well as the manager of the UK Community Renewal Fund programme. A very clear separation of duties has been made between applicants and fund managers within LCC.

LCC has submitted four bids in our own right into the process. These bids fit with the programme of work that LCC has been delivering in support of the economy for some time.

The bids made by LCC include a substantial amount of small business grants in order to address the demand from the Covid business grant programme that the council ran in spring 2021. By way of an update as of 21st May the following had occurred:

- 276 businesses had been paid their Business Recovery Grant to a value of £2.077m
- 140 businesses have been asked for extra details for their Business Recovery Grant bid totalling £0.980m. Assuming that satisfactory details are received then these will be paid within seven days.
- 232 businesses have been paid their first tranche of the Digital Voucher Scheme totalling £0.550m
- 84 businesses have been paid their first tranche of Rural Business grant totalling £0.480m
- 18 businesses have had their Invest for the Future submissions approved totalling £1.235m

In addition, one of the bids has a strong focus on delivering the council's Green Masterplan, one of the bids provides support for entrepreneurs and young business leaders which was a priority for the previous Environment and Economy scrutiny committee, and one of the bids provides training in digital skills which has been a priority arising from the council's joint LEP/LCC Employment and Skills commissioning board.

The recommendations of the council's Tourism Commission have been incorporated into the bids, UK Community Renewal Fund would give us the opportunity to increase and accelerate our plans, but again by way of an update on progress of the Tourism Commission's recommendations:

- www.visitlincolnshire.com is now live with 400 businesses and attractions on the site, a second phase will substantially increase the number of businesses and attractions and will be launched shortly. The website is receiving around 10,000

visits per month which is a substantial improvement on the same period pre-Covid but we will shortly be launching a social media campaign to increase traffic to around 100,000 visits per month

- A green tourism toolkit is being produced to help businesses to market their green credentials which is an increasing factor for those tourists who are looking for quality holidays
- We have supported Visit Lincoln in creating a Cycle Lincolnshire guide and we are now exploring how to package up attractions under further themes which are attractive to visitors –walking, natural coast, different age groups, etc
- We are preparing information on quality careers in the visitor economy which will inspire young people to seek employment in the sector and help to tackle recruitment gaps

Officers will continue to assess the submissions to the UK Community Renewal Fund and the content of our final programme will be subject to approval by the Leader of the Council(Executive Councillor for Resources, Communications, and Commissioning) before it is submitted.

Levelling Up Fund

The Levelling Up Fund has two strands. Firstly, there is funding of up to £20m which district councils can apply for, primarily those district councils in priority one areas which in Lincolnshire are Boston, City of Lincoln, and East Lindsey. Secondly there is funding of up to £20m, and by exception up to £50m, which the local transport authority can bid for one transport scheme.

We understand that all three priority district councils will be bidding for Levelling Up Fund, and that West Lindsey will also make a bid of £8.500m for a Gainsborough regeneration scheme.

LCC can make a bid for a transport scheme, and the approach that has been taken is to ensure that the project is deliverable within the Levelling Up Fund timeframe (i.e. completed by 31st March 2024) and that the project is appropriate to the finance that is available (i.e. that it is similar to the Department for Transport pinchpoint funding that was used to create the Levelling Up Fund). The government has said that it also expects all transport projects to include elements of walking, cycling, and potentially bus provision within them.

Because of the importance of the food sector to Lincolnshire's economy, and of the sector to employment within the South East of the county, transport projects in this area have been prioritised for the Levelling Up Fund. A bid for schemes in this area has been

described as "a down payment" for government investment in tackling the substantial congestion problems in the area to which the council is committed.

We have used the work done within Highways on the review of the Route Action Plan to determine which schemes would be deliverable for any bid. This review identified the schemes which would have the greatest impact on road traffic flows and which have the strongest business case ratio. Separately, officers have used the data in the Route Action Plan review and other information to identify which schemes could be deliverable within the Levelling Up Fund timeframe.

The project that has evolved from this process incorporates improved junctions at A16/A151 Spalding (Springfields), A16/B1180 at Spalding (Greencell), and the A16 (Marsh Lane) junction in Spalding. Improvements to cycling and walking in the Marsh Lane area are included as is feasibility research into the dualling of a section of the A16 in Kirton. These schemes will have a beneficial impact on the economy by easing congestion in Boston and Spalding, an area that we know to be home to an important sector and employer. The detail in the bid will continue to be refined between now and the bidding deadline of 18th June 2021.

It should be noted that this scheme is a Levelling Up Fund bid and is constrained by the rules of the fund particularly concerning deliverability. Separately, and as a priority using our own resources, LCC are undertaking detailed feasibility and design work for routes to relieve congestion in the town centre.

The content of our final bid will be subject to approval by the Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor for Resources, Communications, and Commissioning) before it is submitted.

2. Legal Issues:

Equality Act 2010

Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:

Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act.

Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The relevant protected characteristics are age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; and sexual orientation.

Having due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to:

- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.
- Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.

Having due regard to the need to foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to tackle prejudice, and promote understanding.

Compliance with the duties in section 149 may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.

The duty cannot be delegated and must be discharged by the decision-maker. To discharge the statutory duty the decision-maker must analyse all the relevant material with the specific statutory obligations in mind. If a risk of adverse impact is identified consideration must be given to measures to avoid that impact as part of the decision making process.

Equality Act implications of the bids will be reported to the Leader of the Council as part of the final decisions to submit bids.
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Joint Strategic Needs Analysis (JSNA) and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS)

The Council must have regard to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Joint Health & Well Being Strategy (JHWS) in coming to a decision.

JSNA and JHWS implications of the bids will be reported to the Leader of the Council as part of the final decisions to submit bids.

Crime and Disorder

Under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the Council must exercise its various functions with due regard to the likely effect of the exercise of those functions on, and the need to do all that it reasonably can to prevent crime and disorder in its area (including

anti-social and other behaviour adversely affecting the local environment), the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area and re-offending in its area.

Crime and disorder implications of the bids will be reported to the Leader of the Council as part of the final decisions to submit bids.

3. Conclusion

In summary, UK Community Renewal Fund and Levelling Up Fund are two short-term funding opportunities. They provide the opportunity to deliver some short term and targeted activity in support of the economic recovery plan whilst we continue to target more strategic and larger scale activity through other funding sources.

4. Legal Comments:

The Report seeks the view of the Executive on proposed submissions to the UK Community Renewal Fund and the Levelling Up Fund to inform the development of proposals for ultimate approval by the Leader of the Council (Executive Councillor for Resources, Communications and Commissioning).

5. Resource Comments:

It is expected that elements of matched funding will be required to support the bids to the Community Renewal Fund and the Levelling Up Fund. This matched funding will be met from the approved capital programme and will be identified ahead of a final bid being approved and submitted.

6. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes

c) Scrutiny Comments

The Report has not been considered by a Scrutiny Committee

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

See the body of the Report

7. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

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