



County Offices
Newland
Lincoln
LN1 1YL

3 December 2020

In accordance with the powers granted by the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 this will be a virtual meeting.

Council

A meeting of the Council will be held on **Friday, 11 December 2020 as a Virtual - Online Meeting via Microsoft Teams, commencing at 10.30 am** for the transaction of the business set out on the attached Agenda. The attendance of all Councillors is requested.

Access to the meeting is as follows:

Members of the Council and officers of the County Council supporting the meeting will access the meeting via Microsoft Teams.

Members of the public and the press may access the meeting via the following link: <https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=120&MId=5505> where a live feed will be made available on the day of the meeting.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Debbie Barnes'.

Debbie Barnes OBE
Chief Executive

Membership of the Council **(70 Members of the Council)**

Councillors M Brookes (Chairman), T Bridges (Vice-Chairman), B Adams, W J Aron, T R Ashton, Mrs A M Austin, M D Boles, Mrs W Bowkett, Mrs P A Bradwell OBE, D Brailsford, C J T H Brewis, 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, M T Fido, I G Fleetwood, R L Foulkes, M A Griggs, R Grocock, 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 S Macey, 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, E J Poll, 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, A H Turner MBE JP, M A Whittington, Mrs S Woolley, L Wootten, R Wootten, C N Worth, B Young and 1 Vacancy

**COUNCIL AGENDA
FRIDAY, 11 DECEMBER 2020**

Item	Title	Pages
1	Apologies for Absence	
2	Declarations of Councillors' Interests	
3	Minutes of the meeting of the Council held on 18 September 2020	5 - 12
4	Chairman's Announcements	
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7	Greater Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Oversight Committee	71 - 80
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Please note: for more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for servicing this meeting

- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

Contact details set out above.

Please note: This meeting will be broadcast live on the internet and access can be sought by accessing <https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/council-business>

All papers for council meetings are available on:

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/council-business/search-committee-records>



**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.

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COUNCIL
18 SEPTEMBER 2020

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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COUNCIL
18 SEPTEMBER 2020**

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------|---------------------------------------|
| 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

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Agenda Item 5

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 11 DECEMBER 2020

Statement from: Councillor M J Hill OBE – Leader of the Council

COMMERCIAL TEAM

Serco Performance During the Covid-19 Crisis

The Serco Contract Performance is measured through a series of Key Performance Indicators, and these will continue to be measured during the second lockdown period. Serco previously delivered strongly, and changes made and learning from the previous lockdown are expected to ensure on-going effective service delivery. All Services expect to continue to be provided as before.

Extension to Corporate Support Services Contract

Following the Executive's decision on the 2 June 2020 to retain Serco's Services for the period 1 April 2022 until 31 March 2024, work has been completed and the Extension Deed was signed on 19 October 2020. The Extension provides the Council with additional benefits and savings totalling £5m.

CORPORATE PROPERTY

Smarter Working

An Office Accommodation Strategy has been completed to enable the delivery of the Smarter Working Programme. This will see the Council's office estate become managed workspace enabling a significant reduction in numbers of buildings and supports a more agile way of working.

Extra Care Housing

Construction of the 75 Unit Development at De Wint Court in Lincoln is well advanced and is scheduled for completion in October 2021. The Executive have approved a second scheme in Nettleham for 43 units, and a third scheme in Sleaford for 40 units is scheduled to be reported to the Executive in February 2021. This scheme will also include accommodation for working age adults with physical and learning difficulties.

One Public Estate

The programme has supported the LRF during Covid-19 identifying testing and vaccination sites as well as coordinating advice on managing buildings safely during this period. A further bid has been made to the Cabinet Office for OPE 8 funding to support five schemes across greater Lincolnshire.

Special Schools Programme

The procurement of the construction of the new developments continues with the first project at Boston John Fielding under construction.

South Park Blue Light Centre

This was the Winner of the Government's Property Profession Annual Awards in the One Team Category.

FINANCE

Revenue Budget and Capital Programme for 2020/10 – Monitoring Reports

In these uncertain times, it is more important than ever to keep a vigilant eye on our finances. Our second round of Budget Monitoring Reports for the current financial year was based on the position as at 30 September 2020. The reports were presented to the Overview & Scrutiny Management Board at its meeting on 26 November 2020, with the comments of the Board presented to the Executive on 1 December 2020. This showed a satisfactory position, with a forecast of an underspend within 1% of the Revenue Service Budgets and a 5% forecast underspend on our Capital Programme for the current year.

Financial Impacts of Covid-19

Our Budget Monitoring Reports have also set out the additional costs we have incurred relating to the Covid-19 pandemic response. The Government has now distributed four tranches of Covid-19 Emergency Support Grant using a Covid-19 Relative Needs Formula as the basis of distribution. We have been allocated £44.5m of this Emergency Support Grant. We also expect to be able to claim a further £4.2m for lost sales, fees and charges income. We have been continually monitoring the costs and forecasts of additional expenditure and income losses due to Covid-19 and at this point, we believe we can manage our costs within the financial support provided. We have also received a number of specific grants relating to our Covid-19 response.

Budget 2021 and Beyond

Prior to Covid-19 we were expecting to see the outcome of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review and Fair Funding Review, looking at how funding is distributed to Local Authorities. The Fair Funding Review has now been delayed and we are awaiting our settlement proposals following the Government Spending Review. In light of this uncertainty the Executive will be proposing a one year Revenue Budget for 2021/22, with minor updates to the Capital Programme. We continue to lobby through the CCN and other Bodies for a fairer deal for Lincolnshire.

Covid-19 Update

We continue to face challenging and difficult times in our efforts to bring Covid-19 under control in Lincolnshire. The next few months are going to be critical and I want to express my thanks to everyone involved in the outbreak management response for their relentless efforts to keep our residents safe.

I am disappointed that the government decided to place the whole of Lincolnshire in Tier 3 when we came out of lockdown on 2 December 2020. Infection rates have been falling in those few Districts that were previously causing concern. The restrictions will have a significant impact on our local economy, especially in the run up to Christmas and will have a crippling effect on our hospitality sector.

I, along with the all the District Council Leaders in the County, have written to Ministers calling for more support for our businesses in the County and clarification on what we need to achieve, to be in Tier 2. We hope that on 16 December 2020, when the government reviews the tiers, Lincolnshire moves down to Tier 2.

But there is light at the end of the tunnel. We are shortly due to start a community testing programme which will help us to investigate any rises in case rates and identify people who are asymptomatic so they can self-isolate to slow the spread of the infection. The

additional testing capacity will include new rapid lateral flow devices which offer quicker results and the potential to shorten or avoid isolation if used regularly.

I think you will all join me in welcoming the encouraging news about the vaccines. We are still waiting to hear when they will be approved by the regulators, but nevertheless, it is a significant step forward. Our Health colleagues have been working hard to plan the mass vaccination programme for Lincolnshire, which should be starting in earnest in the New Year.

With the easing of restrictions for the Christmas period we expect to see a rise in infection rates in January. I would, therefore, urge everyone to continue to follow the simple steps of hands, face and space to prevent the further spread of the virus.

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COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 11 DECEMBER 2020

Statement from: Councillor Mrs P A Bradwell OBE, Deputy Leader and Executive Councillor for Adult Care, Health and Children's Services

ADULT CARE

Hospital Teams

Hospital Social Work Teams have continued to support the Acute Hospital Trusts throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. This involves over 40 staff working at the 3 main Hospital sites; Lincoln, Boston and Grantham plus Peterborough. Officers have worked hard to prepare for a busy winter and produced a Winter Plan with Health Partners. They will continue to support safe hospital discharges through the second wave of the pandemic. Adult Care continue to ensure that prior to discharge from Hospital service users are tested for Covid-19, and no discharges happen without a known test result, this continues to be essential for Providers of Social Care and enables informed decision making regarding the ability to meet a person's needs safely. The second wave of Covid-19 is proving to be more challenging for the Health and Social Care System with a higher rate of infections. Where possible we always try to discharge a service user back to the Care Home they were admitted from, however at times this is not always possible if the person is Covid-19 positive. To support Care Homes we have commissioned residential care beds in the County where people with a Covid-19 positive status can be discharged for a short period of time, this ensures that we continue to support all our other Care Homes with a greatly reduced risk of introducing Covid-19 into the Homes who have no cases.

Reablement Service (Libertas)

The Council temporarily stood down this function at the start of the pandemic to ensure enough care and support at home capacity was available to provide safe hospital discharges. This Service is now fully up and running again, ensuring that service users can benefit from a Reablement Service on discharge from hospital and to prevent unnecessary hospital admissions. The existing provider Libertas have been successful in the recent retendering of the Reablement Service and will continue to be our Reablement Provider.

Learning Disability Services

The Teams have worked hard to ensure people are supported and have continued to undertake face to face visits but the use of innovative ways of working and the utilisation of new technology such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams and WhatsApp have become invaluable in communicating with the people we support, their informal carers, and providers.

Day Services

The majority of our Day Service Centres have reopened and we anticipate this will continue over the winter period. The Centres are currently operating at a reduced capacity due to Covid-19 safety measures. In order to ensure a continuation of the Service a community based offer was designed and the numbers of people receiving this, new more personalised support has increased. With support delivered remotely, in addition to using video conferencing for virtual sessions. All Day Centre premises

have undergone a Review and Risk Assessment to ensure a Covid-19 safe service is provided. Revised transport options have been put in place and longer term transport options are being developed.

Community Mental Health Transformation Funding 2021/22 Wave 2

Lincolnshire was chosen as a Sustainability and Transformation Partnership (STP) to receive funding in 2019/20 of £2,898,000 and in 2020/21 £3,999,000 to provide:-

- A new place-based “all age” Mental Health Community Service built around the Primary Care Networks’ and the Core Neighbourhood Teams in Boston, Gainsborough, Grantham and Lincoln City South
- A new Community Rehabilitation Service
- A new Community Personality Disorder Service
- Expanded social prescribing to focus specifically on people with severe mental illness
- Expanded Managed Care Networks in four Neighbourhood Team Areas

Together with NHS colleagues we are working on a bid for 2021/22 Wave 2 Funding to extend Community Transformation to an additional four sites - East Coast (SOLAS, East Lindsey, First Coastal), Lincoln North (Imp) and Stamford (Four Counties). The ambition is that by 2023/24 Lincolnshire will have the following teams to provide additional Community Mental Health support:

- Countywide integrated place based Mental Health Teams
- Three Countywide Community Rehabilitation Teams
- Two to three Countywide Personality Disorder Service Teams

In order to ensure effective service delivery, we have increased the number of Social Workers within the Mental Health S75 Partnership Agreement to align to these sites.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Health Protection and Outbreak Management

Lincolnshire in general continues to do well in the fight against Covid-19. Detailed surveillance of local and national data is giving us real insight into what is going on behind the numbers and enables us to act in a targeted and proportionate fashion when problems or trends emerge. When we have issues, we are working very effectively in managing outbreaks and preventing on-going spread of the disease. This will all stand us in good stead to have as much freedom as possible for people and business when the period of national lockdown recently announced, comes to a close. It is essential that we ask our communities to redouble their efforts to abide with the measures, in order to reduce the spread of infection.

On-going Supply of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Following the successful management of the PPE situation locally through the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum, we have agreed with government that we will continue to receive free PPE from the Department of Health and Social Care until 31 March 2021. This PPE will help to ensure Lincolnshire County Council (LCC), Social Care Teams, Education Services and other Key Services can continue to deliver

services to people and communities across Lincolnshire. Alongside the 50,000 items received each week we also hold a stockpile of approximately 2 million items of PPE to support agencies through the winter and in the event of local outbreaks. The management of this is being undertaken in partnership with NRS, our community equipment service provider.

Mental Wellbeing Webinar

The challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic have brought the importance of Mental Health and Wellbeing into even sharper focus. For many, it has left them unable to see friends and family or to exercise and take part in activities that keep them healthy. On 12 October 2020, we held a Mental Health Webinar to highlight the importance of Mental Wellbeing. Along with Health and Voluntary Sector Partners, we outlined the Support Services in place to promote Mental Health and Wellbeing.

We want to ensure the support is there to stop people from falling into serious mental health difficulties and needing even more intense support further down the line. A good mind and body leads to a happy and healthy life where people can succeed in what they want to do.

The Mental Health webinar was recorded and is available through the LCC website.

Falls Partnership

The need for urgent care for some of our more vulnerable people has not abated whilst we have been managing life with Covid-19. I am really pleased to announce that an initiative, driven by the Council, to improve the speed and quality of urgent services' response when people fall, has gone from strength to strength. An exciting partnership between us, the CCG, East Midlands Ambulance and LIVES has seen response times for residents who fall much improved with medical treatment being administered in the resident's home without the need to go off to hospital. This service has prevented hundreds of residents; we are working with the CCG to see if we can now mainstream this service.

Wellbeing Service

In recent months, following the end of the first national lockdown, the Wellbeing Service returned to its core business seeing referral numbers increase as Key Agencies such as GP's, Hospitals, Adult Care and other Support Services returned to business as usual. As a result the Wellbeing Service successfully supported 792 out of 801 referrals in quarter 2 of this year.

From the start of the second national lockdown on 5 November 2020, the Service again adapted, continuing to offer support remotely wherever possible and bringing in additional capacity with weekend working, to implement the Community Response Pathway. The Pathway starts with the Council's Customer Service Centre. The Wellbeing Service assesses needs and helps those without support networks to register for online supermarket deliveries, connecting them with Local Voluntary Groups and the NHS Volunteer Scheme. Once again, I am very proud of the working relationships which have enabled us to offer this support, notably with our District Council's and Voluntary Sector Partners.

Housing Related Support

I am pleased to report the new Housing Related Support (HRS) Service went live on 1 October 2020 despite the on-going Covid-19 pandemic. 'Framework' is the Lead Provider for the Service, working in Partnership with the Longhurst Group, National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NACRO) and The Salvation Army, delivering support to homeless people and people at risk of becoming homeless. The new contract will help ensure people are equipped with the skills needed to maintain a tenancy or home of their own in the long term.

The service has redefined eligibility criteria and a new triage process, with all referrals going through District Councils to ensure it compliments but does not duplicate their duties to prevent and alleviate homelessness. This ensures those who are most in need and will benefit from the service can access it. It is early days, in the contract but it seems the new service is working well.

ADULT SKILLS & FAMILY LEARNING

The Adult Skills & Family Learning Service continues to deliver good outcomes for its learners despite the on-going challenges of Covid-19. 2019/20 academic year data indicates the service worked with 5,744 learners despite much of the year being in lockdown.

The Construction and Security Courses developed in 2019/20 continues to be popular with learners in 20/21. Both these courses are delivered to groups of adults who had been in long term unemployment. The learners achieve their CSCS Card (Construction Skills Certification Scheme) and SIA Badges (the compulsory Security Guard Licence to Practice) to gain employment in Construction or the Security Sectors.

Further courses have been developed to assist the local care providers in training delivering in infection control; IT courses to meet skills gaps for Lincolnshire Police employees.

The key area of focus for the 2020/21 programme is to engage residents in learning, particularly in the area of furlough and redundancy in the current climate. At the heart of the programme is the focus on Economic Wellbeing aimed at helping participants boost their skills and get back into work.

Working in partnership with the Council's Highways Service, the Adult Learning Team are in discussion with Eurovia, who are building part of the Spalding Western Relief Road, to provide work experience and job opportunities for a number of unemployed residents, aged 19-24. This project will provide 6 unemployed learners with a Pre-Employment Training programme, a two-week work placement and a guaranteed job interview. The Pre-Employment Training Programme will allow the participants to gain 7 qualifications in construction based work skills, as well as a CSCS Card and work experience, so even if they aren't successful in gaining employment with Eurovia they will be better equipped to gain employment with other employers. Alongside the Pre-Employment Training Programme, Eurovia will provide

job placements through the Kick-start Scheme maximising Government Funding for the benefit of our unemployed young people. It is the intention that this project will be the forerunner of other similar joint working initiatives with the Highways Service, ensuring work experience and job opportunities are available for our unemployed residents through LCC contractual arrangements.

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Partners in Practice

The Partners in Practice Programme brought together the Country's Leading Authorities, including LCC, to boost improvement in the Children's Services Sector. It was found to have had a significant positive impact in a recent evaluation by the Department for Education (DfE). The new Child and Family Assessment created by Lincolnshire PIP was highlighted as having improved practice and increased accountability and transparency, helping families feel more empowered. Our willingness to consult stakeholders and respond to feedback was cited as a critical factor in our success. The full evaluation report is available from the DfE website.

Children's Health

Throughout the pandemic, Health Visitors have continued to undertake home visits, and, with the re-opening of some Children Centres, are now offering clinic appointments to those that are eligible. In addition, they phone every family with a child aged 24-36 months to discuss their progress. Our Children and Young People's Nurses have continued to provide support for children with complex needs and for parents of school-aged children who are concerned about their child's Health and Wellbeing.

Support for Schools

Ahead of the autumn term, LCC offered guidance to schools on how best to support young people who might find a return to the classroom difficult. Feedback from the sector has resulted in the commissioning of the Recover Lincolnshire Programme, via Lincolnshire Teaching Schools Together, which offers a wide range of support, one to one support continues to be delivered virtually, and schools have been offered a number of virtual engagement opportunities.

Since the beginning of term, pupils' attendance has been over 90%, and is similar to previous years in many schools. Schools have worked closely with the Health Protection Team to put measures in place to keep pupils safe and minimise the impact of any confirmed cases. Where pupils are not able to attend school, they have been offered remote learning. I would like to thank schools for their hard work throughout the Covid-19 pandemic.

Winter Grant Scheme

The County Council will work with the 7 District Councils, our Schools and other partner agencies to ensure the Winter Grant Scheme is delivered across the County, with the greatest focus on providing support to Lincolnshire children and families. Our work with schools will ensure that children who are eligible for Free School Meals will receive support over the Christmas period as part of this Grant Scheme. The Local Authority will work with Schools to ensure local arrangements are in place to support children and families in their communities. In addition we will work with our

District Councils to ensure that this funding is targeted to those individuals and families identified as most in need of financial support due to Covid-19 during the winter period.

Education Transport

Since the start of the autumn term, school transport has been provided to all entitled children that require it. There were only minor issues, mainly stemming from the very high number of applications received after term had started. Infection control measures appear to be working effectively, and a Government Grant has funded additional, temporary school transport where necessary. More broadly, there still remain significant funding pressures, mainly due to the increasing cost of transport and the challenging local market.

Lincolnshire Music Service

Lincolnshire Music Service returned to schools in September 2020. Covid-19 has led to new ways of working, such as the transfer of Orchestras, Bands and Choirs to a virtual platform and new partnerships with the Chineke! Orchestra and the Manchester video gaming Orchestra. Music Education Recovery guidance has been provided to every school.

Positive Futures and Youth and Community Development Team

A programme of activities did resume in September 2020, initially with community outreach sessions. However, to ensure safety, we have now moved towards working with young people on a one to one basis. Youth Centres in Skegness, Boston and North Hykeham will remain open for Targeted Sessions, and we are working closely with our leased Youth Centres to ensure they comply with Government Guidance. We plan to return to our conventional delivery model when it is possible.

Foster Friendly Scheme

In September, the Council became a Foster Friendly Employer. This means staff who are either a Foster Carer for the Council or wish to become a Foster Carer for the Council will receive additional annual leave to undertake duties in relation to their fostering role. A Project Team has been set up to encourage Local Businesses, Schools and Health Providers to become Foster Friendly Employers.

Supporting Our Foster Carers

Caring2Learn works with our Foster Carers and Schools to improve outcomes for our Children in Care and previously Looked After Children. We now have 21 Foster Carer Champions supporting 53 Fostering households and, since March, engagement with the support network has almost doubled. The Team are successfully using social media to bring people together, and working alongside colleagues, such as the Virtual School, Fostering, FAST and Early Help, to develop links and ensure everyone involved has the knowledge, skills and confidence to effectively promote educational achievement for our most vulnerable children and young people.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 11 DECEMBER 2020

Statement from: Councillor C J Davie, Executive Councillor for Economy and Place

Growth

The Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub continues to provide vital support to Lincolnshire Businesses. There is real time information, advice and guidance and access to a range of business recovery support and local authority grants.

This information is available via the www.businesslincolnshire.com website and we are cascading this information via our Business Lincolnshire newsletter, Twitter, Facebook and Linked-In social media channels which include nearly 8,000 followers. The LCC Covid-19 support helpline re-opened for calls on Thursday 5 November. This includes an option for business enquiries - 01522 782189, option 2.

Should any businesses in your electoral division contact you asking for advice, please encourage them to visit the Business Lincolnshire website where lots of information is available and where they can arrange an appointment with a specialist business adviser.

The EU Transition deadline is just around the corner and we are amplifying government messages to ensure that our businesses are fully prepared. A range of information and resources can be found on the www.gov.uk website and the **Building Business Resilience** section of the Business Lincolnshire website. For instant advice and support, our local helpline is 01522 846946, which is provided by our partner organisation, Lincolnshire Chamber of Commerce.

Businesses can also access a range of fully funded support to suit their needs. Our dedicated Export Adviser, Mike Stokes exports@bizlincolnshire.co.uk will help businesses to develop an EU Exit Action Plan or participate in a Restart Programme for businesses who have import/export needs or our Building Business Resilience Programme, for businesses with contractual, HR, contracting, compliance and data regulation queries which consists of 1 to 1 support and online webinars.

On 22 October, I had the pleasure of launching the new Team Lincolnshire Investment Strategy alongside Samantha Harrison, Head of Economic Development and Karen Seal, Principal Officer for Place and Investment, along with fellow Team Lincolnshire (TL) ambassadors and we showcased the new plan to the rest of the members in a webinar called 'Shaping the Future of Team Lincolnshire Together'. We spoke to ambassadors about how they can come together to help achieve the objectives and help grow the economy of Greater Lincolnshire and create new jobs through their collaboration. We have devised set measures for success and developed KPIs to monitor the ambassadors' progress against the 5 objectives.

The TL Ambassador Programme is moving forward at a fast pace and the new 2 year business plan will help to drive growth and inward investment forward. The ambassador programme is a vehicle to drive forward the wider Investment Strategy and ambitions for LCC and the GLLEP.

There are 5 ambitious objectives for TL focussed around the High Potential Opportunity investment proposition in the Food Processing, Automation and Robotics sector, the construction sector (both residential and commercial), and the office re-location sector.

These are:

1. Attract business investment into our construction sector.
2. Attract business investment into the food manufacturing sector.
3. Attract office-based businesses looking to relocate.
4. Attract investment that benefits all.
5. Provide investors with a comprehensive soft-landing package.

To date we have 120 TL members. All the unitary and local authorities are now members so TL is now truly representing the whole region and showcasing the new TL strapline *'together we're greater!'*

The Tourism Commission meetings have commenced and we are focusing on how we can shape a Destination Management Organisation (DMO) based on the LEP boundaries. The meetings include a cross section of the visitor economy and private sector businesses in Lincolnshire from the Humber to the Wash and Rutland. The work streams include review and analysis of what 'good' looks like in terms of marketing, product offers, investment opportunities and careers and skills.

At the end of October, the 4 LEADER Local Action Groups (LAGs) covering the Wash and Fens, Lincolnshire Action Zone, Coastal Action Zone and the Kestevens completed the decision making process to award grants to those businesses and organisations applying for support through the summer 2020 call. This 2-stage call was heavily oversubscribed driven by the economic impact of Covid-19.

The privately led LAGs awarded £559,218 of grant support to 26 projects ranging from £3,200 to £56,200, with each, on average, providing match funding of 60%. New jobs, innovations and market opportunities will be created through these investments and they will provide vital stimulus to the Lincolnshire rural economy.

The Rural Payments Agency which oversees the LEADER Programme nationally awarded additional funds to the Lincolnshire programmes in order to meet the demand. This came from national underspends and has been unique to the county.

LEADER Programme staff are now working with each applicant to ensure projects deliver by the end of the calendar year, something which the projects were heavily scrutinised for in terms of deliverability. This noted, a number of new and existing projects are at risk given the impact of the most recent national lockdown which has increased economic uncertainty – particularly in the hospitality sector. Business Lincolnshire referrals are being made in these instances and data is being collected as part of an evaluation exercise to build a case for investment in the rural economy going forward.

Work is progressing rapidly on the South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone north west of Holbeach. Following the award in August of £6.4m from the Government's

Getting Building Fund, which is focused on Covid-19 recovery, the Council is moving at an unprecedented pace with the delivery of a Cluster Hub building on phase 1 of the scheme. This will provide a high quality business and collaboration space for small and start-up businesses working in the agri-tech sector and related businesses in the food supply chain, and will be the flagship of the development.

Further access roads to open up additional plots on Phase 1, and the preparations for Phase 2, in partnership with South Holland District Council, are also underway and due for completion this winter. The University of Lincoln's national Food Centre of Excellence is on track for completion in February. Agents have been appointed to promote the development and soft launch of the new branding – South Lincolnshire FEZ, at the heart of the UK Food Valley – followed by a full launch in early February 2021.

In East Lindsey the Skegness Countryside Business Park extension is due for completion in March, and will provide a much needed opportunity for employers in sectors which will help to diversify the coastal economy to expand. Agents have also been appointed to promote this scheme to local developers and small businesses, with some exciting expressions of interest having already been made.

Nearby in Huttoft, the new Boatshed Beach Café is in delivery, with the off-site constructed modular building due to be installed and commissioned over the winter, ready for the 2021 season, which will help to raise the quality of our tourism offer.

In Boston Borough, the Pilgrim Fathers installation at Scotia Creek is due for completion in January 2021, and will form part of the 400-year Pilgrim Fathers celebrations, delayed from 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Over in South Kesteven, plans are currently being developed to spatially reconfigure the Eventus business centre in Market Deeping, to adapt to small businesses' new ways of working, and this will provide a test bed for new forms of business accommodation which could be developed elsewhere.

Small works are also planned over the winter at Wyvern House in Lincoln, the Carbon Neutral Business Zone (CaNeBuZo) in Long Sutton and Kirton Distribution Park, to improve the offer to small businesses.

Across the county, we continue to support our small business tenants, which total around 200, in our business centres and industrial units. Our offer of a 3 month suspension of rent collection from April to June was designed to support their cash flow as the effect of the initial, national lockdown and other restrictions came into force from March. All but a handful of tenants took up the offer, and many have said what a huge benefit and peace of mind it provided in those days and weeks of uncertainty. We have now put in place phased repayment plans over the remainder of the year to continue to reduce the pressure on their cash flow.

The Development Management team has been supporting the delivery of the sustainable urban extensions (SUEs) across the county. In September 2020, the Northern Neighbourhood SUE for 700 houses at Gainsborough was granted Planning Consent by West Lindsey District Council.

Lincolnshire County Council has submitted an objection to plans for the Western Growth Corridor development in Lincoln. The proposed first phase of development provides direct access to Skellingthorpe Road, which we all know is an already congested part of the highway network. This amount of extra traffic which would be added to Skellingthorpe Road is unacceptable, for which we have no option but to raise an objection. If the development is to succeed, it is vital that residents have realistic alternatives to travelling by car, which means including more sustainable options such as passenger transport, cycle paths and footpaths, and connections to destinations beyond the boundary of the site.

The South Eastern Quadrant (SEQ) SUE at Bracebridge Heath, Lincoln has 2 live planning applications with North Kesteven District Council for a total of around 1,600 houses and a primary school. LCC are resolving the access requirements for the school and sustainable transport mitigation necessary for these applications which are due to go to the Planning Committee early in 2021.

At Grantham, LCC is working with South Kesteven District Council (SKDC) and Buckminster to ensure that the Spitalgate Heath application for 3,200 houses complies with Garden Village requirements for which it was granted funding in 2018. Adjoining this site is the Prince William of Gloucester Barracks which has been allocated for housing in the SKDC Local Plan and Homes England are now starting option appraisal and pre application discussions prior to the expected submission of a planning application in late 2021.

There are also on-going pre-application discussions with developers for Stamford North which is allocated in the SKDC Local Plan for 1950 houses (600 of which are in Rutland). The scope of the Transport Assessment, proposed phasing and delivery strategy are being agreed prior to planning submission in mid-2021.

Flood Management September 2020

I am pleased to be able to report that the flood alleviation scheme to protect 53 homes in Digby is nearing completion. There was an unfortunate delay due to technical issues, but these have been overcome and the contractor is back on site working hard in the current restrictions to complete the scheme by mid-December.

Within the Steeping catchment, dredging of sections of the Steeping River and Wainfleet Relief Channel started at the end of September and will continue until December, when the dredger will return to Holland. Dredging of the remainder of the Steeping and the relief channel will recommence in 2021 using a smaller dredger, again coming from Holland. In the meantime, work is continuing to repair the raised defences around Wainfleet. As I reported previously, the dredging is a special operation to remove silt from the bed of the river into specially constructed holding lagoons. The water is filtered out and returned to the water course whilst the silt is retained and can then be used on farmland to enrich the soil. Around two thirds of the dredging operation has been completed with 16,000 cubic metres of silt being recovered in this way.

In my statement in September, I referred to the successful bid for European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF) funding for a project to develop the Black

Sluice catchment into a 'smart' catchment. This project will use instrumentation with remote monitoring to facilitate better decision making towards a catchment-based water management plan by mid-2023. Contracts for the funding have been signed in difficult circumstances through close working with the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and the project itself has now entered the procurement phase. Members will recall that this is an £850,000 project on which LCC is leading, with match funding coming from ESIF (£550,000), Water Resources East (WRE) (£215,000) and the Regional Flood & Coastal Committee (RFCC) (£60,000), providing excellent value for money for Lincolnshire.

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COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 11 DECEMBER 2020

Statement from: Councillor R G Davies, Executive Councillor for Highways, Transport and IT

HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORT

Passenger Transport

Public Transport Services

Operators were reporting encouraging increases in passenger number during September but announcements of increasing Covid-19 infection rates and the subsequent national lockdown have seen passenger numbers plummet again.

Government continue to support local bus operations through a dedicated Covid-19 Bus Service Support Grant (CBSSG), with payments being issued directly to operators for commercial services and through the local authority for tendered services.

Department For Transport (DfT) Supported Bus Funding

Our statement of intent has been reviewed by the DfT and we have received the full one off grant award of £834,731. The intent is to use the funding to bolster service levels on a number of routes. The first, route 301/2 between Stamford, The Deepings and Spalding, was launched in October but the remaining spend is now likely to be in 2021/22 due to the current depressed demand for bus use.

Electronic Ticket Machines

The lease scheme is now live and being rolled out to the first tranche of operators. Added benefits also include contactless payments now being accepted on most CallConnect services.

QR Codes providing links to the latest timetable information has been a useful addition at on-street bus stops where timetables are changing frequently due to Covid-19.

A targeted Facebook campaign for the Poacher Line (Nottingham-Skegness) resulted in 14 new station adopters at Boston station and 3 at Bottesford. Also, project proposals for improvements at Sleaford and Thorpe Culvert Stations have been submitted to the train operator EMR for consideration.

Projects

Work as part of the Access Lincoln project will see upgrading of a South Hykeham bridleway for better pedestrian/cycle access completed by the end of the year. Work on a cycleway connectivity scheme for Saxilby should commence next year.

LCC received £105k from the Tranche 1 Emergency Active Travel Fund (EATF) bid to the DfT. The pop up cycling/walking route projects include improved carriageway delineation for cycling and cycle parking stands.

LCC has received £799,900 (95% of the indicative award) for EATF Tranche 2. Although the DfT have said focus was shifting towards permanent measures no caveats have been put on LCC's original bid bar a request for further consultation and engagement on projects/schemes. LCC intends to use high quality 'temporary' material such as planters that can as easily be removed as remain in-situ.

The outline of a County Cycling Strategy was shared at the October Highways and Transport Scrutiny meeting. Locality based Cycling & Walking Network Plans (aligned to the Transport Strategy Areas) that will sit below this strategy are also being progressed and are at various stages of development. Reporting of bus stop and shelter issues via Fix My Streets went live on 17 November 2020.

Replacement software to replace the outdated SEATS and Contracts & Tendering packages is just about to enter the User Acceptance Testing stage, with a planned go-live date in January 2021.

A Corporate review of passenger transport services is being initiated with consultancy support.

Client Services

The impact of the Covid-19 virus created significant additional time and resource pressures during the summer peak. This was in part due to late guidance from government and a significant number of late applications. Government steer is still for scholars to be transported on dedicated school services in preference to public bus services. The group continue to work closely with the Children's Services Commissioning Team to facilitate this and where possible to increase the opportunities for scholars to social distance on transport with the help of a DfT Dedicated Bus Services Grant. 7 tender batches are currently being evaluated for services commencing in the New Year.

A new online Max Respect incident reporting procedure has been launched through JADU.

Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership (LRSP)

Fatal Figures per year 1st January - 30th October:

Year	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Fatalities	44	43	39	39	50

Following the suspension of all National Driver Offender Retraining Scheme classroom courses due to Covid-19 (March 20th) as an interim measure Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership launched online courses. To date Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership have delivered online road safety education courses to over 12,000 road users that committed road traffic violations. Classroom courses are unlikely to return before spring 2021.

All School Crossing Patrol sites that were operational prior to the March lockdown have resumed duty; operating under Covid safe practices.

Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership has successfully (and safely) delivered two Bike Safe courses and will re-commence delivery in the New Year following a usual break over the winter period.

Plans have been completed and communication with schools is imminent regarding bookings for 2fast2soon (adapted for Covid-19 safe delivery).

Adapted educational deliveries have commenced with schools, adhering with Covid-19 safe requirements. Online content has been finalised and will soon be communicated with schools.

Good progress is being made with Lincolnshire's Department for Transport Safer Road Fund. A right turn lane has just been completed on the A18 at the Barton Street (Pond House) junction, and resurfacing works are underway on the A631, on the stretch between Market Rasen and North Willingham.

Community Speed Watch activity has resumed following its suspension due to Covid-19.

The A52 Haltoft End average system is now operational.

Major Projects/Advanced Design Block

Lincoln Eastern Bypass

The works are nearing completion with the road expected to be open by the end of this year. Final completion of landscaping and other ancillary works will progress in to January and February 2021. The final works in advance of road opening consist of:

- An extensive programme of final surfacing, including all the roundabouts
- Completion of drainage outfall connections
- Completion of the River Witham Bridge
- Completion of the Market Rasen Bridge Wingwalls
- Removal of the temporary bridge across the River Witham
- Final surfacing on all footways/cycleways
- Signage installation
- Carriageway markings



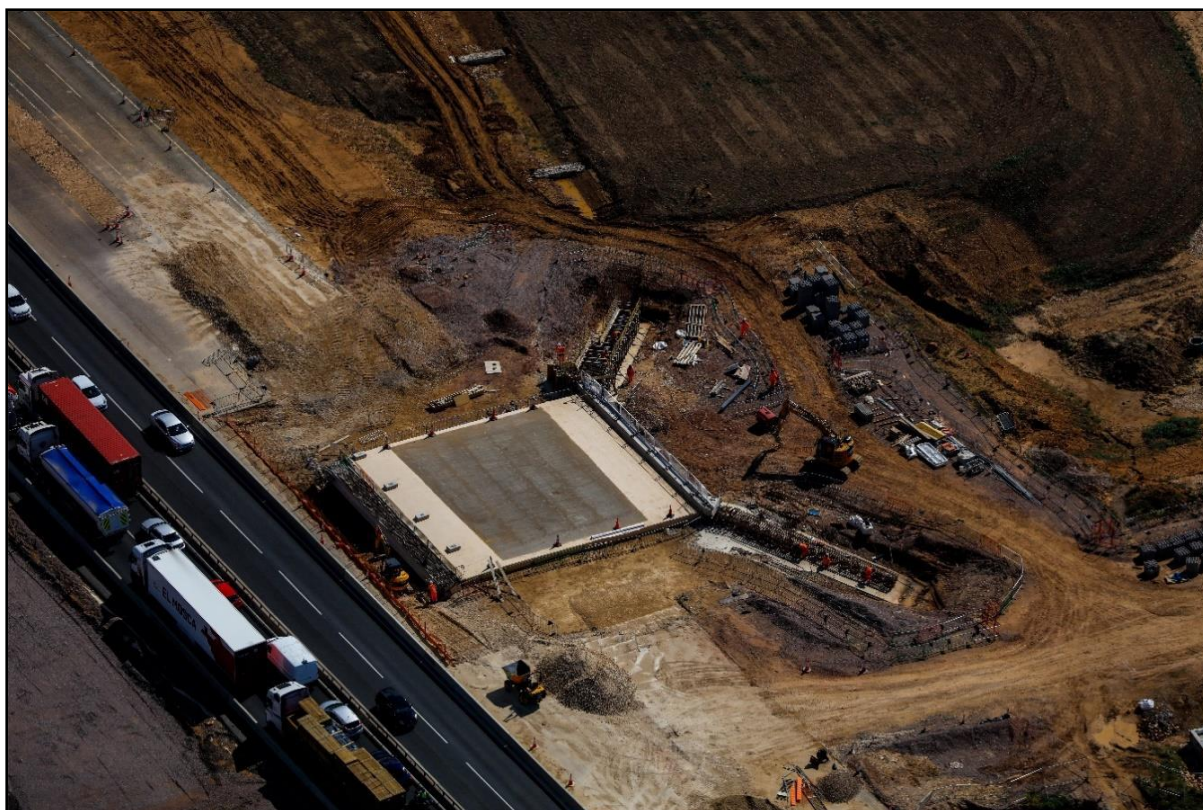
Grantham Southern Relief Road

Phase 1 from the B1174 running towards the A1 is already complete.

Phase 2 consists of tunnelling underneath the A1 while keeping the running lanes live to create a new grade separated junction with the A1 south west of Grantham. The main works commenced in September 2019 being constructed by Galliford Try. The project is now past the half way stage with the A1 traffic now running on the new western half of the bridge while works have commenced in excavating and then installing piles on the eastern side. In addition, earthworks and drainage connections continue to progress on the eastern and western slip lane and roundabouts.

Phase 3 will be the final phase of the project and is the largest and most complex to deliver. It consists of a five span viaduct carrying the road over the East Coast Mainline railway and the River Witham. Land has been secured and the planning permission has been enacted. Early works have commenced, which includes vegetation clearance, ecological works, archaeological works, fencing, compound establishment, utility diversions and a haul road construction. Work is ongoing with the contractor and designers to further develop the Value Engineering options to either decrease the price or mitigate further risk. The final target cost is expected December 2020.





North Hykeham Relief Road

We were extremely pleased to receive notification last week of Programme Entry having been awarded for the scheme by DfT. This secures a grant of £110m from DfT towards the scheme costs estimated at £155m when the outline business case was submitted. However, based on past experience with managing projects like the Lincoln Eastern Bypass and the unexpected issues that can arise, it's possible that the cost estimate of the road will go up before we break ground. Work will now be undertaken to develop the final business case and ensure that the scheme still represents value for money and is deliverable within the budget envelope available. This award recognises the good track record we have in delivering major projects and the confidence that DfT and treasury have in LCC.

Spalding Western Relief Road

Section 5 (Northern Connection) – In February 2018 South Holland District Council in collaboration with LCC were successful in securing £12m from the Homes and Communities Agency for delivering this section of the Relief Road. Since then a further £8.13m has been sourced from the Homes and Communities Agency. Enabling works have commenced on site, which includes archaeology investigations, some vegetation clearance, utility diversion preparation and property demolition. Detailed design for Section 5A is complete, including agreement of Departures from Standards and Stage 2 Road Safety Audit.

A Value Engineering exercise is continuing with a view to this being completed in December 2020 in advance of the detailed designs of Section 5B being completed in early 2021. This includes a re-design of the bridge and embankment to reduce costs following input from the contractor.

Land acquisition is nearing completion as is securing a signed bridge agreement with Network Rail. Works planned to start in early 2021 following these agreements being in place.

The demolition of two properties (167/169 Spalding Road) commenced on 16 September for a period of 3 to 4 weeks



Allen Archaeology were appointed to undertake archaeological works in advance of the main works, this commenced on 16 July 2020 with a 16 week programme.



A46 Dunholme/Welton Roundabout Improvement

The A46 Dunholme/Welton roundabout improvement consists of constructing a roundabout and improving visibility at an existing 'T' junction. LCC was successful against the NPIF Tranche 2 bid for £2m.

The project started on site on 20 July with progress to date being excellent. The following work is taking place between 1 October and early December:

- Finishing the remaining construction to the North of the field to tie into the Lincoln Road closure works
- Anglian Water diversion will be underway
- British Telecom diversion will be underway
- Finish the installation of street lighting ducting, chambers and sockets
- Finish topsoiling
- More Kerbing
- Combined Kerb Drainage units to the roundabout
- Numerous manholes and Gullies to be constructed



A46 Lincoln Northern Roundabout Improvements

The A46/A158 Riseholme Road Roundabout project on Lincoln's Northern Bypass attracted Single Local Growth Fund to a value of £2.4m. The project is complete and working well. The work entailed enlarging the size of the roundabout and increasing the number of lanes both entering and exiting each leg of the roundabouts. This will reduce congestion at this pinch point and improve journey time reliability.

Works completed since the last update included:

- Anglian Water completed their works and the testing all passed.
- The pond in the south west corner continues to be excavated.
- The surfacing of the roundabout itself is complete.
- Hardstanding for maintenance purposes (off Riseholme Road) is yet to be built.
- Some filter drain works are yet to be finished.
- Final surfacing and white lining.



Rugby Club Junction, Sleaford

The will ease congestion at the Sleaford Rugby Club junction, increase road capacity and improve traffic flow in all directions. The scheme will implement traffic lights at this junction to improve turning movements and reduce congestion on the slip lane. A right turn ban will be implemented from the A153 to the A17 to improve the traffic light phasing. The offset against this an additional lane will be constructed under the bypass to facilitate the additional traffic that will turn around at the roundabout and access the A17 from the south.

These works were completed in October and is operating well with reduced congestion.





Holdingham Roundabout, Sleaford

This scheme will ease congestion at Holdingham roundabout, increase capacity and improve traffic flow in all directions. The project entails construction additional lanes at each approach, widening the circulatory on the roundabout and installing traffic lights to control the flow.

This project was originally to follow on from the Rugby Club, but this will put the earthworks into the autumn and winter months which present too great a risk of delays and financial costs. The decision has been made to postpone the start of work until the middle of February 2021.

Formal Target Cost received September 2020. Programme is showing a 12-month duration. LCC are currently reviewing this as it's felt this is too long and an alternative construction methodology could be explored.

Corringham Road Junction, Gainsborough

The Corringham Road/Thorndike Way junction improvement scheme will increase safety and improve traffic flow via the addition of traffic signals at all of the junction's approaches. The project also includes some localised widening of the carriageway and the future proofing of a signalised access into what is currently a farming access but will become a housing development site.

Works commenced in September 2020 with British Telecom utility diversions being the first activity. Main construction works commenced w/c 21 September with focus being on carriageway widening activities. Traffic management has been implemented, including contra-flow and left/right turn bans at Corringham Road.





Roman Bank, Skegness

The Skegness Roman Bank Improvement scheme will see the full reconstruction of a 550-metre section of carriageway and footway between the Burgh Road/Castleton Boulevard junction to just past Elmhurst Avenue. The works include new road lining, half a mile of new drainage facilities, refurbishing the pedestrian crossing near the junction of Roman Bank and Sea View Road and rebuilding the footways on both sides of the carriageway.

Work started on site as planned on Monday 7 September. Road is closed and work is being done as per programme. The first section is well underway with the carriageway excavated and kerbs are being installed. Drainage has also progressed well with this section of the underlying ground being stronger than feared.



Lincolnshire Coastal Highway

Following the announcement of a Coastal Highway Budget allocation a programme of works are being developed over a number of years. Approximately £6.5m has been allocated to date, towards various improvements along and around the Lincolnshire Coastal Highway. This includes carriageway reconstruction, carriageway resurfacing, guard rail replacement, white lining and new/improved pedestrian facilities.

Highways 2020 Implementation

Mobilisation Update

All contracts have now been completely mobilised and are fully operational.

Depot improvements at the 5 key strategic sites are complete. There have been significant improvements on site including bringing the welfare facilities up to a reasonable standard including adding drying rooms and improving the meeting spaces to include visual management resources which allow detailed staff briefings each morning.

Facilities to allow much improved co-location between LCC and contractor staff are in place as the service begins to operate within the Council's smarter working initiative.

Next steps

- The service is working through a roadmap of future improvements and is implementing them in partnership with the new providers. Social value initiatives, member engagement applications, introduction of innovative technology and recycling initiatives are being progressed in line with normal service provision.
- The new performance regime is now in place and the service as a whole is working hard to make sure the new contracts deliver the improvement in performance set out in these new contracts. There are some challenges and a much detailed process review is underway to ensure that operation of the service is as stream-lined as possible. Improvement plans are in place for all elements of the service to ensure maximum value is achieved for the people of Lincolnshire.
- New innovative technology is being implemented such as a trial of a cutting edge 3d camera which, when coupled with the new mobile devices used by highways officers, allows very accurate location and measurement of a pothole. This will further improve efficiency and programming with more faults repaired and improved use of materials.
- Operations are all continuing despite the current Covid working restrictions, with all parties working hard to minimise the impact whilst maintaining Covid secure environments.
- As the winter season begins, the service has successfully carried out the first few gritting runs, testing the preparations and identifying where further improvements are required.

IT

Lincolnshire Broadband Programme

The Lincolnshire Broadband Programme has now upgraded 172,363 premises under Contracts 1 & 2. Both contracts are now fully completed.

Contract 3 with Quickline Communications was signed in late September and this contract will utilise £3.085M to provide ultrafast broadband to at least 8K premises. Ultrafast broadband is defined as download speeds in excess of 100Mb/s. This deployment will complete by the end of 2022 in the north and east of the county and in rural areas only. Discussions are still on-going with BDUK (Building Digital UK) regarding starting a second element of Contract 3 in the south of the county.

Additionally, further talks are on-going with BDUK regarding the possibility of utilising an enhanced fixed wireless technology in Contract 3 that is based upon a 5G technology.

We are working with BDUK on their 'Outside-In' programme where they will look to utilise £5Bn of government funding to provide faster broadband to the rural premises that are currently deemed not to be commercially viable for investment by existing providers. The structure of this project is still being defined and it is anticipated that the first deployments will commence in Autumn 2021 and run to 2025. We do not believe the use of Fibre To The Premises (FTTP) alone will provide the solution. It is hoped that as a part of our involvement with this project, we can have some influence in decisions around deployment methodology.

We are talking to an organisation that has been tasked with expanding the coverage capabilities of a number of mobile operators in areas of the county. They wish to utilise street lighting to progress this matter and we are awaiting details of where they wish to deploy etc. In theory, this will be welcome, subject to compliance with LCC policy.

Dialogue continues with potential private investors in full fibre connectivity across the county and discussions are moving positively. We hope to have more news towards the end of this calendar year. At this point, we are still subject to non-disclosure agreements.

IMT Services

Due to a number of technical issues, in combination with working from home, both Serco and internal IMT services have seen increased work of a reactive nature in the last quarter. However, they have been successful in minimising the business impacts. Despite the current position, we have in excess of 4,000 staff connecting from home and other remote locations to maintain service.

A number of issue root causes and remediation methods have now been developed to enable key projects to continue in the coming weeks once these configuration changes have been completed on all our user notebooks and PCs.

In addition, some internal team resource has been released to work within the Corporate Transformation Programme and the service design has been reviewed to ensure we have a resource plan to be an effective delivery partner as well as a stakeholder in that work. Despite these pressures the following work has also been progressed in the last quarter.

Schools Management Service

The service supported the Schools Music Service to transition to a new management platform and integrate it with the corporate online payments systems to allow parents to pay for services online.

Gainsborough Old Hall

The service supported the Heritage Team to ensure the smooth transition of the Hall to English Heritage ensuring domain names and any technical equipment were either transferred or removed as required.

LCC Intranet

The internal IMT team have now created the first Intranet areas for HR, Corporate Intranet and Transformation. Stakeholders have reported favourably on the initial look, feel and capabilities as their requirements are being delivered. This work has confirmed that Microsoft Sharepoint is suitable for our needs, leveraging our existing licencing. The first phase will concentrate on being a functional replacement for our current intranet, George, albeit with a more advanced search capability using the latest search services available. Content is currently being uploaded by the business teams.

Remote working technology

The service, and most especially Serco, have undertaken considerable work and have continued with extensive testing of an improved configuration to remediate persistent connectivity issues affecting a significant minority of staff connections and affecting our ability to progress the Office 365 and related device management changes whilst staff are based off network. A significant trial group is now working well and Serco are planning how to finish this change with minimum disruption to the rest of our users.

Server Hardening

A Serco developed proposal to harden our older servers to remain compliant with the security regime is now underway, reducing the cost and time pressure to upgrade these services. Server hardening improves security to reduce vulnerabilities and potential for successful malware/cyber attacks.

Power resilience

The service worked with Property Service colleagues and multiple partners to support electrical power resilience testing across various sites for business continuity purposes (County Offices Campus and Blue Light Campus/County Emergency Centre).

Schools Home to Schools Transport software solutions

The service has been supporting LCC Transport Services and DDS Solutions to develop and improve the reliability and efficiency of the schools transport software solution.

Service Desk

The Lincoln IT Service Desk operated by Serco continues to take an elevated level of calls and Microland continue in their Covid-19 role to assist the Lincoln Service Desk to free up agents so they can tackle the backlog and assure the service to LCC. We are optimistic that the increased demand and resultant extended average fix times will improve once root cause changes are successfully deployed. Planning is underway to manage the anticipated increase in demand during the Office 365 programme roll-out period.

SAP Pensions Data

A difficult and challenging business and technical problem is nearing resolution. During the Business World On migration, data relating to pensions was left on the legacy platform SAP which was at risk of imminent failure and was expensive to

keep running. SAP was not owned by LCC and contained other organisations' data which prevented privileged access to the platform.

This data was critical to the operation of the Pensions service. LCC was obliged to ensure its availability and was subject to Pensions Authority enforcement. We have overcome several blockers involving support from our Legal Service in negotiating with Kier to obtain access to the pensions data, Cap Gemini to extract the data and Serco to develop a royalty free interface to present the data for the foreseeable future and providing overall project management.

Data extraction is practically complete with the exception of a minor set of corrupted data (that can be inferred by existing data) and Serco solution is about to go live finally releasing the SAP platform for decommission.

Council Chamber

The Audio Visual system in the Council chamber has been replaced and is ready for use. Training and final handover have been deferred due to Covid-19 restrictions until nearer the time the Chamber is put back into operation. Modest extensions create the option to add the capability of hybrid remote attendance meetings to reflect the uncertainty of future requirements. This would allow attendance at meetings to be undertaken in person in the Council Chamber, at the same time as other attendees joining the meeting virtually.

O365 project progress

The work to bring LFR into the corporate Office 365 world continues with significant technical hurdles being worked through with LFR in a systematic way. This piece of work will involve significant business change for the service.

Mailbox (email) migration is now complete for LCC after a huge exercise to copy these into Office 365. User Accounts are now being verified to ensure licenses are effectively used and then the Web applications will be available to our users to extend the capabilities of Microsoft Teams.

The way in which our laptops and computers are managed is being reviewed, to ensure that we are able to more effectively manage them irrespective of where they are being used. Device management trials are underway and a number of technical migration challenges, in part due to working from home, are being analysed and sequenced. This work became a requirement when we moved to a home working position.

When this stage is complete we can finally update the remaining office software components installed on our PCs and laptops.

It remains our goal to then complete the LFR migration shortly afterwards.

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COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 11 DECEMBER 2020

**Statement from: Councillor E J Poll, Executive Councillor for
Commercial and Environmental Management**

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Planning

The Planning Services team has continued to operate normally during the summer and autumn with applications being received and processed in a timely way. The Planning and Regulation Committee has met virtually and has conducted business in a transparent way enabling the public to speak at planning meetings. In addition, a site visit by the Planning and Regulation Committee took place in September which enabled a controversial minerals planning application to be determined without delay.

Compliance and monitoring visits to minerals and waste sites have continued throughout the summer and winter months.

The Historic Places team has continued the historic town's project. While community engagement is not happening as would have been preferred, online and virtual connections are still possible. A number of educational resources have been created which will be helpful in supporting curriculum delivery in schools. Nine towns are now substantially completed and their reports produced. It is hoped the reports will benefit from design input and that resources will be available to allow printed versions of the reports to be produced.

Responding to new developments, the team seeks to ensure that archaeological evidence is recorded wherever the threat to the loss of such remains cannot be avoided. Large infrastructure projects like the Viking Link require monitoring to ensure the appropriate systems are in place for adequate recording. A financial contribution has been secured from National Grid towards this work. Early work on the Spalding Western Relief Road has also revealed remains of archaeological significance, which are being recorded well in advance of the main construction contract starting.

The 'Searching for Saxons in Lincolnshire' project undertook field evaluations in September. This project was initiated following a discovery by a group of metal-detectorists of material which indicated the presence of early Anglo-Saxon graves near the village of Cammeringham, north of Lincoln. After being there for over 1500 years deep ploughing had begun to bring to the surface highly ornate brooches, beads and spearheads indicating high-status male and female burials dating back to the 5th and 6th centuries. In September, during a two week excavation, a team of archaeologists investigated the limits of the cemetery, to gather information to allow us to reconstruct the life of the early inhabitants. Some of the graves contained Roman antiquities including some fragments of a glass vessel and a Roman terret ring.

While the pandemic meant that the local community could not be directly involved in the dig as had been hoped, alternative means for community engagement interaction with their local heritage has been identified. The project team produced daily blogs, photographs and video clips of new discoveries and a live virtual Open Day on the 'Searching for Saxons in Lincolnshire' Facebook page. With 3K followers and 2.5K page likes, people in Lincolnshire and globally watched as the investigation unfolded and talked to the archaeologists on site. In fact over there were over 141,000 interactions with the page over the period of the dig which has highlighted Lincolnshire's hidden historic assets and will encourage some of these people to visit Lincolnshire in the future.

When it is safe to do so, the findings will be exhibited at a local venue and at The Collection. As part of the project we will be running virtual educational workshops for local schools.

Waste and Recycling Services

The continued impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in increased levels of waste and recycling being collected from households and going through the disposal system through our waste transfer station network to the Energy from Waste (EfW) plant and our other end contracts. We continue to carefully monitor and actively manage the situation.

We are pleased that the recycling centres have remained open for a full range of services since July and this continued through the second national lockdown thanks to working closely with our contract partners and through the customer use of the booking system which helps to manage the number of vehicles on site at any one time, to protect staff and residents. Whilst Covid-19 continues to present a challenge, we are confident that access for residents and services will be maintained through the winter and spring periods. The booking system continues to be developed to improve and enhance the customer experience.

The countywide partnership project to introduce separated collections of paper and cardboard across the county is progressing well and we expect delivery of new bins in readiness for this new collection to begin rollout in Spring 2021.

Work is underway to be able to respond to the second round of consultations for the Government's Resources and Waste Strategy that are expected in Spring 2021. The Lincolnshire Waste Partnership continues to be future focussed and is looking creatively to ensure that the aims and objectives are mindful of the environment, of achieving best value for money, and providing residents with a sustainable, efficient waste service.

New projects are underway to identify waste and recycling solutions that can support the Green Masterplan by separating out more recyclable materials from mixed collections, maximising the collection of reusable items and putting them back into use through community channels, generating sustainable sources of alternative vehicle fuel and local generation of electricity to provide charging points to reduce carbon emissions.

Sustainability

The Council's first draft Green Masterplan has been completed and is currently being refined and developed along with its action plan. We anticipate bringing forward the final version of the Plan for approval in February next year.

As well as demonstrating how the Council will meet its commitment to net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, the plan will also outline key areas of service delivery and partnership working that will contribute to this target, as well as providing a framework to work with and support our partner authorities to meet their own commitments in this area.

The Council is already on track to meet its carbon reduction targets for 2023, set out in the Carbon Management Plan in 2019, and this will form a core on-going activity through the Green Masterplan. Other activities will include encouraging green community initiatives, improving energy efficiency, reducing the use of plastics and improving recycling and waste management practices.

In addition, the development of the Green Masterplan has now been brought into alignment with the Council's transformation programme, so strong links can be created across the programme, including embedding sustainable working as a principle within all the Council's priority activities.

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COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 11 DECEMBER 2020

**Statement from: Councillor Mrs S Woolley, Executive Councillor for
NHS Liaison and Community Engagement**

NHS LIAISON

Health and Wellbeing Board Reset and Refocus

I highlighted my intention to undertake a review of the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) in my last statement. I can confirm the HWB agreed the proposals to reset and refocus at our meeting on 29 September 2020. With support from the Local Government Association, we are currently exploring a proposition put forward by the Lincolnshire NHS Clinical Commissioning Group to combine the role of the HWB with that of the Integrated Care System Partnership Board (ICSPB). There are some obvious areas of overlap between the role of the HWB and the emerging role of the ICSPB. The need for closer integration across health and social care is a key driver therefore a partnership board to steer the strategic direction across the system would be beneficial. Discussions are on-going to identify a workable approach for Lincolnshire.

Support to those who are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable

Since the announcement of the second lockdown which started on 5 November 2020, the Council and its partners have supported over 30,000 clinically extremely vulnerable people in Lincolnshire. This has included telephoning or writing to all of those people individually, supporting them as appropriate to access shopping and helping prevent social isolation.

I am extremely grateful to colleagues in the Local Resilience Forum, the Customer Service Centre, the Wellbeing Service (operated by our District Council colleagues), the Carer's Service, the British Red Cross and the NHS Volunteers, including the many other local community groups who provided valuable support through this period.

Covid Support to Communities: DEFRA funds

I am pleased that we are seeing a good number of applications for the funds allocated by DEFRA to help local organisations continue their support to communities during and hopefully after the Covid-19 pandemic. The Community Foundation has received over £200,000 to support community groups to develop more Good Neighbour schemes, food kitchens and other support for local communities. Almost £400,000 is being distributed through the Lincolnshire Food Partnership to ensure new and emerging local food banks will have grants and support in place to help them to thrive. If you are aware of an organisation which would benefit, please encourage them to seek further information from the relevant organisation. Both schemes continue to be open for applications and all funds must be awarded by 31 March 2021.

COMMUNITY ENAGEMENT

Council's engagement activities

The new engagement directory is now live and ready for use across the council and in your ward. Designed to make finding information about engagement easier and sharing feedback with respondents an automatic part of engagement, the simple form on George and search facility on the Council's website will benefit the public, services and members.

Despite the challenges presented by the impact of social distancing on engagement and consultation activity, council services continue to actively communicate and engage with residents. In the FY2020-21 Q1 and Q2 a 104 engagement activities were carried out by service departments (Place 19, Children's 30, Adults 21, Resources 10, Commercial 7, Fire and Rescue 8, Corporate Services 9).

County Views Citizens' Panel

Lincolnshire County Council has led the development of a new citizens' panel, known as County Views. It is in place to establish what residents value most and where we can improve services. Panel members take part in a residents' survey and may also be invited to take part in a rolling programme of surveys, focus groups and workshops. This calendar year has seen three surveys asking about views on the county, and more specifically, the environment, the Council's response to Covid-19 and highways. A promotional programme to raise the panel's profile and enhance representation from across Greater Lincolnshire is underway. Since its launch in August, the panel has grown to 336 members.

The results so far tell us that over four fifths (82%) of residents who responded think their area is a great place to live. This dropped to three quarters among people with a disability. The top three areas respondents said were the most important in making an area a good place to live are access to nature, coast, parks and open spaces; education provision; and safety. The top three areas that respondents said need improvement are road networks and highway maintenance; public transport; and job prospects.

Funding enquiries and use of the portal

Funding enquiries received directly by officers amounted to 31 during October and November 2020. Enquiries received were from a wide range of organisations including community buildings, town and parish councils and smaller community groups.

The use of the Lincolnshire Funding Portal increased by 127% in October 2020 compared to same period last year. There were 2,436 visits to the Lincolnshire Funding Portal and 118 funding searches made during October 2020.

The use of the Lincolnshire Funding Portal increased by 100.5% in November 2020 compared to same period last year. There were 2239 visits to the Lincolnshire Funding Portal and 122 funding searches made during November 2020.

Funding Ready Programme

Lincolnshire Community and Voluntary Service (LCVS) and Voluntary Centre Services (VCS), in partnership with Lincolnshire County Council have launched a new programme of workshops available for town and parish councils and community groups across Lincolnshire.

The Funding Ready programme has been developed and designed to give local councils and groups the tools needed to apply for funding and is focused on improving funding success rates for Lincolnshire. Many organisations struggle with writing funding applications, but project planning and evidencing the need are also reasons for bids failing. These workshops take organisations through the full process.

The programme consists of a benchmarking activity, followed by a series of online workshops and an informational toolkit to support participants. Workshops include getting a project ready for funding, identifying funding sources, evidencing the need for the project, and writing a successful bid.

LCC officers will deliver to town and parish councils and LCVS/VCS will deliver to community groups. The first programme of 5 workshops was held during September and October and a total of 21 people attended from councils across the county.

Further delivery will be scheduled for town and parish councils in 2021 as a part of the LALC training programme.

Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils (LALC)

LALC developed new ways of working to enable, as a minimum, their core training delivery to take place. Having already amended the schedule to detail which courses would be covered by the Annual Training Scheme (ATS) subscription (core training) and those which are charged in addition to the ATS (Non-core training), they were able to prioritise delivery, set up our subscription to Zoom and begin rearranging courses that were postponed due to the Lockdown restrictions.

LALC's first ever online E-learning (A Guide to Being a Good Councillor) is now up and running, following months of work, and having delegates book in and undertake the training. At the time of writing this statement, 25 delegates have booked and paid for the e-learning, although as yet limited feedback has been received. A number of these delegates have not yet completed the e-learning and multiple-choice questions as there is no time limit to do so.

During 2019, LALC received a request from LCC Highways to deliver a short presentation regarding the involvement of Highways in the planning process. This is being delivered remotely with a total of 12 sessions delivered to 123 delegates.

LALC Annual General Meeting was held virtually on 13 October 2020. The guest speaker from the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) gave thanks to all town and parish councils for their response and speed of step up in the Covid-19 pandemic. It was noted that local town and parish councils have a growing

reputation within central Government and have demonstrated to residents over the past months that they are relevant, current and important.

Voluntary Centre Services (VCS)

Continuing to navigate the on-going Covid-19 restrictions, the focus remains on supporting volunteers, community groups and voluntary organisations. VCS continue to provide remote support and advice to volunteers to help them access mainstream volunteering opportunities and Covid-19 related volunteering through the NHS volunteer responder's scheme or locally co-ordinated schemes that have been established in response to the pandemic.

A big focus of the work over recent months has been supporting local groups and organisations to continue to operate. This has included supporting with practical adaptations to working arrangements and risk assessments for providing face to face support, help and advice with implementing digital technologies, support to secure new funding, help with recruiting new volunteers and support for staff and volunteers to access online training. This type of support for small groups and charities is needed now more than ever and will be for the foreseeable future.

The service is working closely with the Primary Care Networks to develop Community Information Points to connect communities and help build capacity according to need. They are also helping to shape the Mental Health Spoke developments in each district.

Citizens Advice Lincolnshire (CAL)

CAL services have been faced with new challenges and the need for new ways of working. Whilst keeping their services running and accessible, they help people navigate issues that they have never been presented with before. There is an increase in redundancies, with more expected as furloughing comes to an end. Debt problems are forecast to increase by 60% and there are likely to be many more associated issues that will mean more demands than ever on their much-needed services over the coming 18 months.

Citizens Advice offices across Lincolnshire have continued to help substantial numbers of people, mainly over the phone but increasingly via zoom and other virtual meeting services. A few offices have also been able to open for limited face-to-face meetings as some client issues cannot be easily resolved by remote contact. Unfortunately, the latest lockdown has caused a suspension of the face-to-face service.

We have seen growth in requests for help with Universal Credit and anticipate increasing demand for Benefit and Debt help as Government financial support is reduced. In some areas, 34% of employees are furloughed.

During Q2 CAL helped 3,900 clients through their Core service – up from 2,900 in Q1. This reflects easing of restrictions which allowed CAL to increase service offering. They have answered 75% of Advice line calls and gained £693,575 income for clients, up from £325,869 in Q1.

Town and Parish Council Websites

The migration of the town and parish council websites is underway with the roll out of the new websites. Parish councils continue being supported with a range of tools, such as 'how to' videos and user guides, as well as on-going advice and support available by email and phone. So far, 314 parishes have signed up to the new website and 51 parishes have already successfully moved all their content across.

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COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 11 DECEMBER 2020

Statement from: Councillor C N Worth, Executive Councillor for Culture and Emergency Services

CULTURE

Vision for Heritage in Greater Lincolnshire

We have launched our vision for heritage in Greater Lincolnshire which recognises the cultural importance of the area from the Humber to the Wash, setting out a plan to increase engagement and the chance for everyone to see and explore the great things about that area.

Focusing on 6 strands, core to this vision is the drive to unlock the potential of Greater Lincolnshire's rich heritage in every way possible, enhancing our great spaces for residents and visitors to make great memories, and securing the finance to ensure our rich past is fit for the future.

Greater Lincolnshire enjoys a rich and varied heritage, and the stories our heritage tells, if brought together, would boost economic growth, tourism, inward investment and inward migration of high quality business and commerce across Greater Lincolnshire.

Reopening of Libraries continues to be positive

The positive start to the libraries recovery following the first national lockdown continues and all 15 core libraries and 17 Community Hubs are continuing to offer a 'click and collect' service to customers.

Prior to the second lockdown, all 15 core sites re-opened for collection of pre-preserved items, PC use and deposits of existing loans during this period; with 14 core libraries transitioning to browsing as of September and Bourne continuing to offer the takeaway only.

To ensure we are operating in a Covid secure way, sites are still operating on slightly reduced hours and the number of PCs available to use is reduced to adhere to social distancing requirements.

Core Libraries Stats for Aug- Oct

- New online joiners: 310 in August, 282 in Sept and 334 in Oct with an additional 700 on site joiners in Oct.
- Increase in e-books: up 282% in August, 276% in Sept and 260% in Oct.
- Increase in e-audios: up 64% in August, 37% in Sept and 35% in Oct.
- Increase in e- newspapers and magazines: up 202% in August, 423% in Sept and 234% in Oct.
- Increase in music streams and downloads: up 10% in August, 6% in Sept and 30% in Oct

NB: % increases based on comparison of the same month in 2019 and 2020

Upgrade to Library IT systems complete

The improvements to the IT across the county's libraries are now complete. The new Library Management System has been installed and is in use by customers across all core sites and community hubs. All libraries have also received their new equipment, including PC's and printers. There are some elements to finalise behind the scenes but for customers all changes are now in place. This is with the exception of one site, where a fire has caused slight delays to the implementation of the new IT, however as soon as is possible the IT will be installed.

Successful reopening of our Heritage Sites

We were happy to be able to continue to provide access to Lincoln Castle grounds during the second lockdown, and since we reopened the grounds at the end of May to provide a safe place for our communities to visit and enjoy themselves, over 187,000 people have visited the grounds. We were able to still provide a takeaway cafe service for our visitors at this time.

Prior to the second lockdown which saw the rest of our heritage attractions temporarily close again, we had been performing significantly above the national average with Lincoln Castle receiving over 60% of the visitors we'd normally expect and The Collection museum welcoming 35% of the visitors we'd normally see in October. This compares to a national average of just 20%.

Wildlife Photography Exhibition

The Wildlife Photography Competition, open since 19 September 2020, continues to be very popular with visitors. There are 43 images framed within the gallery space which includes the winner and two runners up in each category. Further to the winners, all the images that had been entered are displayed via a projector show. The Wildlife Trust of Lincolnshire supported the exhibition and were part of the judging team.

Make Kits

Our Make Kits continue to go out to EDAN Lincs Domestic Abuse Service and to the Lincoln Food bank, to help keep people creative and engage with families and younger audiences that cannot always get into our sites.

'Where's Wally? Spooky Museum Search'

The Collection, along with Lincoln Castle, was one of 70 museums in the UK that was chosen by the 'Kids in Museums' charity to participate in the national 'Where's Wally? Spooky Museum Search'. This was a free event for visitors to the museum, with 8 Wally characters hidden around the museum for visitors to find and an activity sheet to complete. The event ran from 17 October-1 November to coincide with the Leicestershire/Nottinghamshire half term in the first week and Lincolnshire half term in the second week. This attracted 1,648 visitors during that period.

Vikings – Valhalla and Ubisoft

The Collection joined forces with Ubisoft, creators of the game 'Assassins Creed: Valhalla' which is partially set in Viking Lincoln and Lincolnshire to give gamers a sneak preview of stills from the game. Anyone following our social media pages in the run up to the launch of the game on 10 November 2020 has been presented with fascinating facts about Viking Lincoln, Lincolnshire and information on our collections, alongside stills from the game.

Gainsborough Old Hall

The operational handover of Gainsborough Old Hall to English Heritage was successfully completed, on time, at the end of the County Council's lease on 1 November 2020.

EMERGENCY SERVICES

The previous few months have been largely shaped by the continued Covid-19 crisis that affects us all. We have been embedded within the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) in supporting the county wide response by providing resources and skills within the command and control structure of the County Emergency Centre and on a response function such as EMAS ambulance driving, delivery of food parcels and face fit testing at care homes.

We showed an increased level of appliance availability during the summer months, which we recognised was an impact of Covid-19 that enabled more of our On Call personnel to provide cover at their local stations. We also worked to enable training to be continued on our stations in a Covid-19 compliance manner to ensure we maintained operational competence and maximised the increased availability of our operational staff.

During this period we signed off the decision paper to allow a technical refresh programme of our Breathing Apparatus Sets that will enable an upgrade of this equipment to be rolled out across the Service by 31 March 2021.

Following extensive feedback and consultation, our Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) 2020-2024 has been signed off and gone to print. This outlines the identified risks across the county and how as a Fire Service we will aim to respond and mitigate these risks.

The Service continues to review the way in which we deliver our core functions, recognising that we need to use new and innovative ways to provide an effective service delivery, specifically through the use of IMT which has been demonstrated by the use of Microsoft Teams over the last few months.

Fire Station Chief Officer Group (COG) Inspections

Due to the effects of Covid-19 and the restrictions this has had on our ability to visit and inspect stations, we have postponed our COG inspections for 2019/20. We are using this year to review this programme to re-launch in 2020/21.

We have been reviewing an engagement programme that will be launched shortly which will make more use of Microsoft Teams to engage with all areas within the Service and enable councillors to access our staff, as this has been fed back as a positive area for all concerned.

Fire Protection

With the development of the 'virtual' fire safety audit, the Protection Team have been focusing on identified high risk premises as per the risk based inspection programme. With the initial easing of restrictions, where possible, a number of face to face audits have been completed, but during lockdown restrictions, the team returned to the virtual audit as the primary method of contact and auditing. Support in the form of advice and guidance is also available to businesses. Key partnerships with LCC Adult Social Care, the Care Quality Commission and United Lincolnshire Hospital Trust have allowed important information and messages to be shared resulting in risks being managed and mitigated.

Following successful enforcement action in the East of the county, the Team are pursuing a prosecution case due to the serious nature of the breaches against the fire safety legislation. A really good example of how the protection work has continued even with the difficult conditions being encountered.

With the two Central Government funding streams confirmed, progress on two additional posts within the team is being made. The additional posts will offer an enhanced capability and resilience to support the required outcomes of the Protection Uplift programme.

It has been confirmed that all Fire & Rescue Services will also be receiving a third stream of government funding. This grant fund has been identified to support the FRS implement the actions that have resulted following the release of the Phase One Grenfell Tower Report Recommendations. Following the initial release of the recommendations, a team within LFR have carried out a strategic gap analysis to develop a local action plan. The team will continue to work through the highlighted areas and utilise the money to develop local capabilities/response and protection elements of service delivery.

Fire Prevention

To align to the LRF's communication strategy, efforts were focused on supporting firework and bonfire night safety messages. A number of radio and television interviews were carried out to support the safety messages.

A link with the Communities and Volunteer Cell has been developed, with further communications required to identify the best way for the Prevention Team to support the overall aim of reaching out and providing support to those who most need it.

Although we have restrictions in place, we have been able to start work on the commissioned evaluation of our community safety activities. Lincoln University will be supporting the evaluation which will take place over a 12 month period. Whilst we are conscious that Covid-19 will impact on the work, we are confident that the report will allow us to ensure we are targeting those most at risk and making our communities safer.

The vacancies within the team have now been filled and we have welcomed two new Community Safety Advocates into the Service. One of the roles will be looking specifically at how we can improve our engagement with communities and the hard to reach groups across the county.

Emergency Planning

The Emergency Planning and Business Continuity team continue to play a significant role in the multi-agency response to the coronavirus pandemic. The team are co-ordinating the involvement of LCC services and voluntary organisations and ensuring that our internal plans and business continuity arrangements dovetail with those of the LRF. The team also performs the LRF Secretariat role and is therefore responsible for scheduling all strategic and tactical command meetings and for providing advice and guidance to LCC commanders and those from partner organisations. As an organisation, LCC have added more managers to its strategic and tactical commander duty officer rotas to ensure more resilience and the team have completed training for all those new to these rotas and provided refresher training to those that were on them already.

During the second wave of this prolonged national emergency, staff welfare, mental health and resilience became an important issue and consideration during the response. It has been necessary to implement strict Covid safe arrangements for staff working out of the County Emergency Centre to ensure their personal safety and the team are now working both from home and this location on a split shift system to address this issue. Clear welfare pathways have also been made available to all staff should they wish to use them.

As the second wave continues into the winter period, we should expect that there will be a requirement to respond to a concurrent emergency and the ethos has been that this should not be seen as an 'if' but 'when.' It is unlikely that we will get through the next six months without the requirement to respond to flooding for example whilst still responding to Covid-19. Central government has instructed LRFs to plan for a worst case scenario of Covid-19, winter flu, EU transition and a concurrent emergency and this has factored heavily as part of current local planning and preparedness.

During this time LCC also underwent an internal Business Continuity audit which the department is responsible for co-ordinating. This audit looked into all aspects of LCC arrangements including methods, documentation, corporate arrangements, governance and training and exercising. I am pleased to report that we received an outcome of substantial assurance.

Blue Light Collaboration

The Collaboration Delivery Group (now being the tier of governance below the Blue Light Steering group) continues to work on a number of initiatives including:-

- Information sharing
- Joint training
- Inter service secondments
- Collaborative wellbeing work

Fire and Rescue Inspection

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) carried out a Covid-19 themed inspection in early October 2020 with a clear aim to inform national best practice and to document the position of the Fire sector in terms of a snapshot in time.

- (a) what is working well and what is being learnt;
- (b) how the fire sector is responding to the Covid-19 crisis;
- (c) how fire services are dealing with the problems they face; and
- (d) what changes are likely as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic.

As a result, our process of risk assessments (tied to the 5 national alert levels) was requested to be shared nationally. Since this, the indicators of different levels have changed but the methodology has allowed us to alter our RA processes to fit national initiatives. The results of the inspection are due to be published in January 2021.

We have requested re-submission of the early data collection as many areas have moved on since March; we have also now moved into the late data collection phase and await clarification of future inspection dates.

People

We continue to have a good number of potential on-call recruits but course numbers continue to be limited by Covid-19 precautions, albeit we are hoping to be able to run a double recruits course in the New Year. We have initiated a project looking at modular delivery of recruit training to see if we can deliver the course differently in order to allow us to maximise the number of new entrants.

We continue to develop our Learning Management system concentrating now on ensuring that our Phase 2 development process is incorporated onto the system. We are currently setting the terms of reference for an LCC internal audit of our training recording process which is the final stage of our response to the 'cause for concern' raised by HMICFRS in 2018.

Our new Water Carrier has been delivered by Emergency 1 to Lincolnshire. Whilst not yet ready for service, we decided to continue the fit-out with Lindums in Lincolnshire to ensure that it did not become stranded up in Scotland due to Covid-19. We have also taken the decision to upgrade our Interspiro Breathing Apparatus and will have the new enhanced sets in Service by April 2021.

Registration, Celebratory & Coroners

Following the first lockdown period ending in June 2020, all offices (with the exception of Bourne Registration Office) have remained open for the registration of births, deaths and taking notices of marriage/civil partnership. We are working with the team from Property Services and have identified suitable accommodation for an office in Bourne within the same building and this should be open once it has been adapted to meet our requirements.

Marriages and civil partnership ceremonies were not permitted to take place during the restrictions in place from Thursday 5 November-Wednesday 2 December 2020 inclusive, but at the time of writing they plan to resume from 3 December 2020.

The continued uncertainty and changing levels of restrictions have created an increase in the public contacting the service. This is proving to be a strain on resources, however, the team are working hard to manage this increase in workload.

Birth registration appointments continue to take place and all backlogs from earlier in the year have been cleared. These appointments are continuing to be carried out in a Covid secure environment and the majority of the information is continuing to be collected over the telephone. Parents only need to call into the office to check the information gathered and collect their certificates, therefore reducing the amount of time spent with staff in the office.

Death registrations are still taking place over the telephone and will continue to be done this way for the foreseeable future. Work is ongoing with NHS partners to ensure medical certificates of cause of death (MCCDs) are received in a timely manner to allow us to register deaths within the five day legal requirement. We continue to work with hospitals, bereavement centres, GP surgeries, nursing homes and funeral directors to ensure that the impact on bereaved families is kept to a minimum.

The on-going restrictions and uncertainty continue to impact wedding and civil partnership ceremonies. Many couples have chosen to postpone their ceremonies to a time when they hope that there will be fewer or no restrictions and they are able to have the ceremony they choose. Unfortunately, this has had an impact on our ability to generate income and has put pressure on our overall budget projections.

Due to the restrictions we have not been able to hold group Citizenship Ceremonies and there is currently a backlog of around 80 citizens waiting to have their ceremony. The service is currently exploring the option of restarting ceremonies by offering an individual ceremony either in person or by holding a Home Office approved virtual ceremony through Microsoft Teams.

Fortunately business has been able to continue due to the essential nature of the service and staff are working really hard to keep some sort of normality during these difficult times.

During April and May, the Coroners Service continued to process referrals and managed to hold a significant amount of short inquests. Over the summer Coroners Courts were set up in Lincoln. The space within each court has allowed inquests to continue and much of the backlog has been cleared. Unfortunately, the larger inquests which can require over 30 people, and jury inquests have had to be postponed due to Covid security concerns. We are now exploring suitable locations and technology solutions with the aim of starting these up in 2021.

At the end of August HM Senior Coroner for Lincolnshire Timothy Brennand, took up a post in Manchester. Since 1 September 2020, Paul Smith has been HM Acting Senior Coroner for Lincolnshire. Mr Smith was previously the Area Coroner.

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COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 11 DECEMBER 2020

**Statement from: Councillor B Young, Executive Councillor for
Community Safety, People Management and Legal**

PUBLIC PROTECTION

Community Safety

The Community Safety Team continue to ensure there is a shared understanding across partners of the impact of Covid-19 on community safety issues across the county, through scanning and analytical work. The team continue to monitor trends to enable partners to focus their response to these issues, for example, an analysis of reported Fraud and Scams has enabled partners to be much more targeted in their approach to preventing and protecting vulnerable victims. This coincides with the appointment of a Community Safety Strategy Co-ordinator within the Service to lead on Fraud activity. The co-ordinator will work in collaboration with a wide range of partners and other dedicated staff within Trading Standards and Lincolnshire Police, to ensure a joined-up response to prevention, protection and prosecution work.

Modern Slavery is a current core priority for the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership. As a member of that partnership, Lincolnshire County Council is a key contributor, providing resources including a Community Safety Strategy Co-ordinator, to co-ordinate the work of the partnership and drive the Modern Slavery agenda forward. One key area of activity for the partnership is raising awareness of Modern Slavery with the public and also with partners.

In partnership with The Clewer Initiative (an initiative launched in 2016 by the Church of England to help raise awareness of Modern Slavery), the team have developed Lincolnshire specific resources to help raise awareness of Modern Slavery amongst both professionals and local communities. The County Council also led on a social media campaign in the week leading up to Anti-Slavery day on 18 October 2020. This ran alongside other partnership activities; including the National Crime Agency's 'Invisible People' exhibition being in-situ outside Lincoln Cathedral, and culminated in Lincoln Cathedral being illuminated yellow on Anti-Slavery Day to 'shine a light' on the issue.

Work is well underway to prepare the Council for the introduction of Domestic Abuse legislation in April 2021, which will place a legal duty on the Council to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation. This support will include advocacy support; domestic abuse prevention advice; specialist support for victims with protected characteristics and / or complex needs; children's support; housing-related support and counselling / therapy for both adults and children. The Council has for some time commissioned a broad range of support services for victims of domestic abuse (both children and adults) so is in an advantageous position in this regard, but work is taking place to ensure the Council is able to meet all requirements of the statutory framework.

Trading Standards

Following the landmark prosecution of a landlord for money laundering offences that arose after he knowingly accepted rental payments from tenants selling illicit tobacco, the Trading Standards Service have continued to follow the enforcement model to tackle other problem premises around the county. Any landlord of a premise where illicit tobacco is seized or purchased is being notified. To date, 13 premises have been closed with no evidence of further offending from new tenants, 5 are in the process of evicting tenants and the service is in contact with landlords regarding a further 14 premises. When requested, Trading Standards Officers are supporting landlords who apply for a court order to evict tenants who trade illegally by providing statements and evidence of illegal trading to support their application. Trading Standards have, and will continue, to escalate enforcement against landlords who fail to take action to remove tenants who persist in selling illicit tobacco.

The Trading Standards Service participated in this year's Citizen's Advice Scam Awareness Campaign. The event ran during 15-28 June with a focus on scams that emerged as a result of the Covid-19 outbreak. Trading Standards worked with key partners including Fire and Rescue, the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Lincolnshire Police and local media. Locally, Trading Standards extended the campaign to work with Business Lincolnshire to raise awareness of scams targeted at local businesses.

In 2019 The Trading Standards Service received £10,000 from the Office of Product Safety and Standards to introduce a pilot scheme to enable maternity services and childcare professionals to quickly and easily report safety concerns about nursery products. The scheme is based on information sharing and went live in February 2020. Trading Standards provide regular monthly updates relating to product recalls for inclusion in newsletters sent to maternity and childcare professionals. Recent recalls relate to highchairs that failed in testing and could result in a child falling, baby clothing with detachable decoration that could present a choking hazard and flashing rings with easy access to button batteries that could result in severe burns and tissue damage if swallowed.

PEOPLE MANAGEMENT

Apprenticeships

As of the 31 October 2020, the total number of apprentices on roll was 232, with a levy allocation of £2,057,842.00. 64% of training provision is being delivered by local providers.

Lincolnshire County Council continues to work to the target of 250 staff undertaking apprenticeships for 2020-21. The emphasis will be on upskilling existing staff and recruiting new talent, so that we can maximise the levy and benefit from staff development.

Of the 27 apprentices previously reported as being on a break in learning, I am very pleased to share that 13 have recommenced their apprenticeships. We have also

agreed with providers, a further 10 who are currently focused on Covid-19 priorities, returning to their apprenticeships in March 2021.

Lincolnshire County Council has been recognised by the National Apprenticeship Service, on social media, for putting the wellbeing of all staff, including apprentices, at the heart of the organisation by re-prioritising services to meet the needs of the community, including those who most needed support over the initial Covid-19 lockdown.

The corporate approach is currently:

- Continuing to support take up of apprenticeships across all services and schools. For the Council, hard to recruit and retain areas remain a high priority.
- HR Services have launched the Leadership and Management Centre, starting with delivery of the Level 3 Team Leader / Supervisor Apprenticeship that embeds the ILM Level 3 qualification. This bespoke apprenticeship is being delivered to aspiring leaders, working across all directorates, within Lincolnshire County Council.
- Business Support continues to drive forward with their Apprenticeship Centre, as part of their workforce development approach. Business Support has introduced the new Business Administrator Level 3 qualification into their centre and has apprentices working to the new Customer Service Practitioner Level 2 standard.
- We continue to work with the Local Government Association (LGA), Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA), local networks such as Compact and the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (GLLEP), and as part of the Apprenticeship Ambassador Network for the region. This enables Lincolnshire County Council to share and receive resources, refine good practice within the Council and participate in benchmarking exercises with other authorities.
- One example of this is a recent Comparative Report the LGA produced on behalf of Lincolnshire County Council. It took data from 2018/19 and 2019/20 and has highlighted the following:-
 - Lincolnshire County Council has achieved an increase of the number of new starts year on year.
 - Compared to other local authorities, Lincolnshire County Council is placed in the middle pack, though rank higher when it comes to the raw tally of apprenticeship starts created.
 - When it comes to creating starts in the Council's maintained schools, Lincolnshire was the second best performer in the East Midlands and ranked 17 out of 104 councils nationally.

LEGAL

Legal Services Lincolnshire has continued to support the County Council, District Council partners and the wider Lincolnshire Resilience Forum with advice during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Advice and support continues to be given to the local outbreak management process; including the exercise of the legal powers granted to County Councils in relation to premises, events and outdoor public places.

Legal Services Lincolnshire (Trading) Limited, the company established by the Council, has submitted its application to the Solicitor's Regulation Authority (SRA) for a licence to operate as an alternative business structure providing legal services to the wider public sector. The company is responding to various requests for information from the SRA and a decision is expected on the licence by the end of January 2021, at which point it is planned that the company will commence trading.

Work continues on the new case management system which is now not expected to go live until the New Year. While the new system has provided the opportunity to rationalise data and processes and introduce a greater number of workflows, the migration of the data has turned out to be more complex and time consuming than originally envisaged.

Finally, I am pleased to announce that at its meeting on 11 November 2020 the Legal Management Board, which oversees the Legal Services Lincolnshire shared services partnership, approved (subject to formal decision making) the admission of South Kesteven District Council to the partnership; the first new member of the partnership since its inception in 2008.



Open Report on behalf of Debbie Barnes OBE, Chief Executive

Report to:	County Council
Date:	11 December 2020
Subject:	Greater Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Oversight Committee

Summary:

This report invites full Council to indicate whether they support the formation of a joint committee with North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council. The committee would be tasked with looking at opportunities to work together on strategic matters in the exercise of executive functions.

Recommendation(s):

That the Council supports the creation of a joint committee under section 102(1(b)) of the Local Government Act 1972, to exercise the executive functions and responsibilities referred to in this report and operating as the Greater Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Oversight Committee.

Alternatives Considered:

Joint working arrangements could be explored informally, or purely through the development of proposals to reform local government in Greater Lincolnshire. However, this could delay the benefit of working closely together until a point where the government is ready to consider the arrangements in Greater Lincolnshire in more detail. The recommended approach enables earlier benefits to be delivered, whilst still enabling reform on a larger scale, if appropriate, in the future. To put in place a greater degree of formality will ensure greater structure and visibility to the arrangements.

Reasons for Recommendation:

For Greater Lincolnshire to reach its full potential there is a need for improved alignment of services and more collaborative working across the public sector. There are opportunities to strengthen partnership working across the upper tier authorities. The recommendation within this report helps to further the interests of the residents and businesses of Greater Lincolnshire. Exploring opportunities to work strategically together has the potential to enable funding to be better utilised, service quality to be improved and greater outcomes to be delivered.

The recommendation builds on existing relationships and seeks to place a greater degree of structure, formality and visibility around them.

1. Background

- 1.1 We want Greater Lincolnshire to be an even greater place to live, work, visit and to bring up a family.
- 1.2 We want all of our residents to enjoy a good job, have the skills and education to grasp new opportunities and to be able to enjoy the wonderful heritage and tourism offer in our area. We want considered growth for Greater Lincolnshire so communities are connected through well planned infrastructure, enabling communities to be resilient and self-sufficient. We also want our business to thrive. We have unique businesses opportunities in our area which offer many benefits to us and to the Country. With greater alignment of investment we can maximise their potential and make Greater Lincolnshire even greater.
- 1.3 Greater Lincolnshire is an economic powerhouse and an integral part of UK Plc. It is a major gateway to Europe and has the opportunity to play an increasingly important role in the future of the UK. Now more than ever, Lincolnshire needs to achieve growth at a level that has never been achieved before if we are to capitalise on the opportunities for our region.
- 1.4 Collective focus must be given to how we ensure and deliver economic growth, improve connectivity and transport systems, level-up our economy to provide skills and opportunity to all and accelerate the delivery of new homes and sustainable communities. This is something that would be best achieved by working closely with others. Now is the time to work closely with those who can best help us to deliver growth and prosperity for Greater Lincolnshire. We need to collaborate to ensure there are high levels of strategic alignment and that any operational opportunities are fully explored and considered.
- 1.5 A joint committee has already been established in December 2015 consisting of all the local authorities in Greater Lincolnshire to have oversight and engagement of any future government policy changes for local government including devolution.
- 1.6 Lincolnshire County Council has already been working with North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council to explore the benefits of local government reorganisation. Whilst it is positive that the government will consider proposals for the region in due course, there are opportunities now to improve the way that services are delivered to those that we represent.
- 1.7 Subject to the executive level approval of each of the three local authorities, it is proposed to establish a Joint Strategic Oversight Committee for Greater Lincolnshire. There are specific rules governing who has the authority to

appoint a joint committee depending on what type of functions (executive or non-executive or both) are being exercised by the proposed joint committee. In short the position is:-

- If the joint committee is exercising purely non-executive functions, then only the Council can appoint it
- If the joint committee is exercising purely executive functions, then the Leader (or the Executive/Cabinet) is authorised by Regulations to appoint it
- If one or more but not all of functions of the joint committee are executive functions, then the Council must appoint it but only with the agreement of the Executive/Cabinet.

- 1.8 The joint committee proposed in the document at Appendix A is considered to be exercising purely executive functions and therefore the appointment falls to the Leader of the Council. It is also for the Leader of the Council to decide the number of members to be appointed and their terms of office. However it is appropriate that the proposal be considered by the full Council and this report invites the Council to consider the proposals and indicate whether they support the Leader to approve the appointment of such a Joint Committee.
- 1.9 The formation of the committee would enable the three organisations to work collaboratively. The committee will seek to identify and develop opportunities for closer working on both strategy and policy.
- 1.10 The governance arrangements for the committee are set out in Appendix A. It is important to note that decision making authority is retained by each organisation. Any proposals that are developed by the oversight committee will be considered through existing scrutiny and decision-making processes. This is not a decision making body, but will explore and promote greater levels of collaboration, alignment and integration of upper tier services for the benefit of Greater Lincolnshire.
- 1.11 It is proposed that the committee will consist of two Executive Member representatives from each of the three authorities. It is for the Leader of each Council to determine the respective Executive Councillor nominations for committee membership. The Chief Executive of each authority, or a nominated substitute, will also be in attendance. It will be chaired on a rotating basis across the three authorities. There will also be attendance at meetings of the Committee by a representative from the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership (GLLEP). The involvement of a representative from the GLLEP ensures the committee takes account of the needs of businesses within Greater Lincolnshire, as well as bringing a detailed understanding of the Greater Lincolnshire region.
- 1.12 The attendance by Executive Members will ensure the necessary strategic oversight and direction to the exercise of executive functions for each of the organisations. It is essential that arrangements are put in place to ensure that there is a strategically coherent approach to the design and delivery of

upper tier services and the leadership of Greater Lincolnshire to help to ensure it becomes an even greater place to live, work, visit and bring up a family.

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.

An impact analysis has not been undertaken for this decision. The decision to establish a joint committee as a particular governance mechanism to develop strategic and operational proposals is not considered to have the potential to impact on people with a protected characteristic differently to those people who do not have a protected characteristic. Any proposals that are developed by the Greater Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Oversight Committee will take account of the requirements of the Act with equality impact assessments being completed as necessary.

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 establishment of a joint committee as a particular governance mechanism to develop strategic and operational proposals for the exercise of upper tier functions will enable a focus on health and wellbeing across a wider geography and potentially enable the pursuit of initiatives which will enhance health and wellbeing

The Council will further have regard to the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Joint Health & Well Being Strategy (JHWS) in coming to any decisions that relate to proposals developed by the joint committee.

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.

The report has no direct impact on the requirements under section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Due consideration will need to be given to these requirements for any proposals that are developed within the joint committee and presented back to Lincolnshire County Council.

3. Conclusion

It is considered that establishing a joint committee exercising executive functions with North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council will support the on-going strengthening of relationships across Greater Lincolnshire and enable proposals to be developed to further improve the opportunities across the region.

4. Legal Comments:

The law governing the establishment of a joint committee to exercise executive functions is set out in the Report.

Although the decision rests with the Leader of the Council the Report invites the full Council to indicate whether it supports the establishment of such a committee in relation to the exercise of executive functions with the executives of North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire Council's

5. Resource Comments:

There are no immediate material financial consequences from acceptance of the recommendations in this report. The financial consequences of any proposals that are developed by the joint committee will be considered at the appropriate point in time.

6. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

N/A

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes

c) Scrutiny Comments

N/A

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

The proposed joint committee is not a decision making body. It will develop proposals that will be scrutinised through existing governance arrangements at each local authority. This will ensure that all risks are appropriately considered as necessary.

7. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report

Appendix A	Greater Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Oversight Committee - Terms of Reference
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8. Background Papers

The following background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Report to County Council dated 18 December 2015 "Greater Lincolnshire Devolution – Interim Governance Proposal	Democratic Services
Report to the Leader of the Council dated 5 January 2016 "Greater Lincolnshire Devolution – Interim Governance Proposal	Democratic Services

This report was written by Lee Sirdifield, Assistant Director – Corporate who can be contacted on 07500813650 or lee.sirdifield@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Summary of Greater Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Oversight Committee arrangements

The core functions of the Greater Lincolnshire Strategic Oversight Committee are to:

1. Facilitate cooperation and collaboration between Lincolnshire County Council, North Lincolnshire Council and North East Lincolnshire Council in so far as it relates to their executive functions on the following themes:
 - a) The development and application of strategy across the Greater Lincolnshire economic region
 - b) The development of opportunities to gain greater strategic alignment across and for Greater Lincolnshire where scale and scope are required and can enhance upper tier functions
 - c) The strategic alignment of investment across Greater Lincolnshire
2. Consider strategic use of public funds across the common functions and activities of the Councils to benefit the economy and support the collective ambitions of the three councils and the region.
3. Act as a formal link between the three upper tier local authorities in Greater Lincolnshire on activity related to the above themes

Terms of Reference

1. Develop and recommend for consideration by each of the authorities proposals relating to the core functions of the committee.
2. Act as an advocate for investment in the sustainable economic development of Greater Lincolnshire and maintain oversight for delivery arrangements relating to the core functions.
3. Align and make recommendations on capital expenditure programmes that operate across Greater Lincolnshire to ensure the strategic ambitions are effectively delivered in relation to the core functions.
4. Consider reports from sub-regional groups, or other such body or subcommittee/committee and refer recommendations back to the three Councils for further attention.
5. Consider and make recommendations in relation to strategic funding for activities aligned to the core functions.
6. The committee shall comprise of the Leader and one Executive Member from each Council. The committee will be chaired on a rotating basis by the Leader of each of the three local authorities. A co-opted representative from the

Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership and be in attendance as a non-voting member.

7. Any recommendations made by the joint committee must be referred back to each of the three authorities for consideration through existing democratic processes.
8. The Secretariat of the Greater Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Overview Committee is Lincolnshire County Council. Meetings are open to the press and public, and agendas, minutes and papers are published by the Secretariat, in line with the requirements of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) Regulations 2012.

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Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham, Executive Director responsible for Democratic Services

Report to:	County Council
Date:	11 December 2020
Subject:	Political Proportionality and Allocation of seats to Committees and Sub-committees

Summary:

A councillor has informed the Council that he has ceased his membership of the Conservative Group on the County Council and has requested that he be treated as a member of the Independent Group. This decision has triggered a review of the political proportionality and allocation of seats on committees and sub-committees. This report invites the Council to consider the impact of the change and approve the allocation of seats.

The change referred to above means that the Independent Group has the second largest number of seats on the Council and the Report invites the Council to confirm the Independents as the Opposition Group on the Council

Recommendation(s):

That the Council:

- 1) Notes the change in membership of the political groups on the County Council and agrees the allocation of seats illustrated in the proportionality spread sheet set out in Appendix A to this report.
- 2) Confirms the Independent Group as the Opposition Group on the Council.

1. Background

1.1 The Council is required by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 and the Local Government (Committees and Political Groups) Regulations 1990 (as amended) to review the allocation of places to political groups on committees and sub-committees. Under the Council's Constitution the composition of committees and sub-committees is the responsibility of the full Council. This was last reviewed at the meeting of Council on 18 September 2020.

1.2 On 10 November 2020 Councillor Bill Aron notified the Council that he had ceased his membership of the Conservative Group on the County Council.

1.3 On 17 November 2020 the Council received notice that he wished to be treated as a member of the Independent Group on the Council.

1.4 Councillor Aron's decisions automatically trigger a review of the Council's political proportionality and allocation of seats on the Council's committees and sub-committees.

1.5 In achieving political proportionality as far as reasonably practicable the 1989 Act requires the Council to apply certain principles in order as follows:

- Not all the seats on the committee are allocated to the same group
- The majority of seats on the committee are allocated to a particular political group if the number of persons belonging to that group is a majority of the authority's membership.
- The number of seats allocated to a political group on the committees of the Council bears the same proportion to all the seats on such committees as the membership of that group bears to the membership of the Council as a whole and
- The number of seats allocated to a political group on an individual committee bears the same proportion to the number of all the seats on that committee as the membership of that group bears to the membership of the Council as a whole.

1.6 For the purposes of the last two bullet points in paragraph 1.5 the membership of each group must be compared to the membership of the Council to establish the correct proportion to be used in the allocation of seats. Under Schedule 1 of the 1989 Act membership means the number of persons who are members for the time being of the authority. The number of members at the time of this decision is therefore 69 and it is this number that has been used in the calculation of the proportion to be used in deciding on allocation.

1.7 Under Regulation 16 of the 1990 Regulations, where some of the members of the relevant authority are members of one or more political groups and the others are not, the Council's obligations are as follows:

- i) To determine the proportion of the total membership of the Council who are members of one or more political groups and ensure that the same proportion of the total number of seats to be filled is allocated to each of the political groups in the proportion that the number of members of that group bears to the membership of the authority; and
- ii) To secure that persons appointed to any seats that do not fall to be allocated to a political group under the above requirement are not allocated to a person who is a member of a political group.

A political group must have at least two members – i.e. there cannot be a group of one.

1.8 The impact of the current membership referred to above is shown in the table below (the references to Lincolnshire Independents and Liberal Democrats in

the table below and in Appendix A are references to the member's political party and not a reference to a political group):

	18 September 2020		11 December 2020	
	Members	%	Members	%
Conservative	55	79.71%	54	78.26
Independent	5	7.25%	6	8.70
Labour	5	7.25%	5	7.25
Lincolnshire Independents	1		1	
Liberal Democrats	1		1	
Independent unaligned	2		2	
Vacancy	1		1	

1.9 There are 127 seats that fall to be filled by the Council. The table below sets out the political groups, the number of councillors and the proportion of the total membership of the authority that belong to that group. Using that percentage, the final row of the table shows the number of seats that the Council can allocate to each of the political groups.

	Conservative	Independent	Labour
Members	54	6	5
Percentage	78.26%	8.70%	7.25%
Seats	101	11	9

1.10 The remaining seats (six in number) cannot be allocated to the political groups and would have to be allocated to the members who are not members of a political group.

1.11 Applying the principles set out in paragraph 1.5 produces the allocation of seats set out in Appendix A.

1.11 The changes notified by Councillor Aron also mean the Independent Group becomes the second largest political group on the Council with six members.

1.12 Article 3.05 of the Constitution states that the Opposition Group will usually be the political group with the second greatest number of seats on the Council. The leader of this political group will be the Leader of the Opposition.

1.13 The Leader of the Opposition may appoint members of his or her political group to shadow the areas of responsibility of Executive Councillors. If so, such members of the Opposition Group will be known individually as Shadow Executive Councillors and collectively as the Shadow Executive.

1.14 As the Independent Group is the second largest political group on the Council and there is no basis for them not becoming the Opposition Group as would usually be the case Members are invited to confirm the Independent Group as the Opposition Group on the Council.

2. Conclusion

It is a matter for the Council to allocate seats on committees and sub-committees to the political groups on the Council, which it must do in accordance with the law relating to proportionality.

3. Legal Comments:

Council is required to allocate seats on the Committees of the Council to political groups in accordance with the law relating to proportionality as set out in the report.

Article 3.05 of the Constitution states that the Opposition Group will usually be the political group with the second greatest number of seats on the Council.

The decisions are within the remit of the Council.

4. Resource Comments:

There are no material financial implications from acceptance of the recommendations in this report.

5. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

n/a

c) Scrutiny Comments

n/a

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

There were no risks identified as a result of the recommendations in this report.

6. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report

Appendix A	Allocation of seats to committees and sub-committees
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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 Nigel West, who can be contacted on 07880 500844 or nigel.west@lincolnshire.gov.uk

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Proportionality spreadsheet 01 December 2020

	Cllrs	Others	Total on Committee per Constitution	Total seats when applying proportionality and Education rules	Number of Conservative seats on the basis of percentages	Proportional entitlement										Ind Unaligned (RF)	Ind Unaligned (SP)	Control Totals			
						Con	Ind	Lab	Lincs Ind*	Lib Dem*	Ind Unaligned (RF)	Ind Unaligned (SP)	Control total for Councillor seats	Con	Ind				Lab	Lincs Ind	Lib Dem
Seats on the Council														54	6	5	1	1	1	1	69.00
Party Balance														78.26%	8.70%	7.25%					100%
Overview and Scrutiny Management Board	11	3	14	14.0	9.0	9	1	1	0	0	0	0	11.0	8.61	0.96	0.80					
Adults and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee	11	0	11	11.0	9.0	8	0	1	1	0	1	0	11.0	8.61	0.96	0.80					
Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee	11	3	14	14.0	9.0	9	1	1	0	0	0	0	11.0	8.61	0.96	0.80					
Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee	11	0	11	11.0	9.0	9	1	1	0	0	0	0	11.0	8.61	0.96	0.80					
Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee	11	0	11	11.0	9.0	9	1	1	0	0	0	0	11.0	8.61	0.96	0.80					
Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee	11	0	11	11.0	9.0	9	1	1	0	0	0	0	11.0	8.61	0.96	0.80					
Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee	11	0	11	11.0	9.0	9	1	0	0	0	0	1	11.0	8.61	0.96	0.80					
Audit Committee	7	2	9	9.0	5.0	5	1	1	0	0	0	0	7.0	5.48	0.61	0.51					
Pensions Committee	8	3	11	11.0	7.0	7	1	0	0	0	0	0	8.0	6.51	0.70	0.58					
Planning and Regulation Committee	15	0	15	15.0	12.0	12	1	1	1	0	0	0	15.0	11.74	1.31	1.09					
Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire	8	8	16	16.0	6.0	6	1	1	0	0	0	0	8.0	6.26	0.70	0.58					
Appointments Committee	12	0	12	12.0	9.0	9	1	0	0	1	0	1	12.0	9.39	1.04	0.87					
Totals (excludes Executive)	127	19	146	146	102	101	11	9	2	1	1	2	127.0	101.36	11.05	9.21					121.62
													146.0	101	11	9					121.00

Sub-Committees

Pay Policy Sub-Committee	7	0	7			5	1	0	0	0			6.0	5.48	0.61	0.51					
Definitive Map & Statement of PROW Sub-Committee	7	0	7			5	0	1	0	0			6.0	5.48	0.61	0.51					
Total Sub-Committees	14	0	14			10	1	1	0	0			12.0	10.96	1.22	1.02					13.98
														10	1	1					12.00

Outside Bodies - Politically Balanced

IFCA	2	0	2			2	0	0	0	0			2.0	1.57	0.17	0.15					
ESPO Management Committee	2	0	2			2	0	0	0	0			2.0	1.57	0.17	0.15					
Gibraltar Point Joint Advisory Committee	4	0	4			3	0	1	0	0			4.0	3.13	0.35	0.29					
South East Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee	3	0	3			2	1	0	0	0			3.0	2.35	0.26	0.22					
Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee	3	0	3			3	0	0	0	0			3.0	2.35	0.26	0.22					
Snipe Dales Joint Advisory Committee	4	0	4			3	1	0	0	0			4.0	3.13	0.35	0.29					
Wolds AONB Member Joint Advisory Committee	2	0	2			2	0	0	0	0			2.0	1.57	0.17	0.15					
Total Outside Bodies	20	0	20			17	2	1	0	0			20.0	15.65	1.74	1.45					18.84
														16	2	1					19.00

Lincolnshire Police and Crime Panel

(in accordance with the political balance of all the local authorities across Lincolnshire)	3	0	3			2	1	0	0	0			3								
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**Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham,
Executive Director responsible for Democratic Services**

Report to:	County Council
Date:	11 December 2020
Subject:	Members' Allowances Scheme 2021/22

Summary:

The Council has to agree its Members' Allowances Scheme every year. This report presents the recommendations of the Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP) convened in November 2020 and proposes no changes to the Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2021/22 other than indexation in accordance with the Scheme.

Recommendation(s):

1. To note the IRP recommendations.
2. To agree that the Scheme of Members' Allowances for 2021/22 be the same as the Scheme of Members Allowances for 2020/21 subject only to indexation in accordance with the Scheme.

1. Background

The County Council sets a Scheme of Members' Allowances and expenses in accordance with the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 ('the 2003 Regulations') and other relevant legislation.

The 2003 Regulations require that an Independent Review Panel (IRP) is convened to make recommendations to the Council. The Council is required to consider any IRP recommendations before setting a scheme but is not required to accept their recommendations.

The IRP was convened in November 2020 and recommended that no changes to the scheme be made, save for the previously agreed annual increase in line with the average % increase in pay for employees covered by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services for the last 12 months (usually referred to as 'Green Book' employees).

The increase for this year amounts to 2.75%.

2. Conclusion

The Council is required to convene the IRP and has done so. The IRP has made recommendations that the Council must take into account when setting a Scheme of Members' Allowances.

3. Legal Comments:

Regulation 10 of the Local Authorities (Members' Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003 requires the Council to make a Scheme of Members Allowances prior to April 1 in every year.

Before making such a Scheme the Council must have regard to the recommendations made in relation to the Scheme by the Independent Remuneration Panel.

Approval of the Scheme of Members' Allowances is reserved to full Council.

4. Resource Comments:

The costs arising from acceptance of the recommendations in this report can be funded from within the existing budget provision.

5. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

n/a

c) Scrutiny Comments

n/a

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

n/a

6. Background Papers

Document name	Where it can be viewed
Report to Council 11 December, 2019 entitled Members' Allowances Scheme 2020/21	Democratic Services and Council website
Members' Allowances Scheme 2020/21	Democratic Services and Council website

This report was written by Nigel West, who can be contacted on 07880 500844 or nigel.west@lincolnshire.gov.uk

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**Open Report on behalf of Councillor Mrs S Rawlins,
Chairman of the Audit Committee**

Report to:	County Council
Date:	11 December 2020
Subject:	Audit Committee Annual Report 2020

Summary:

The purpose of this report is to present to the Council the Annual Report of its Audit Committee. The Annual Report helps show how the Audit Committee provides a vital role in promoting good governance and accountability in the Council.

The report also gives key headlines of results of work completed during the year.

Recommendation(s):

That the Council notes the Audit Committee's Annual Report for 2020

1. Background

Audit committees are a key component of an authority's governance framework – they provide independent assurance on the adequacy of:

- the risk management framework
- the internal control environment
- integrity of financial reporting
- annual governance statement processes'

Our Audit Committee has undertaken a self-assessment against good practice and provides an annual report to show how the Committee has discharged its responsibilities.

A copy of the Annual Report is at Appendix A of this report.

The statutory deadline for publishing our audited accounts for 2019/20 is 30 November 2020. Whilst we had every expectation that we would be able to meet this timescale, unfortunately will not be able to do this due to an outstanding query from our external auditors - raised after the Audit Committee meeting of the 16th November 2020.

To meet with the relevant regulations, we will instead be publishing our latest accounts on the Council's website **without** an audited opinion, together with a notice explaining the reasons for this.

2. Conclusion

The Audit Committee has worked well with Officers to maintain effective governance arrangements. It has provided independent insight and challenge on the Council's strategic risks and key activities. This has, in our view, helped effective decision making, accountability and transparency.

3. Legal Comments:

The Audit Committee Annual Report will provide assurance to the Council as to whether the Audit Committee is fulfilling its Terms of Reference as laid down by the Council. The recommendation is lawful and within the remit of the full Council.

4. Resource Comments:

There are no financial implications arising from acceptance of the recommendation in the report.

5. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

N/A

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Yes

c) Scrutiny Comments

N/A

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

The Audit Committee Annual Report is a key part of the Council's overall risk management and internal control processes. The Committee objectively examines and evaluates the adequacy of the control environment through the reports it receives - seeking assurance around improvement actions.

6. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Audit Committee Annual Report - 2020

7. Background Papers

No Background Papers within the meaning of section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 have been used in the preparation of this Report.

Draft Audit Committee Annual Report - 2020	https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=133&MId=5016&Ver=4
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This report was written by Lucy Pledge, who can be contacted on 01522 553692 or lucy.pledge@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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Audit Committee Annual Report 2020



“Audit Committees are a key component of corporate governance and are an important source of independent assurance about the Council’s arrangements for managing risk, maintaining an effective control environment, and reporting on financial and other performance”

CIPFA – Audit Committees: Practical Guidance for Local Authorities & Police (2018 Edition)



The 10*General Principles of Public Life

* Based on the 7 Nolan Principles and others relevant to local government act

<p>Selflessness Members should serve only the public interest and should never improperly confer an advantage or disadvantage on any person.</p>	<p>Personal Judgement Members may take account of the views of others, including their political groups, but should reach their own conclusions on the issues before them and act in accordance with those conclusions.</p>
<p>Honesty and Integrity Members should not place themselves in situations where their honesty and integrity may be questioned, should not behave improperly, and should on all occasions avoid the appearance of such behaviour.</p>	<p>Respect for Others Members should promote equality by not discriminating unlawfully against any person, and by treating people with respect, regardless of their race, age, religion, gender, sexual orientation or disability. They should respect the impartiality and integrity of the authority's statutory officers and its other employees.</p>
<p>Objectivity Members should make decisions on merit, including when making appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards or benefit.</p>	<p>Duty to Uphold the Law Members should uphold the law and, on all occasions, act in accordance with the trust that the public is entitled to place in them.</p>
<p>Accountability Members should be accountable to the public for their actions and the manner in which they carry out their responsibilities, and should cooperate fully and honestly with any scrutiny appropriate to their particular office.</p>	<p>Stewardship Members should do whatever they are able to do to ensure that their authorities use their resources prudently, and in accordance with the law.</p>
<p>Openness Members should be as open as possible about their actions and those of their authority, and should be prepared to give reasons for those actions.</p>	<p>Leadership Members should promote and support these principles by leadership, and by example, and should act in a way that secures or preserves public confidence.</p>

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Appendix 1 - Composition and attendance

Appendix 2 - Audit Committee terms of reference

Appendix 3 - Audit Committee activities

This report has been prepared solely for the use of Members and Management of Lincolnshire County Council. Details may be made available to specified external organisations, including external auditors, but otherwise the report should not be used or referred to in whole or in part without prior consent. No responsibility to any third party is accepted as the report has not been prepared, and is not intended for any other purpose.

The matters raised in this report are only those that came to our attention during the course of our work – there may be weaknesses in governance, risk management and the system of internal control that we are not aware of because they did not form part of our work plan or not brought to our attention. The opinion is based solely on the work undertaken as part of the Audit Committee workplan.



The Audit Committee is the Council's vital "watchdog" promoting and ensuring good governance and accountability



I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Audit Committee which describes our achievements, the issues handled and the focus of the Audit Committee during 2019/20.

The report helps to demonstrate the vital role that is carried out by the Audit Committee and the contribution that it makes to the how well the council is run – its governance arrangements.

It also aims to show how the Audit Committee continues to deliver the responsibilities delegated to it by the council - as set out in the Constitution and in line with guidance and best practice.

The Audit Committee has once again had a positive and productive year – delivering on a challenging program of work which has focussed on the oversight of:

- ✓ the council's financial reporting process.
- ✓ internal and external audit arrangements and outcomes.
- ✓ systems and processes for managing risk and internal control – particularly gaining assurance on how the changing service delivery models arising from the coronavirus pandemic impacts the council's governance, risk and control environment.
- ✓ counter fraud arrangements.
- ✓ the council's governance arrangements – supporting good governance and strong public financial management.

I wish to thank the members of the Committee for their hard work during the year. I also wish to record my thanks to the Executive Director – Resources, Assistant Director – Finance, Internal and External Auditors, Democratic Services and to Officers of the Council, for their help and support.

Cllr Sue Rawlins
Chairman of the Audit Committee
August 2020



Overall Opinion & Key Issues



Overall Opinion

The onset of Covid19 has had a significant impact on all areas of the public sector and people's lives.

The council has had to respond swiftly to the ever changing environment to deliver new and existing operations. Whilst it is recognised that 2019/20 was largely unaffected by the pandemic the Audit Committee has sought assurance on how well the council's governance, risk and control mechanisms stood up to these rapid, exhaustive and dynamic changes.

Based on the information presented during 2019/20, it is the view of the Audit Committee that:

- ✓ the governance framework has adapted well and operated adequately in these challenging times.
- ✓ risk reporting was ramped up - with embedding of a more continuous risk sensing process and more frequent oversight being undertaken by the Corporate Leadership Team.
- ✓ Internal Audit responded appropriately by re-focussing its assurance plans. They worked collaboratively with the risk function to provide assurance where it was needed most – particularly on emerging risk issues.
- ✓ The council expects to have positive financial and value for money opinions for 2019/20.

- ✓ The council's Annual Governance Statement provided an open and honest account on how well the council is being run – referencing the impact of Covid-19

These assurances aim to give Lincolnshire residents confidence in how the council continues to deliver vital public services - demonstrating strong financial management of public funds.

As a result of our work, the Audit Committee would also like to draw to the attention of the Council the following governance issue:

Significant Governance Issue

Reviewing lessons learned from our response to Covid-19– implementing a re-set plan over the short, medium and longer term.

Transformation and recovery critical success factors will be monitored throughout the year by the Executive and Corporate Leadership Team.



Overall Opinion & Key Issues



Overall Opinion (continued)

Key Issues

During the year the Audit Committee, in addition to its core activities, assessed the following key issues and were satisfied that management were taking action to address the issue. As part of this assessment, the Audit Committee received reports, requested and received clarification from management and sought assurance from the internal and external auditors.

The Chairman briefed the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council as necessary.

IT Governance and Assurance (July 2020)

IT Governance and Cyber Security continues to be a key risk and issue for the council. We received assurances and information on how this high profile risk is being managed and the continued steps being taken to improve the Council's IMT arrangements.

Adult Care & Community Wellbeing – Financial Assessments (November 2019)

We received assurances from the Executive Director - Adult Care & Community Wellbeing on the improvements made to the financial assessment process – confirming that:

- ✓ revisions had been made to the charging policy for both residential and non-residential clients, which had simplified the process and introduced electronic ways of working.
- ✓ backlogs had reduced and will be cleared by January 2020.
- ✓ support had been provided to Serco in terms of staff resilience and capabilities, with staff turnover reducing significantly.

Strategic Risk – Adult Care - Market Supply (November 2019)

We received assurances from the Executive Director - Adult Care & Community Wellbeing on how this high risk was being managed and the continued steps being taken to strengthen the sector. The council has provided support and advice to its supply chain through the pandemic – ensuring that vital services continue to be delivered.

Moving forward to the 'new normal' will demand an adjustment to business processes, with technology and data at the centre of it. We will be seeking assurance on the impact of Covid-19. Evaluating the adequacy of the changing governance, risk and control environment emerging from new operating models and ways of working / delivering services. This will be a key focus for 2021.



Financial Reporting

The council has little discretion to influence the content of the statements as they are prepared in accordance with proper accounting practices.

The Statement of Accounts 2019/20 provides a summary of the council's financial transactions in the year, and a "snapshot" of the Council's financial position as at 31 March 2020. It is therefore a key document for the Council and the Audit Committee, with their responsibility for corporate governance.

We reviewed and had the opportunity to comment on the statements of accounts and the narrative that accompanies them during the drafting process to ensure that the key messages in the narrative clearly gave fair and balanced information so that people could understand the council's financial position.

The closedown timetable was achieved.

The coronavirus pandemic has resulted in the audit deadline being moved to 30 November 2020.

No material issues have been identified from the work carried out by External Audit to date. External Audit are proposing to issue unqualified opinions – with an **emphasis of matter*** paragraph in the audit opinion for both the Council and Pension fund in response to the disclosed material uncertainty in asset valuations caused by Covid19.

* This is a statement to a **matter** appropriately presented or disclosed in the financial statements that, in the auditor's judgment, is of such importance that it is fundamental to users' understanding of the financial statements.

We anticipate that the Council's External Auditors will report the following on our:

Financial statements	Issue an unqualified opinion on both the Council's and Pension Fund financial statements – 2019/20. An emphasis of matter paragraph will be included in the audit opinion for both the Council and Pension fund in response to the disclosed material uncertainty in asset valuations caused by Covid19.
Control Environment	Determined the overall control environment was adequate.
Accounts Production	Stated that they did not encounter any significant difficulties during the audit and had the full co-operation of management and staff. A major achievement during the coronavirus pandemic, the rapid change to remote working and is down to the hard work of the council's Finance Team.
Value for Money arrangements	That the Council has made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effective use of its resources. This is about the arrangements to ensure properly informed decisions are taken and resources are deployed to achieve planned and sustainable outcomes for the taxpayer and local people.



Counter Fraud

The council has a **zero tolerance** to fraud.

Any instances of fraud or misconduct reported through the council's whistleblowing arrangements should be reported to our Internal Audit function, who then evaluate each incident for action / investigation.

The Audit Committee plays a key role in monitoring the effectiveness of counter fraud and whistleblowing arrangements. We have assessed the overall effectiveness and the progress made to implement policy as **good**.

We received regular updates on performance against the 2019/20 Counter Fraud Work Plan and the outcomes of proactive fraud work and investigations.

Cllr A Maughan acts as our counter fraud champion.

During the year we received assurances on the effectiveness of the Counter Fraud arrangements by reviewing:

- ✓ details of counter fraud activities – ensuring that these arrangements continued to deliver a proportionate response to fraud seeking appropriate sanctions and redress.
- ✓ the fraud risk register and associated mitigating actions.
- ✓ fraud awareness – promoting good practice in fighting fraud.



£114K - The increase in financial recoveries from fraud

£1.56m – Large fraud stopped



Governance & Risk



Governance

The Audit Committee reviewed and discussed regular reports on risk, controls and assurance, including the:

- Executive Directors annual assurance reports – reviewed in February 2020.
- The Head of Internal Audit Annual Report and Opinion on the council’s governance, risk and control environment – reviewed July 2020.
- Updates on outcomes from Internal Audit & External Audit work throughout the year
- Outcome of the peer review.

The council has responded swiftly to the ever changing environment to deliver new and existing operations during the pandemic. Appropriate governance, risk and control systems were put in place.

Corporate oversight and risk reporting was ramped up – with embedding of a more continuous risk sensing process and more frequent oversight being undertaken by the Corporate Leadership Team.

During the year council’s governance arrangements were assessed as **performing adequately – some improvements required.**

Risk & Internal Control

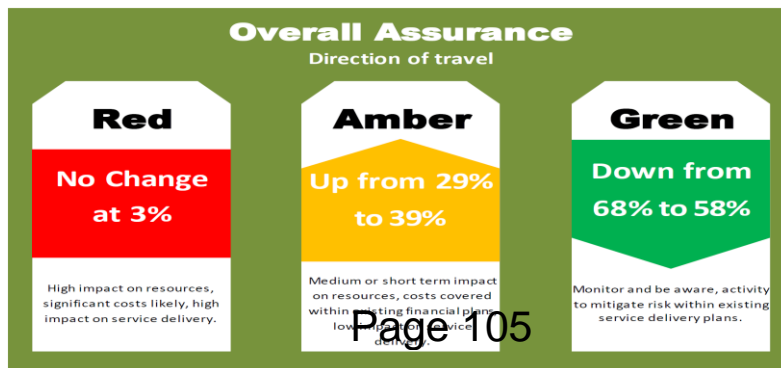
The role of the Audit Committee on risk management covers 3 key areas:

- Assurance over the governance of risk.
- Keeping up to date with the risk profile of the council and the effectiveness of risk management.
- Supporting the development and embedding of good practice in risk management.

The Audit Committee received the Combined Assurance Report produced by the Corporate Leadership Team - which provides insight of assurance levels over critical functions, key risks, projects and partnerships. Overall there is a positive assurance picture for the council but one that reflects the complex environment in which we operate – recognising that some areas will remain at Amber – see table below.

There continues to be **Limited Assurance** over some of the council’s Strategic Risks.

During the year the council’s risk and internal control arrangements were assessed as **performing adequately – some improvements required.**





External and Internal Audit



Audit quality is a key requirement

External Audit

The Audit Committee has responsibility for overseeing the council's relationship with the external auditor, including reviewing the quality of their performance, their external audit plan and process, their independence and fees.

One implication of COVID-19 for the Council was that the deadlines for submission of the draft and audited financial statements were pushed back to 31 August and 30 November respectively. The closedown deadline was met by the Finance Team – a great achievement given the challenges they faced. Our External Auditor expressed their thanks for the teams assistance during the audit.

The Audit Committee fully reviewed the draft financial statements in July & Sept 2020 Committee.

Prior to the statutory audit - Mazars presented their strategy, key risks and scope of the audit.

Our External Auditor, has substantially completed their work on the financial statements and value for money opinion for the year ended 31 March 2020.

On completion of their work they will provide an opinion on the council's financial statements and its arrangements for securing value for money.

They also provide an opinion on the Pension Fund financial statements.

We anticipate the final External Audit Report and Audit Letter in November / December 2020.

The Chairman of the Audit Committee and the Executive Director – Resources confirmed to the Auditors that:

- the financial statements give a true and fair view of the council's financial position and have been properly prepared on an on-going concern basis.
- all necessary information has been provided.

Internal Audit

The Audit Committee reviewed and agreed the internal audit plan, which we believe is appropriate for the Council - in terms of focus and resources. The internal audit plan is risk based and was rapidly updated to reflect the current risk and assurance environment resulting from Covid-19.

We reviewed reports from the Head of Internal Audit at our quarterly meetings. These reports enable us to monitor progress against the internal audit plan, discuss any key findings with the auditor and senior management - securing improvement actions.

The Audit Committee reviewed the effectiveness of the internal audit function and confirmed that its professional practice conforms to the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards. An External Quality Assessment is planned for late 2021.



Looking Ahead



In 2020/21 the Audit Committee aims to continue to build on its role and will set out to seek assurance on the following:

- we will meet with the Corporate Leadership Team to fully understand the updated accountability and assurance framework.
- moving forward to the 'new normal' will demand an adjustment to business processes, with technology and data at the centre of it. We will seek assurance around the transformation programme and its key projects – including the implementation of the council's ERP system (Business World On) and the SMARTER working operating model.
- the council's Strategic Risk Register is updated following the publication of the new Corporate Plan and its risk appetite is clearly understood and applied throughout the council.
- better governance and oversight of key projects – including benefit realisation
- review of contract management and associated commercial / third party risks.
- Implementation of improvements over our risk management arrangements.

- reviewing the effectiveness of the decision making and scrutiny processes.
- Implementation of improvement actions arising from the Peer Review 2019 & Governance Review 2019 (where relevant in the current operating environment).
- Implementation of improvement actions arising from the Employee Survey 2019 (where relevant in the current operating environment).

We will continue to develop a strong relationship with Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – reinstating regular liaison meetings and sharing work plans as appropriate.



Your Audit Committee

The Audit Committee is a regulatory committee made up of seven councillors and two independent members. The composition and attendance of the Committee during the year can be found in **Appendix 1**.

The importance of the Audit Committee remains vital in looking forward to 2019/20 and beyond – in the context of continued financial pressures, reshaping of services, new models of service delivery and the growing demand for public services. Our role is to increase public confidence about how well the Council is run – providing independent assurance and challenge to the Executive – over governance, risk management and control processes. Our terms of reference can be found in **Appendix 2**.

The Committee met five times up to 13 July 2020. Our March Committee was cancelled due to the pandemic lockdown.

Our work plan can be split into two areas - core items of business reviewed regularly and special interest areas where the Committee requires further assurance. The activities of the Audit Committee are noted in **Appendix 3**.

Effectiveness

In September 2020 the Committee completed a self-assessment survey, where our performance was reviewed against a CIPFA best practice framework

Our self-assessment provided a good level of assurance over the delivery of the Committees core role and function. It also identified some actions for us, namely:

- meeting with the Corporate Leadership Team to gain an understanding of the revised accountability and assurance framework – following the publications of the Corporate Plan, strategies etc.
- obtain feedback from other council members on our impact and how we can enhance our effectiveness.
- establish practical ways we can undertake post meeting reviews / debrief to help inform the Chairman's update to the Leader / Chief Executive.
- review and update our training programme – undertaking a blended approach with a combination of face to face and virtual training events.
- further risk management training – raising awareness and understanding on effective risk management in an uncertain and rapid changing environment.
- 'deeper dive' assurance into some of the key risks facing the council and mitigating control actions.



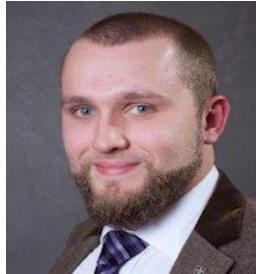
Appendix 1

Audit Committee Composition & Attendance



Chairman

**Councillor
Mrs S Rawlins**



Vice Chairman

**Councillor A
Spencer**

Name	Audit Committee Attendance (Out of 5 possible Meetings)
Councillor S Rawlins	5
Councillor A Spencer	4
Councillor P Coupland	4
Councillor A Maughan	5
Councillor P Skinner	5
Councillor R Parker	5
Councillor A Stokes	4
Mr Ian Haldenby	5
Mr A Middleton	5



**Councillor
P Coupland**



**Councillor
A Maughan**



**Councillor
P Skinner**



**Councillor
R Parker**



**Councillor
A Stokes**



**Mr A Middleton
(Independent
Added Person)**



**Mr I Haldenby
(Independent
Added Person)**



Audit Committee Terms of Reference

There will be an Audit Committee consisting of nine members. Seven of the members will be Non-Executive Councillors and reflect the political balance overall. Two members shall be an independent person who is not a Councillor or Officer of the Council; or a former Officer of the Council if their departure was in the last five years.

Role

To fulfil the role of an Audit Committee in respect of the work of the Council.

- ❖ The Audit Committee is a key component of Lincolnshire County Council's corporate governance. It provides an independent and high-level focus on the audit, assurance and reporting arrangements that underpin good governance and financial standards.
- ❖ The purpose of the Audit Committee is to provide independent assurance to the members of the adequacy of the risk management framework and the internal control environment. It provides independent review of Lincolnshire County Council's governance, risk management and control frameworks and oversees the financial reporting and annual governance processes. It oversees internal audit and external audit, helping to ensure efficient and effective assurance arrangements are in place.

Functions

Internal Audit

- ❖ Approve the internal audit charter.
- ❖ To review proposals made in relation to the appointment of external providers of internal audit services and to make recommendation.
- ❖ To consider the Head of Internal Audit's annual report and opinion.
 - a) The statement of the level of conformance with the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and Local Government Application Note and the results of the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme that supports the statement – these will indicate the reliability of the conclusions of internal audit.



Audit Committee Terms of Reference

- b) The opinion of the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the Council's framework of governance, risk management and control together with the summary of the work supporting the opinion – these will assist the committee in reviewing the Annual Governance Statement.
- ❖ To approve significant interim changes to the risk-based internal audit plan and resource requirements.
- ❖ To make appropriate enquiries of both management and the Head of Internal Audit to determine if there are any inappropriate scope or resource limitations.
- ❖ To consider reports from the Head of Internal Audit on internal audit's performance during the year. These will include:-
 - a) Updates on the work of internal audit including key findings, issues of concern and action in hand as a result of internal audit work.
 - b) Regular reports on the results of the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme.
 - c) Reports on instances where the internal audit function does not conform to the Public Sector Internal Audit Standards and Local Government Application Note, considering whether the non-conformance is significant enough that it must be included in the Annual Governance Statement.
- ❖ To consider summaries of specific internal audit reports of significance or as requested
- ❖ To contribute to the Quality Assurance and Improvement Programme and in particular, to the external quality assessment of internal audit that takes place at least once every five years.
- ❖ To support the development of effective communication with the Head of Internal Audit.



Audit Committee Terms of Reference

External Audit

- ❖ To consider the external auditor's annual letter, relevant reports, and the report to those charged with governance.
- ❖ To consider specific reports as agreed with the external auditor.
- ❖ To comment on the scope and depth of external audit work and to ensure it gives value for money.
- ❖ To liaise with the appropriate body over the appointment of the Council's external auditor.
- ❖ To commission work from internal and external audit.
- ❖ To advise and recommend on the effectiveness of relationships between external and internal audit and other inspection agencies or relevant bodies.

Regulatory Framework – Governance, Risk and Control

- ❖ To maintain an overview of the Council's Constitution.
- ❖ To review any issues referred to it by the Chief Executive, Director or any Council body.
- ❖ To monitor the effective development and operation of risk management and corporate governance in the Council.
- ❖ To monitor progress in addressing risk-related issues reported to the committee.
- ❖ To review the assessment of fraud risks and potential harm to the council from fraud and corruption.



Audit Committee Terms of Reference

- ❖ To monitor the counter-fraud strategy, actions and resources.
- ❖ To review the Annual Governance Statement prior to approval and consider whether it properly reflects the risk environment and supporting assurances, taking into account internal audit's opinion on the overall adequacy and effectiveness of the council's framework of governance, risk management and control.
- ❖ To review the Council's corporate governance arrangements against the good governance framework and consider annual governance reports and assurances
- ❖ To consider the Council's framework of assurance and ensure that it adequately addresses the risks and priorities of the Council.
- ❖ To consider the Council's compliance with its own and other published standards and controls.
- ❖ To report to full council on a regular basis on the committee's performance in relation to the terms of reference and the effectiveness of the committee in meeting its purpose.

Accounts

- ❖ To review the annual statement of accounts. Specifically to consider whether appropriate accounting policies have been followed and whether there are any concerns arising from the financial statements or from the audit that need to be brought to the attention of the Council.
- ❖ To consider the external auditor's report to those charged with governance on issues arising from the audit of the accounts.
- ❖ Duty of approve the authority's statement of accounts, income and expenditure and balance sheet.



Appendix 2

Audit Committee Terms of Reference

Standards

- ❖ Promoting and maintaining high ethical standards by Councillors and non-elected members.
- ❖ Assisting the Councillors and added members to observe the Members' Code of Conduct.
- ❖ Advising the Council on the adoption or revision of the Members' Code of Conduct.
- ❖ Monitoring the operation of the Members' Code of Conduct.
- ❖ Advising, training or arranging to train Councillors and added members on matters relating to the Members' Code of Conduct.
- ❖ Determining complaints of breaches of the Code of Conduct for Members referred for hearing by the Monitoring Officer.



Appendix 3

Audit Committee Activities

Audit Committee activities	Sept	Nov	Feb	March	June	July
Financial Reporting						
Financial Regulations Update	x	x				
Accounting Policies					x	
Draft/Approval Statement of Accounts for Lincolnshire County Council & Lincolnshire Pension Fund						x
External Auditors						
Annual Audit Letters for Lincolnshire County Council and Lincolnshire Pension Fund	x					
Progress Reports			x			
External Audit Strategies – Lincolnshire County Council and Lincolnshire Pension Fund					x	
Internal Audit						
Head of Internal Audit Opinion & Annual Report						x
Internal Audit Plan – revised & impact of Covid-19						x
Progress Reports	x	x	x		x	



Appendix 3

Audit Committee Activities

Audit Committee activities	Sept	Nov	Feb	March	June	July
Governance and Risk Management						
Risk Management update on Strategic Risk Register	x		x			
Draft/Approval of Annual Governance Statement					x	x
Report on Corporate and Statutory Complaints			x			
Governance Review – Culture and Values Report			x			
Code of Conduct – working group feedback on model code		x				x
Monitoring Officer’s Annual Report						x
Counter Fraud						
Annual Report on the Council’s Whistleblowing arrangements		x				
Counter Fraud Risk Register	x					
Counter Fraud Annual Report					x	
Counter Fraud Progress Report		x				



Appendix 3

Audit Committee Activities

Audit Committee activities	Sept	Nov	Feb	March	June	July
Special Interest Items						
Financial Assessments and the Strategic Risk – Market Supply		x				
Review of Audit Committee Terms of Reference and Internal Audit Charter		x				
Developments in Audit and Governance		x				
Combined Assurance Reports			x			
Information Assurance Annual Report						x
Audit Committee work plan	x	x	x		x	x
Audit Committee Annual Report	x					

This report has been prepared solely for the use of Members and Management of Lincolnshire County Council. Details may be made available to specified external organisations, including external auditors, but otherwise the report should not be used or referred to in whole or in part without prior consent. No responsibility to any third party is accepted as the report has not been prepared, and is not intended for any other purpose.

The matters raised in this report are only those that came to our attention during the course of our work – there may be weaknesses in governance, risk management and the system of internal control that we are not aware of because they did not form part of our work plan or not brought to our attention. The opinion is based solely on the work undertaken as part of the Audit Committee work plan.

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Open Report on behalf of Councillor M J Hill OBE, Leader of the Council

Report to:	County Council
Date:	11 December 2020
Subject:	Executive Decision – Rule 17 (Special Urgency)

Summary:

The Leader of the Council has made one decision under Rule 17 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules in the Council's Constitution. There is a requirement to report such decisions to the County Council.

Recommendation(s):

That the decision made under Rule 17 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules in the Council's Constitution by the Leader of the Council be noted.

1. Background

1.1 Rule 17 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules in the Council's Constitution allows for urgent Key Decisions, which are not included in the Executive's Forward Plan, to be made without giving notice of at least five clear working days. Such decisions may only be made where the decision maker has obtained agreement that the making of the decision is urgent and cannot reasonably be deferred from:-

- the chairman of the relevant overview and scrutiny committee; or
- if there is no such person, or if the chairman of the relevant overview and scrutiny committee is unable to act, the chairman of the council; or
- where there is no chairman of either the relevant overview and scrutiny committee or of the Council, the vice-chairman of the Council.

1.2 The Leader is required to submit reports to the Council on the Executive decisions taken under Rule 17 (special urgency). There has been one such decision in the last three months.

- 1.3 A decision on *Commissioning of designated Covid-19 Care Home Beds*, which had not been included on the Forward Plan, was made by the Leader of the Council on 19 November 2020. The report was exempt and not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 1.4 The reason for urgency was published in a notice on the Council's website to the effect that a contract was required urgently for the provision of designated care beds capable of accepting the discharge from hospital of patients being discharged to care home accommodation with a positive test for Covid-19. Delays in discharge place increased pressure on hospitals at a time when they are seeking to deal with increased numbers of patients with Covid-19 alongside the usual winter pressures.
- 1.5 Agreement that the making of the decision was urgent and could not reasonably be deferred was obtained from Councillor C E H Marfleet as Chairman of the Adults and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee.

2. Conclusion

- 2.1 The report informs the Council of a decision taken under the special urgency provisions of the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Constitution.

3. Legal Comments:

Rule 18.3 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Constitution requires the Leader of the Council to submit quarterly reports to the Council on the Executive decisions taken in circumstances as set out in Rule 17 (special urgency) of the Access to Information Procedure Rules in the preceding three months.

4. Resource Comments:

There are no financial implications arising from acceptance of the recommendation in this report. The financial implications relating to the urgent decision itself were covered in the report relating to that decision.

5. Consultation

- a) **Has Local Member Been Consulted?** - n/a
- b) **Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?** - Yes
- c) **Scrutiny Comments** - n/a
- d) **Policy Proofing Actions Required** - n/a

6. 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 Cheryl Evans, who can be contacted on 07387 133755 or cheryl.evans@lincolnshire.gov.uk .

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