

COUNCIL
18 SEPTEMBER 2020

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR M BROOKES (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors T Bridges (Vice-Chairman), B Adams, W J Aron, T R Ashton, Mrs A M Austin, M D Boles, Mrs P A Bradwell OBE, D Brailsford, Mrs J Brockway, R D Butroid, L A Cawrey, K J Clarke, Ms K Cook, Mrs P Cooper, P E Coupland, G E Cullen, C J Davie, R G Davies, B M Dobson, I G Fleetwood, M A Griggs, A G Hagues, M J Hill OBE, R J Kendrick, P M Key, Mrs J E Killey, S R Kirk, Mrs C J Lawton, C E H Marfleet, C Matthews, A P Maughan, D McNally, Mrs A M Newton, Mrs M J Overton MBE, C R Oxby, R B Parker, S R Parkin, N H Pepper, Clio Perraton-Williams, Mrs S Rawlins, C E Reid, R P H Reid, R A Renshaw, S P Roe, P A Skinner, E J Sneath, A J Spencer, H Spratt, A N Stokes, M J Storer, E W Strengiel, Mrs C A Talbot, Dr M E Thompson, R H Trollope-Bellew, M A Whittington, Mrs S Woolley, L Wooten, R Wooten, C N Worth and B Young

25 TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF PROCEDURE RULES

It was proposed, seconded and

RESOLVED

That the following Council procedure rules be suspended for the duration of the meeting, 13.2 (Right of the Chairman to require the motion to be written down and handed to him), 15 (c) (Every proposition to be decided by voices or show of hands), 15 (d) (where the decision of the Chairman is challenged on voices, requirement to have a show of hands), 19.1 (Standing to Speak), Rule 19.2 (Chairman standing).

26 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Mrs W Bowkett, C J T H Brewis, M T Fido, R L Foulkes, R Grocock, C S Macey, E J Poll, H Spratt and A H Turner MBE.

27 DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest at this point in the meeting.

28 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 26 JUNE 2020

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 26 June 2020 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

29 MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL HELD ON 3 AUGUST 2020

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of the County Council held on 3 August 2020 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

30 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman stated that as we moved into Autumn we continued to adapt to new ways of working, and he took this opportunity to thank Officers for their continued efforts to ensure important Council services were delivered to the usual high standard Lincolnshire residents had come to expect.

The devastating effects of Covid-19 continued to be seen across the country and the Chairman had heard many heartwarming stories of local residents and community groups in the county who were giving their time and working tirelessly to help others in need throughout this difficult time. Our wonderful NHS staff and key workers were continuing to work long and hard hours showing their commitment to keeping us all safe.

The Chairman reported that the Annual Remembrance Day Service would be held in Lincoln Cathedral on Sunday 8th November. Due to the current situation and the necessity to practice social distancing, this will be a much reduced service and as a result, County Councillors would not be invited to attend this year. The Chairman of the Council would be representing Lincolnshire County Council at the service.

The Chairman's civic events had been curtailed but he was looking forward to visiting Lincolnshire residents during the recovery process once Government guidelines allowed.

31 STATEMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE LEADER AND MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE

Statements by Members of the Executive had been circulated with the agenda.

32 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN, THE LEADER, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS, CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

Questions pursuant to Council Procedure Rule 10.3 were asked and answered as follows:

<u>Question by</u>	<u>Question to</u>	<u>Subject</u>
a) M A Whittington	R G Davies	Flooding under railway bridge.

b) R B Parker	M J Hill OBE	Covid-19 testing capacity in Lincolnshire
c) Mrs A M Newton	M J Hill OBE	Opening of Household Waste Recycling Centres
d) M D Boles	M J Hill OBE	Accessing covid-19 test centres
e) L A Cawrey	R G Davies	Encouraging sustainable transport methods
f) Mrs J Killey	R G Davies	Petition regarding Monks Road pavements
g) A P Maughan	R G Davies	Delivery of safety improvements on A1 between Newark and Grantham
h) Mrs M J Overton MBE	M J Hill OBE	Update on localism
i) C E H Marfleet	C J Davie	Section 106 developer contributions
j) R A Renshaw	Mrs P A Bradwell OBE	Tackling childhood obesity
k) Ms K Cook	Mrs P A Bradwell OBE	Availability of places at special schools for children with SEN
l) Mrs S Rawlins	R G Davies	A46 Dunholme – Welton roundabout diversions.
m) G E Cullen	C J Davie	Effects of the pandemic on the east coast businesses
n) R D Butroid	Mrs S Woolley	Launch of new town and parish council website.
o) KJ Clarke	C N Worth	Numbers of retained fire fighters

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p) R J Kendrick	R G Davies	Poor condition of road on Witham Bank
r) Mrs A M Austin	R G Davies	Highways infrastructure in Boston
s) T R Ashton	R G Davies	Variations in speed limits

33 REVIEW OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE 2019/20

(Note: Councillor Mrs M J Overton MBE left the meeting at 12 noon and did not re-join the meeting)

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED

The County Council is recommended to:

1. Note the carry forwards set out in paragraphs 1.9 to 1.11 of the report, which are made in line with the Council's Financial Regulations;
2. Approve the transfer of the underspends on service revenue budgets of up to 1.0% referred to in paragraph 1.9 into the Development Fund earmarked reserve;
3. Approve the proposed use of carry forwards of over and under spending in excess of 1.0% as follows:-
 - a) The transfer to reserves for non "business as usual" activity described in paragraph 1.12 and 1.13 of the report;
 - b) The creation of a new earmarked reserve for capital financing as described in paragraph 1.14 and allow it to be included in "business as usual" activity in future years; and
 - c) The transfer to the Development Fund earmarked reserve set out in paragraph 1.15 of the report;
4. Note the position of earmarked reserves as at 31 March 2020 as shown in Table A of the report;
5. Note the position in relation to general reserves set out in paragraph 1.19 to 1.20 and Table B of the report;
6. Note the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts in 2019/20 as set out in paragraph 1.21 to 1.25 and detailed in Appendix A of the report; and
7. Note performance against the Prudential Indicators for 2019/20 as set out in Table C of the report.

(Note: Councillor R H Trollope-Bellew left the meeting at 12.10pm and did not re-join the meeting)

34 POLITICAL PROPORTIONALITY AND ALLOCATION OF SEATS TO COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED

That the Council notes the change in membership of the political groups on the County Council and agrees the allocation of seats illustrated in the proportionality spreadsheet circulated prior to the meeting.

35 MOTIONS ON NOTICE SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNCIL'S CONSTITUTION

(1) Motion by Councillor M J Hill OBE

The Government's long-awaited 'Devolution White Paper', is expected to be published in early Autumn 2020. It is widely anticipated that it will provide some stimulus towards the Government's ambition to 'level up' the country and to further devolve powers and resources to enable greater local decision-making.

This provides an excellent opportunity for Greater Lincolnshire. We are an economic powerhouse, key to the Midlands Engine, the Humber 'Energy Estuary' and the Northern Powerhouse, integral to UK PLC and a major gateway to Europe. We have clear high-growth potential in key industry sectors and we have the space and political will to exploit this. If we can gain from the Government the devolution of a range of specific powers and control over the associated funding **we can achieve growth more quickly than anywhere else in the UK**, enhance our collective financial resilience and establish a sustainable platform for our area to thrive, adapt and innovate.

The ten councils across Greater Lincolnshire have a proven track record of working in collaboration and already undertake many successful joint working opportunities, facilitated through the Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership.

The case for change, through a reduction in the number of local authorities and a consolidation of strategic powers is compelling for the following reasons:

- Lincolnshire cannot benefit from the Government's forthcoming devolution proposals without local government re-organisation.
- The current situation guarantees inconsistency in terms of inputs and outputs across Greater Lincolnshire.
- Duplication of teams, functions and services across Greater Lincolnshire leads to inefficiencies and poor value for money.

- The financial situation of local government, including in Greater Lincolnshire, is highly precarious.
- The current system doesn't allow local authorities to focus on, or succeed in, levelling up the economy.
- Local residents are confused by the different responsibilities of local government in two-tier areas.

This Council affirms its commitment to a devolution deal for Greater Lincolnshire and calls on the Executive to explore all opportunities with other Councils to submit proposals for local government reorganisation.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

(2) Motion by Councillor R B Parker

We are sure that this council recognises the contribution made by so many people and organisations across Lincolnshire to protect the health and well-being of Lincolnshire residents during the current Covid-19 pandemic. We will particularly want to acknowledge the major contribution to the safety and well-being of our residents made by County Council staff, NHS workers, Care Workers, Voluntary and Statutory organisations, Parish Councils, Community groups, including Food Banks, and people in local communities who have looked out for vulnerable people.

This council will also recognise that Covid-19 cases are again rising, with the likelihood - without government intervention - that the virus will continue to spread, hospital admissions will increase and sadly deaths will follow. In addition, the national and local economy will continue to deteriorate with a loss of jobs and businesses going under and, more than likely, schools will again be affected with the likelihood of blended or on-line learning becoming necessary.

It is imperative that the government commits to a nation-wide maximum suppression strategy with the aim of stopping community transmission of Covid-19. The present test, track and trace is just not good enough with people being expected to travel long distances, hundreds of miles in some cases and delays in getting back test results. Matters are likely to get even worse without fundamental improvements as winter approaches with the likelihood of increased demand for tests as people catch other seasonal viruses. Further, NHS Providers, the body representing hospital trusts in England, have made it clear that 'NHS staff are having to self-isolate in the absence of a test for either them or their loved ones, taking valuable NHS staff away from the frontline where they are needed.' - a situation this council would not wish to see continue.

The Covid-19 pandemic has also revealed the failings of our centralised system of governance. Examples are the poor management and distribution (particularly to Care Homes) of Personal Protective Equipment; delays in the sharing of data on infection rates and the quickly withdrawn promise made to local councils to 'spend whatever it takes' to respond to the pandemic, which has led to some councils

spending more on responding to the cost pressures of Covid -19 than funding granted by government.

This council therefore calls on the Leader of the Council to write to the Prime Minister calling for

- 1) Substantial improvements to the test, trace and track system to ensure that tests are readily available and results are returned within 24 hours;
- 2) The English Devolution Bill to be used to deliver
 - (a) more powers to local councils without necessarily strings being attached
 - (b)** 'Levelling up' agenda so as to reduce the inequalities including government funding that exist between different parts of England.

Upon being put to the vote, the motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting closed at 1.15 pm