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12 October 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.

Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee

A meeting of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee will be held on **Tuesday, 20 October 2020 at 10.00 am as a Virtual - Online Meeting via Microsoft Teams** for the transaction of the business set out on the attached Agenda.

Access to the meeting is as follows:

Members of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee 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=548&MId=5512&Ver=4> 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 Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee (11 Members of the Council)

Councillors Mrs W Bowkett (Chairman), C R Oxby (Vice-Chairman), Mrs A M Austin, T Bridges, G E Cullen, M A Griggs, A G Hagues, C Matthews, E J Sneath, H Spratt and Dr M E Thompson

**ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE AGENDA
TUESDAY, 20 OCTOBER 2020**

Item	Title	Pages
1	Apologies for Absence/Replacement Members	
2	Declarations of Members' Interests	
3	Minutes of the previous meeting held on 8 September 2020	5 - 12
4	Announcements by the Chairman, Executive Councillors and Lead Officers	
5	Introducing a Charging Policy for Pre-application Planning Advice <i>(To receive a report from Neil McBride, Head of Planning, which seeks Committee support for introducing a charging policy for the Planning Services Team when providing pre-application advice to prospective applicants/developers)</i>	13 - 20
6	Adult Skills and Family Learning Programme 2020/21 and the impact of Covid-19 <i>(To receive a report from Thea Croxall, Principal Commissioning Officer (Learning), which provides a summary of changes made to the delivery of the Adult Learning programme, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and outlines its potential impact on future programme delivery)</i>	21 - 28
7	Waste Strategy Update <i>(To receive a report from Matthew Michell, Waste Strategy Manager, on strategic waste matters, which invites comments from the Committee to feed into the review of the 10 strategic objectives set out in the Waste Strategy for Lincolnshire adopted by the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership (LWP) in January 2019)</i>	29 - 36
8	Lincolnshire LEADER Programmes <i>(To receive a report from Mandy Ramm - Funding and Investment Manager, which sets out the background and performance of the four Lincolnshire LEADER Programmes to date and provides case studies and an overview of emerging business needs based on the recently closed LEADER grant call. The report invites the Committee to recommend the commissioning of a LEADER Evaluation encompassing the programme and other areas of rural activity and a Rural Engagement Programme)</i>	37 - 52

9 Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

53 - 56

(To receive a report by Daniel Steel, Scrutiny Officer, which enables the Committee to comment on the content of its work programme for the coming year to ensure that scrutiny activity is focussed where it can be of greatest benefit)

Democratic Services Officer Contact Details

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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.

All papers for council meetings are available on:

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



**ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
8 SEPTEMBER 2020**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR MRS W BOWKETT (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors C R Oxby (Vice-Chairman), Mrs A M Austin, M A Griggs, C Matthews, E J Sneath and H Spratt

Councillor C J Davie attended the meeting as an observer

Officers in attendance:-

Daniel Steel (Scrutiny Officer), Nick Harrison (Democratic Services Officer), Emily Wilcox (Democratic Services Officer), David Hickman (Head of Environment), Vanessa Strange (Head of Infrastructure Investment), John Coates (Head of Waste), Helen Jenkins-Knight (Sustainability Officer), Peter Fender (Economic Infrastructure Development Manager), Simon Wright (Principal Officer (Regeneration)) and Warren Peppard (Head of Development Management)

11 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE/REPLACEMENT MEMBERS

An apology for absence was received from Councillor A G Hagues.

12 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

13 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING HELD ON 14 JULY 2020

RESOLVED

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 July 2020 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

14 ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS AND LEAD OFFICERS

The Executive Councillor for Economy and Place reported on the following matters:

The South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone (FEZ) at Holbeach had been awarded a grant to deliver an £8.5m accelerated development project as part of the Government's Getting Building Fund. Last week work was completed on the first phase. Work on the next phase would begin within the next couple of weeks.

Construction of the extension to Skegness Business Park which would help to diversify the coastal economy had commenced on 10th August, with completion due in March 2021.

There was a mixed picture of how the visitor economy had been impacted by Covid-19. Since the relaxation of lockdown, some tourism businesses such as self-catering and caravan sites had reported very strong business, including forward business into both the autumn and into 2021. However, some other businesses had been finding that social distancing had made their business models uneconomic, and others were very dependent on the event and wedding market.

A Tourism Commission to be chaired by the Executive Councillor for Economy and Place was to be formed that would meet over the next six months to discuss how a county DMO (Destination Management Organisation) might work.

The new Huttoft Boatshed Café was nearing completion, with the off-site constructed modular building due to be installed and commissioned over the next month, which would help to raise the quality of the tourism offer.

In response to Covid-19, support had been given to small business tenants, which totalled around 200, in business centres and industrial units. A three-month suspension of rent collection from April to June had been offered, with phased repayment plans over the remainder of the year in order to reduce the pressure on their cash flow due to the impact of Covid-19.

Greater Lincolnshire had been successful in bidding for Department for International Trade (DIT) High Potential Opportunity (HPO) status for its food chain and technology base. Each year the Government promoted a small number of HPOs to showcase the investment potential in the UK to international investors.

The Government had asked the Growth Hub to distribute grants to help businesses respond to Covid-19 and had been allocated £735,000 of Government funding. Grants would be between £1,000 and £3,000 – so anywhere between 245 and 735 businesses would be able to get a grant. The grant pot had been hugely oversubscribed within an hour so it had been reluctantly decided to close the bidding round.

The Head of Environment reported on an opportunity to raise the profile of the County and promote Lincolnshire at a forthcoming DEFRA workshop to be attended by the Secretary of State.

15 SOUTH LINCOLNSHIRE FOOD ENTERPRISE ZONE (FEZ)

Consideration was given to a report from the Principal Officer, Regeneration, on the South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone (FEZ) in Holbeach. The vision for the FEZ was to create a high quality business park to meet demand from food technology businesses to take space close to existing food producers in South Holland. The

delivery strategy for the FEZ was for a phased approach to bring forward Phase I comprising approximately six hectares (15 acres) of land adjacent to the A151 to the north west of Holbeach which was owned by the Council.

The delivery of Phase I of the FEZ was a key priority for LCC and public sector investment. The wider economic benefits included new job creation, economic growth and enhanced prestige for south Lincolnshire as a centre for innovation and the development of cutting edge technology in the agri-food sector.

A hub building would be completed in 2022 and would include space for small and medium sized enterprises, business support facilities and space for networking, collaboration and potentially conference and catering facilities. The building would be instrumental in the creation of a "community" within the FEZ. The Hub would be built to a high design and energy efficiency standard. It was expected that the design and construction of the Hub would be done in such a way to allow for later extension and addition to the building as the FEZ grew and the need for additional support space and ancillary accommodation increased.

The Committee's views were sought on an initial proposal for the future branding of the scheme, recognising its strategic relationship with other FEZs in Greater Lincolnshire. The report included one suggestion that the scheme could be described as the "UK Food Valley" to reflect the South Lincolnshire FEZ's role and relationship with two other FEZ's being developed in Greater Lincolnshire (on the south bank of the Humber and at Hemswell Cliff) and similar schemes in East Anglia. Looked at as a whole, the South Lincolnshire FEZ sat at the centre of these schemes.

Members considered the report, and during the discussion the following comments were noted:

- Sufficient parking should be included for each plot.
- The layout of the park should be as attractive as possible.
- It would be preferred if the word 'Lincolnshire' could be incorporated in the branding of "UK Food Valley", however, it was recognised that the area covered other counties.
- There was a request for Committee members to receive an email detailing costs and any 'matched funding'.
- Where possible, consideration should be given to including electric vehicle charging points and other energy saving measures.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the update on implementation of Phase 1 of the South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone as set out in the report and provided feedback on the scheme as outlined above.

16 COASTAL TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE AND ARTS PROJECT

Consideration was given to a report from the Special Projects Officer, which outlined the recent tourism and infrastructure projects completed by the County Council and detailed those in the pipeline aimed at delivering coastal tourism and arts projects to develop the facilities and attractions that the Lincolnshire coast had to offer. The report outlined how the projects would be funded.

A new structure, celebrating the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrim Fathers would be installed at Scotia Creek near Boston later this year. The metal viewing platform would allow visitors to look out to the Wash and beyond, at an important spot in the story of the Mayflower Pilgrims and their voyage to New England in the 1600s. The joint project between Arts Council England and Lincolnshire County Council was part of a series of projects in the Boston area celebrating the Mayflower's 400th anniversary. The artwork would be installed in late November 2020 and because of the effects of Covid-19 on travel and tourism the majority of the Mayflower 400 celebrations had been put back to Summer 2021.

Reference was also made to the Haven Arts Project - a series of shelters and lookouts at Frampton Marsh and a series of historic giant mooring bollards positioned in Boston.

Members of Committee were invited to consider the approach to providing new facilities and attractions to the Lincolnshire Coast, to attract new visitors and encourage investment.

Members considered the report, and during the discussion the following comments were noted:

- The initiatives were welcomed. It was thought that they would enhance the local environment and further promote local Lincolnshire history.
- The on-going maintenance costs of any future initiatives, and who would be responsible for financing these, would need to be considered.
- The organiser of the Mayflower 400 celebrations was currently developing a programme of events for 2021 and it was confirmed that these would be publicised once launch dates were known.
- It was noted that the previous Mayflower memorial was not visible from the river bank, however the new memorial would be visible.
- There would be a need to ensure sufficient car parking spaces at the Huttoft site.
- The Executive Councillor for Economy and Place confirmed that he had requested that officers look at how the Coastal Country Park was managed and in particular car parking provision for the expected increase in visitor numbers in the future.

RESOLVED:

The Committee endorsed the approach to provide new facilities and attractions to the Lincolnshire Coast designed to attract new visitors and encourage investment, and submitted their comments as outlined above.

17 GREEN MASTER PLAN UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report by the Head of Environment, which provided a progress update on the Green Master Plan (GMP). On 17 May 2019, the Council had committed to making its activities carbon neutral by 2050. As a result, the Council had begun to develop a GMP as the mechanism that it would use to deliver net zero emissions. The GMP was a detailed action plan which set out Lincolnshire County Council's roadmap to how it would achieve carbon neutrality, as well as how the Council would support partners and communities in achieving a more sustainable future.

It was noted that consultation with key partners was coming to an end with only a few interviews left to complete. Initial feedback showed support for the overall approach of the GMP. Some key areas of concern raised had been around area wide emission calculations and monitoring and emissions from land use (likely to be a significant contributor to emissions in Lincolnshire). The conclusions of the consultation would be available in late September and would be included within the drafting of the GMP. The final version of the GMP would be presented for scrutiny in November with a view to final approval and sign off by the Council in February 2021. The Plan would be an on line resource and be regularly updated and reflect progress and achievements. Significant carbon reductions had already been made as a result of the impact of Covid -19 and the Council would look at sustaining these in the long term.

The Committee was requested to consider the development of the GMP and the options for delivery and publicity, including any existing networks or activities which could be used.

Members considered the report, and during the discussion the following comments were noted:

- Engagement with the New Towns Fund may be useful as they were interested in encouraging tree planting and the recreational use of reservoirs.
- Where possible the County Council should take a lead in developing projects which would set an example in order to influence partners and other organisations. The Council was currently looking to undertake modelling which would highlight where its lines of influence were in order that it could then target work through the GMP.
- It was recognised that there was huge public interest in environmental sustainability at the moment the progress on the GMP was noted.

RESOLVED:

The Committee noted the report and supported the progress to date on developing the Green Master Plan and submitted their comments as outlined above.

18 THE AGRICULTURE BILL

Consideration was given to a report from the Head of Infrastructure Investment, which provided an update on the current progress of the Agriculture Bill. The Committee had requested regular updates on the progress of the Bill and the state of the agricultural sector within Lincolnshire, which the report addressed.

The Agriculture Bill would provide the legal framework for the establishment of a new system of agricultural assistance for farmers and land managers. The Bill would include broad powers to current and future governments to provide financial assistance and policy interventions.

The report provided a focus on the Environmental Land Management Scheme (ELMS), which had an important connection to the wider environmental agenda – from biodiversity to carbon and had links to the Green Masterplan. The Committee was asked to consider the issues in the report and how members could interact with the Lincolnshire Agriculture and Horticulture Forum. Plans were being developed to bring the Lincolnshire Agriculture and Horticulture Forum, hosted by Lincolnshire County Council, together virtually in the autumn with the DEFRA ELMS team to help coordinate / promote a Lincolnshire ELMS program and to look to widen the membership and remit of the current Forum to be fit for purpose for the implementation of the Agricultural Bill roll out.

Members considered the report, and during the discussion the following comments were noted:

- Plans being developed to bring the Lincolnshire Agriculture and Horticulture Forum, hosted by Lincolnshire County Council, together virtually in the autumn with the DEFRA ELMS team were noted.
- A general invite to the Committee to attend the Forum was outlined as an option as membership at present was relatively fluid. Work was on going to encourage a wider range of views and engagement with the Forum. Councillors Mrs W Bowkett and C Matthews expressed an interest in attending the Forum.
- Lincolnshire Rural Support Network and County Farms Estate should be invited to attend a meeting of the Committee as soon as possible.
- The difficulties experienced by farmers this year in harvesting were noted. Particular reference was made to the effects of Covid-19 and the weather.
- A report back to the Committee would be given on farm labour supply and the 'pick for Britain' campaign. It was noted that encouraging young people to enter this labour market was a current issue.

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- There were concerns about the current trend of larger farms taking over smaller farms and the lack of support from Government for the agriculture sector.

RESOLVED:

1. That the report be noted and the work of the Agriculture and Horticulture Forum be endorsed;
2. That Lincolnshire Rural Support Network and the County Farms Estate be invited to make presentations to a meeting of the Committee as soon as possible.

19 BOSTON INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS

Consideration was given to a report from the Head of Development Management, which provided an overview of the projects and schemes proposed as part of the Boston Infrastructure Works. The Committee was invited to review the list of schemes and highlight for discussion any additional scrutiny activity which could be included for future updates.

The schemes included: Boston Dock Link Road (South End & St Johns Road); Investment to support growth in the area of the port and locations to the east of the town; Demolishing a Murco garage (200-202 London Road); Strategic Business Case for changes to freight rail loop out of the port; Dolphin Lane – Public realm enhancements; Sleaford Road/Brothertoft Road junction – Traffic signal refurbishment & pedestrian facility upgrade; A1137 Norfolk Street/Witham Place – Junction improvements; Funding a Boston Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan.

(Councillor M Griggs gave his apologies for the remainder of the meeting).

The schemes were in the developmental stages and Committee members were invited to view the full scope of the projects outside of the meeting. It was reported that the schemes were appreciated by the local residents, in particular, those which involved improvements for cyclists and pedestrians.

RESOLVED:

That the update on schemes be welcomed and noted.

20 ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee received a report by the Scrutiny Officer, which enabled the Committee to comment on the content of its work programme for the coming year to ensure that scrutiny activity was focussed where it could be of greatest benefit.

The Committee were advised that since the agenda had been issued, the following report *Review of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan* had been put back to the January Committee meeting. Future presentations to the Committee from the

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8 SEPTEMBER 2020

Lincolnshire Rural Support Network and County Farms Estate, as requested earlier on in the meeting, would be added to the work programme.

RESOLVED:

That the work programme and updates be agreed.

The meeting closed at 11.52 am



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

Report to:	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee
Date:	20 October 2020
Subject:	Introducing a Charging Policy for Pre-application Planning Advice

Summary:

This report seeks Committee support for introducing a charging policy for the Planning Services team when providing pre-application advice to prospective applicants/developers.

Actions Required:

The Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

1. Consider and comment on the proposed approach for the suggested levels of advice for different types of application, and the proposed costs for each of the different levels of advice.
2. Endorse the development and setting up of a formal charging regime for giving pre-application planning advice for minerals, waste and the County Councils own application based on the proposed Charging Schedule and exemptions as set out in Appendix A, to take effect from April 2021.
3. Recommend that the Head of Planning review the Charging Schedule after a minimum of 12 months from its implementation.

1. Background

- 1.1 The Council receives a wide range and number of pre-application enquiries from developers each year and currently pre-application advice is provided by officers free of charge. The time spent by officers and the information provided to developers when responding to these requests varies depending on the size and type of development proposed and the complexity and planning issues that might need to be considered. For example, for simple proposals the advice given might be limited to advising whether or not planning permission is required whereas for larger scale development officers could provide more detailed and specialist written advice and attend site meetings.

- 1.2 Under Section 93 of the Local Government Act 2003, the Council has the power to charge for providing discretionary services such as pre-application advice provided it is on a not-for-profit basis. Any fees charged for providing pre-application advice can therefore be set at a scale that covers the costs incurred in providing that service but should not be so excessive that they discourage prospective applicants from seeking such advice. Most mineral and waste planning authorities within the East Midlands region have already adopted and operate a chargeable pre-application advice service and so Lincolnshire County Council is one of the last remaining authorities to have such a scheme in place. It is therefore proposed to introduce a scheme as this would not only reflect the service offered by other authorities but also present an opportunity to improve the quality and consistency of the advice given to developers which in turn will help to ensure the submission of better quality applications and planning decisions.
- 1.3 In developing a pre-application charging scheme for Lincolnshire, consideration has been given to a number of sources including:
- Research and reference to pre-application best practice guidelines (including charging) produced by Central Government and the Planning Advisory Service;
 - Reviewing the pre-application offer and fee charging arrangements of other Councils including other mineral and waste planning authorities within the East Midlands region (e.g. Derbyshire County Council, Nottinghamshire County Council, Rutland County Council, etc);
 - A consideration of the different types of request received and duration of the tasks performed by officers when giving pre-application advice in order to determine the amount of officer time spent;
 - Taking into account the charging policy and agreed fee rate recently adopted by Planning Services for carrying out work associated with Planning Performance Agreements.

Proposed Charging Scheme

- 1.4 Having reviewed the above it is clear that this is a no one-size fits all approach or model that is used when establishing a chargeable pre-application service. Instead Local Planning Authorities are encouraged to take a flexible, tailored and timely approach to the service they offer, which is appropriate to the nature and scale of a development proposed. Various different approaches and charging models have therefore been by adopted by other authorities which have been tailored to the type of service they wish to offer. For example, some authorities have set fees based on a percentage of the statutory planning application fee or by using different "per hour" rates depending on level/seniority of the officer giving the pre-application advice. In other cases different packages or levels of service might be offered depending upon the type or size of development and the form of advice provided (e.g. written note, meeting, etc).

- 1.5 For Lincolnshire it is suggested that any charging scheme introduced should be structured, clear and easy to understand whilst also allowing some scope for extension or amendment if additional advice is required. The preferred charging scheme is therefore suggested to be based on four main categories reflecting the different type and scale of developments typically dealt with by Planning Services (i.e. Significant, Large, Medium and Small). The scheme would however also make clear that certain forms of development and advice would be exempt from the charge such as those simply seeking confirmation that planning permission is required or where a proposal relates to the need of people with disabilities.
- 1.6 Prospective applicants would receive pre-application advice in the form of either a site meeting and written advice or written advice only dependant on the development category. This advice would (where required) include officers from other service areas and specialisms within the Places Directorate including minerals and waste policy, archaeology and the historic environment and the highways and floods teams. The recommended applicable fee for each development category is calculated based on a rate of £55 per hour reflecting the amount of time required for the officers to attend and provide the level of advice offered (e.g. cover any planning background review, constraints checks, travel time to attend meetings and production of final written advice). This rate is the same as that which has recently been adopted for work associated with Planning Performance Agreements..
- 1.7 Where additional advice or subsequent meetings are requested outside the normal offer, this would be charged at the same hourly rate. This approach would not only aid the calculation of fees but also make it easier for prospective applicants to understand the costs involved and what they can expect from the service.
- 1.8 A copy of the proposed charging scheme, the fee chargeable for each category and list of exemptions can be found in Appendix A.

2. Conclusion

- 2.1 The Committee is asked to support the development and setting up of a formal charging regime for giving pre-application planning advice based on the proposed fee schedule set out in Appendix A. The Council cannot make a profit from the introduction of the proposed charging regime but rather only cover costs of the advice being provided. The proposed level of fees are therefore calculated on the basis of comparing the costs charged by other mineral and waste planning authorities operating within the East Midlands region and takes into account the cost of Officer's time in undertaking such work.
- 2.2 There is no statutory requirement to provide a public consultation period prior to the introduction of any charges, nevertheless, it is recommended that a notice be placed on the Council's website at least four weeks prior

to the start date. It is proposed that the fee charging takes effect from April 2021.

3.3 The Committee is therefore asked to:

- Consider and comment on the proposed approach for the suggested different levels of advice for different types of application, and the proposed costs for each of the different levels of advice; and,
- Endorse the development and setting up of a formal charging regime for giving pre-application planning advice for minerals, waste and the County Councils own application based on the proposed Charging Schedule and exemptions as set out in Appendix A, to take effect from April 2021.

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

N/A

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

Risk that applicants may be put off seeking advice before submitting applications.

The quality of applications received will improve as applicants will have clarity about what information is required. This will help reduce the need to seek further information once submitted and therefore reduce the time taken to process applications or refusals due to insufficient or poor quality submissions.

The fees charged will help recover the costs for time that is currently spent by Officers in giving this advice for free.

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Proposed Charging Schedule

5. Background Papers

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Local Government Act 2003	www.legislation.gov.uk
Planning Practice Guidance 'Before submitting an application' (MHCLG, 2014)	www.gov.uk/government/collections/planning-practice-guidance
Pre-application Suite by the Planning Advisory Service	www.local.gov.uk/pas/pas-topics/planning-applications/pre-application-suite

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Environment & Economy Scrutiny Committee Paper dated 14 January 2020 "Introducing a Charging Policy for Archaeology Advice and Planning Services"	https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s31067/7.0%20Charging%20Policy%20for%20Archaeology%20Advice%20and%20Planning%20Services.pdf

This report was written by Marc Willis, who can be contacted on 01522 554817 or marc.willis@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Appendix A – Proposed Pre-application Advice Charging Schedule

Category	Type of development	Level of advice	Fee
Significant	<p>All new quarries, oil and gas sites or landfill sites.</p> <p>Any change or extension to an existing quarry, oil and gas site or landfill site* where extraction/disposal exceeds 50,000 tonnes per annum or sites over 5 hectares.</p> <p>All new waste management facilities processing in excess of 50,000 tonnes per annum or any change or extension to an existing facility of 5 hectares or more.</p> <p>Any development involving the creation or change of use of 2,000sq.m or more floorspace or sites over 5 hectares.</p> <p>Any hazardous waste management facility processing over 5,000 tonnes per annum.</p>	Site meeting and written advice	£770 +VAT (up to 10 hours)
Large	<p>Any change or extension to an existing quarry, oil and gas site or landfill site* where extraction/disposal is between 25,000 and 50,000 tonnes per annum or sites over 2 hectares (but less than 5 hectares).</p> <p>All new waste management facilities processing between 25,000 and 50,000 tonnes per annum or any change or extension to an existing facility on sites over 2 hectares (but less than 5 hectares).</p> <p>Any development involving the creation or change of use of between 1,000sq.m and 2,000sq.m or more floorspace or sites in excess of 2 hectare (but less than 5 hectares).</p>	Site meeting and written advice	£660 +VAT (up to 8 hours)

Category	Type of development	Level of advice	Fee
Medium	<p>Any change or extension to an existing quarry, oil and gas site or landfill site* where extraction/disposal is between 5,000 and 25,000 tonnes per annum or sites over 1 hectare (but less than 2 hectares).</p> <p>Any new waste management facilities processing between 5,000 and 25,000 tonnes per annum or any change or extension to an existing facility on sites over 1 hectare (but less than 2 hectares).</p> <p>Any development involving the creation or change of use of floorspace between 500sq.m and 1,000sq.m or sites over 1 hectare (but less than 2 hectares).</p>	Site meeting and written advice	£550 +VAT (up to 6 hours)
Smaller	<p>Any minerals and waste development not falling within the Significant, Large or Medium categories.</p> <p>Any development involving the creation or change of use of floorspace less than 500sq.m or sites less than 1 hectare.</p>	Written advice only	£310+VAT (up to 4 hours)
Other	<p>Confirmation as to whether or not planning permission is required.</p> <p>Any proposal for which there is no planning fee (e.g. Listed Building Consent).</p> <p>Any proposal relating to the needs of people with disabilities.</p>	Written advice only	Free

*Includes a lateral extension, deepening or increase in void space or life of the site or any Section 73 application to vary or amend conditions

The above fees include the amount of officer time that would be required to provide the level of advice identified including planning background review, constraints checks, travel time to attend meetings and production of final written advice.

Where additional advice or subsequent meetings are requested outside the normal offer, this would be charged at an hourly rate of £55 per hour (+VAT). Planning Performance Agreements are also subject of a separate fee.



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

Report to:	Environment & Economy Scrutiny Committee
Date:	20 October 2020
Subject:	Adult Skills & Family Learning Programme 2020/21 and the impact of Covid-19

Summary:

This report provides a summary of changes made to the delivery of the Adult Learning programme, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, and outlines its potential impact on future programme delivery.

Actions Required:

Members of the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee are invited to review the Adult Learning Service's response to the Covid-19 crisis in respect of helping to future proof the delivery of the Council's Adult Learning programme, and the continuing impact of Covid-19 on programme delivery.

1. Background

The Council's Adult Skills & Family Learning programme provides training for around 6,000 Lincolnshire residents each year. A large part of the programme is subcontracted to training providers across Lincolnshire ensuring residents have access to high quality, local provision.

Context

At the height of the pandemic all classroom learning provision was cancelled. Combined with very limited experience of delivering online and challenges in accessing learners, the Adult Learning Service set itself two main targets which were to:

1. Maintain learning for those learners on programme
2. Support staff and providers and reduce some of the anxieties where possible.

In response, we refreshed the service's website, www.2aspire.org.uk, to provide learning at home advice and activities, careers and job hunting advice and links to online learning. We provided online training, buddying and mentoring for our tutors and providers, and changed the curriculum offer to better suit the online

arena. Through this we have been able to maintain a learning programme for our learners which, in part, have helped them to complete the qualifications they signed up for back in August 2019. We are particularly pleased that we have been able to continue to deliver our Construction courses to groups of long term unemployed learners to achieve their CSCS card (Construction Skills Certification Scheme) to gain employment in Construction. Progression into work from these Construction courses has been very positive, despite the on-going challenges.



To support the continued development of the Adult Learning programme, we are launching an online learning platform this month. This will provide our tutors and providers with a single, robust, secure and integrated system to create personalised learning environments. The service will be better equipped to reach out to its learners and ensure continuity of provision regardless of whether or not they are able to attend classroom learning.

Challenges

Working in the current climate has increased the risk of under-delivering against the targets agreed for the 2020/21 academic year, as outlined in Appendix A: *ASFL 2020-21 planned programme*. These challenges include:

- Increasing uncertainty as a result of the spread of the virus and unwillingness to attend classroom learning
- Reduced appetite for staff development from smaller businesses because they are focussing on survival
- Difficulties in delivering qualification programmes due to restrictions and lack of IT equipment
- Lack of suitable school teaching space to ensure the safety of those involved leading to the postponement / cancellation of school based programmes
- Fragility of local providers, combined with restrictions, impacting on community engagement

A risk analysis has been undertaken to mitigate against risks identified. As a result, a wider range of provision has been commissioned to encourage learner engagement, as well as planning for 30% of the provision to be delivered online to reduce reliance on classroom delivery. A flexible curriculum, combined with a

blended delivery model, has helped to improve Provider resilience. A promotional programme is in place to raise the awareness of the changing online offer.

The Adult Learning Service continues to deliver a responsive programme, offering a flexible approach to accessing Adult Learning courses to meet the changing needs of Providers and learners alike; positioning itself as part of the post Covid-19 recovery.

2. Conclusion

Members of the Committee are invited to comment on changes made, in year, by the Adult Skills & Family Learning Service, and the continuing impact of Covid-19 on programme delivery.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

Risks and Impact Analysis have been included in the body of the paper

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	ASFL 2020-21 planned programme

5. 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 Thea Croxall, who can be contacted on 07789 982248 or Thea.croxall@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

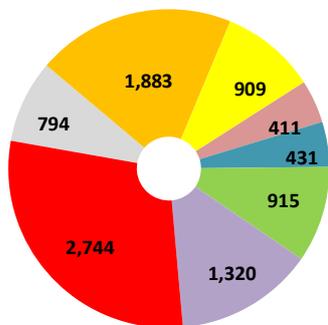
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Adult Skills and Family Learning Service Planned Provision for 2020/2021

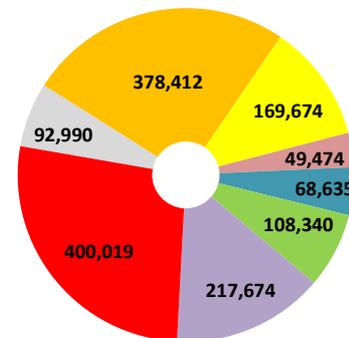
Breakdown of Sub-Contracted Provision by District Council Area

District Council Area	Non Accredited Enrolments	Expected qualifications	TOTAL enrolments	% of TOTAL enrolments	Non Accredited Cost	Qualifications Cost	TOTAL Cost	% of TOTAL Funding
Boston Borough	794	-	794	8.4%	£92,990	£0	£92,990	6.3%
East Lindsey	1,550	333	1,883	20.0%	£176,280	£202,132	£378,412	25.5%
Lincoln City	783	126	909	9.7%	£135,300	£34,374	£169,674	11.4%
North Kesteven	381	30	411	4.4%	£43,354	£6,120	£49,474	3.3%
South Holland	411	20	431	4.6%	£47,130	£21,505	£68,635	4.6%
South Kesteven	852	63	915	9.7%	£95,590	£12,750	£108,340	7.3%
West Lindsey	1,158	162	1,320	14.0%	£130,520	£87,154	£217,674	14.7%
Distance Learning	2,206	538	2,744	29.2%	£268,216	£131,803	£400,019	26.9%
TOTAL	8,135	1,272	9,407	100.0%	£989,380	£495,837	£1,485,217	100.0%

Total Enrolments

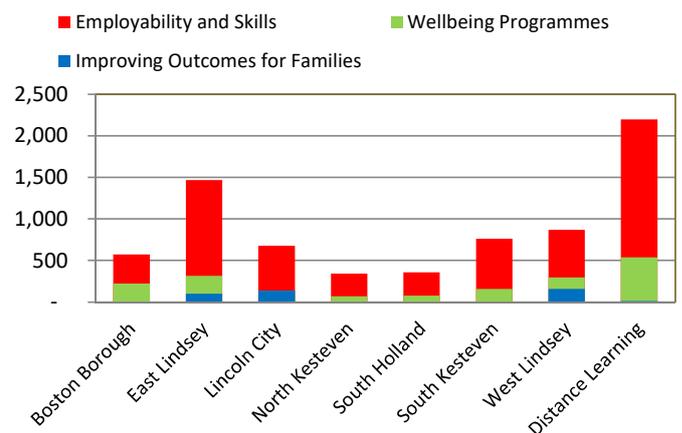


Total Cost

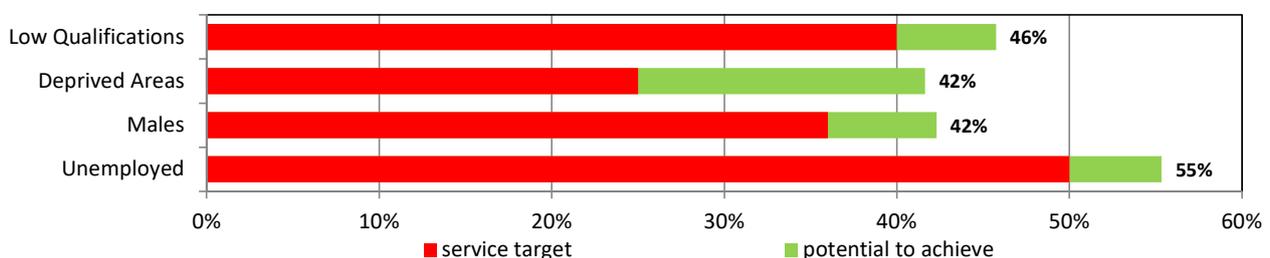


Enrolments by Commissioning Theme

District Council Area	Employability and Skills	Wellbeing Programmes	Improving Outcomes for Families
Boston Borough	572	222	-
East Lindsey	1,467	316	100
Lincoln City	676	93	140
North Kesteven	341	70	-
South Holland	356	75	-
South Kesteven	759	156	-
West Lindsey	869	295	156
Distance Learning	2,196	536	12
TOTAL	7,236	1,763	408

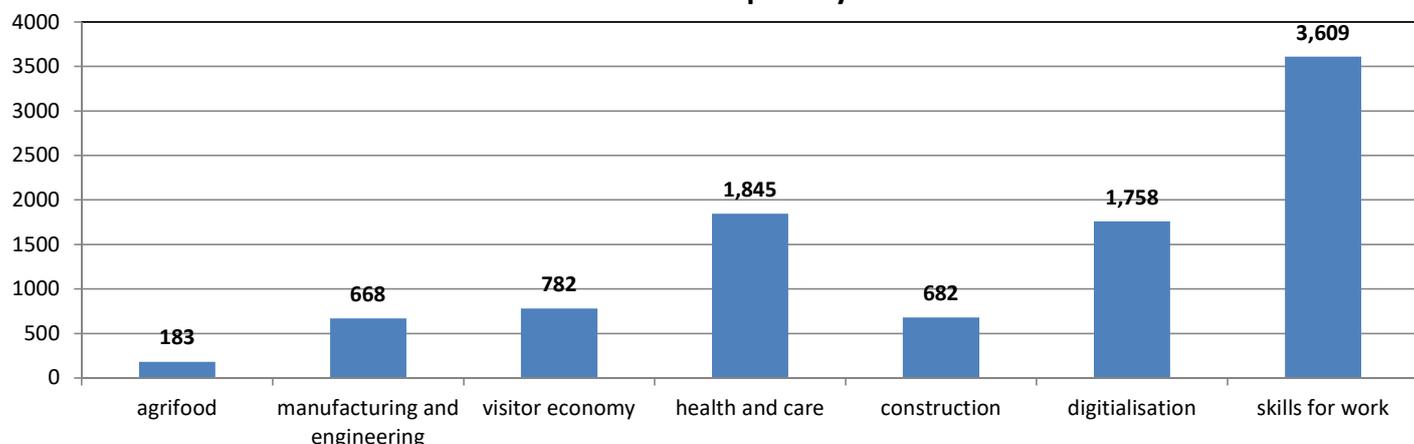


Target Groups



Adult Skills and Family Learning Service Planned Provision for 2020/2021

Planned enrolments linked to LEP priority sectors



Planned Qualifications

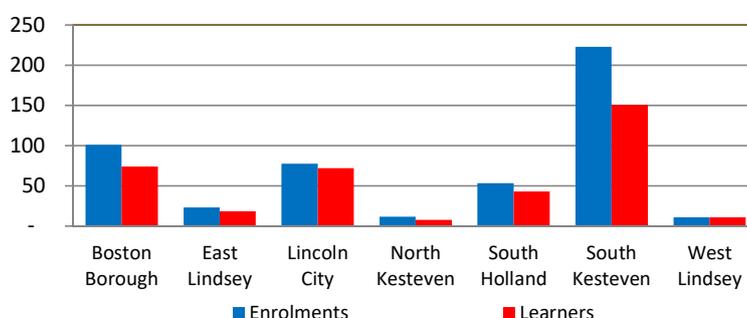
Functional Skills English and maths - range of locations across Lincolnshire
 GCSE English, maths - Mablethorpe, Gainsborough, Market Rasen
 GCSE Science – Mablethorpe
 Level 1 and Level 2 Computerised Bookkeeping - Grantham, Sleaford, Stamford and Distance Learning
 Level 1 and Level 2 Manual Bookkeeping – Grantham, Sleaford, Stamford and Distance Learning
 Level 1 and Level 2 Payroll – Grantham, Sleaford, Stamford and Distance Learning
 AAT Award in Accounting Software - Skegness
 Adult Social Care L1 – South Holland
 Customer Services L1 - Lincoln and Distance Learning
 Award in Skills for Working in Business, Administration & Customer Service - Gainsborough and Mablethorpe
 Certificate in IT User Skills L1 and L2 - Mablethorpe, Market Rasen, Skegness, The Wolds and Distance Learning
 BIAB Certificate in Retail Knowledge L2 - Skegness and Distance Learning
 Health and Safety Awareness - Distance Learning
 Psychology L2 – Gainsborough, Mablethorpe, Market Rasen and Distance learning
 Basic Construction - Distance Learning
 Award in Occupational Studies for the Workplace - Gainsborough, Mablethorpe, Market Rasen
 Structure of the Construction Industry - Lincoln and Distance Learning
 Construction Industry awards in blockwork, brickwork, plastering - Lincoln and Distance learning
 Construction awards in Wall and floor tiling, roofing - Lincoln and Distance learning
 BIAB award in Food safety L2 - Skegness
 Personal and Social Development - Distance Learning
 Personal Licence – Skegness
 World Host Customer Service – Skegness
 Hair and Beauty Diploma L2 and L3 – Skegness
 Hairdressing Diploma L1, L2 and L3 – Skegness
 Mental Health Awareness - Gainsborough, Mablethorpe, Market Rasen
 Traineeships - Skegness
 Certificate in Counselling Skills - Distance Learning

Adult Skills and Family Learning Service Planned Provision for 2020/21

Provider	Enrolments	Learners	Value	Value
			2020/21	2019/20
1st Care Training	20	20	21,505	"new"
3counties Accounts training service	783	441	98,558	98,557
Abbey Access Training	150	117	71,982	54,717
Boston College	657	464	78,840	163,910
CICT Training	390	254	52,650	"new"
CLIP	1,146	753	265,596	210,058
Lincolnshire & Rutland Education Business Partnership	160	112	21,280	"new"
ESH Consultancy & Training	320	282	43,200	29,640
First College	566	343	143,322	57,245
Grantham College	272	176	29,920	45,255
Grimsby Institute of Further and Higher Education	300	222	33,000	22,200
Gainsborough Trinity Foundation	204	134	24,480	14,400
Lincoln College	258	172	28,380	82,296
Linkage	105	88	13,650	"new"
New College Stamford	262	171	30,130	52,920
Pelican Trust	572	400	71,500	78,000
RHG Consult Ltd	791	556	97,892	78,400
Seagull Recycling Ltd	280	183	30,800	26,770
Seagull Recycling Ltd LLDD	150	99	16,500	17,050
SKA Online	590	385	72,986	72,266
Skegness College of Vocational Training	127	91	68,183	59,287
Soteria Solutions Ltd	460	422	50,600	50,400
TaylorITEX CIC	340	236	37,400	35,820
Train4	504	50	82,865	"new"
	9,407	6,171	1,485,217	1,150,634

Breakdown of Directly Delivered Family Learning Provision by District Council Area

District Council Area	Enrolments	Learners
Boston Borough	101	74
East Lindsey	23	18
Lincoln City	78	72
North Kesteven	12	8
South Holland	53	43
South Kesteven	223	151
West Lindsey	11	11
TOTAL	500	376



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

Report to:	Environment & Economy Scrutinee Committee
Date:	20 October 2020
Subject:	Waste Strategy Update

Summary:

This report provides an update on strategic waste matters, and invites comments from the committee to feed into the review of the 10 strategic objectives set out in the Waste Strategy for Lincolnshire adopted by the Lincolnshire Waste Partnership (LWP) in January 2019.

Actions Required:

Members are asked to note this update and to provide their feedback on the attached draft report. Their comments will then be taken into account in finalising the report to be presented to the LWP at their meeting on 19th November.

1. Background

National Waste Strategy & Policy

During 2019 this Scrutiny Committee had input into the LCC/LWP responses to several consultations on key policies originally set out in Defra's Resources and Waste Strategy for England. Although COVID-19 has delayed some of the next stages of this work, including the next round of consultations, Defra continue to aim for the 2023 introduction of policies including:

- Consistency of waste collections – e.g. mandatory collection of food waste,
- Enhanced Producer Responsibility (EPR) – A mechanism whereby packaging manufacturers will be financially responsible for the collection and recycling/disposal of their products, and
- Deposit Return Schemes (DRS) – Charging a deposit for certain types of packaging which the public can reclaim upon returning the item for recycling.

To reinforce this, Defra's draft Waste Management Plan for England reiterates these policies. Defra are currently consulting on that draft Plan although we do not propose to submit an LCC response due to the narrow scope of the questions – They are limited to specific technical details rather than allowing for comments on the policies themselves.

Review of Lincolnshire Strategic Objectives

The Lincolnshire Waste Partnership's (LWP) Waste Strategy for Lincolnshire, which was formally adopted in January 2019, includes a list of 10 strategic objectives which this Committee helped to shape.

Much has happened since then (e.g. COVID-19 and evolving national policy) so, in order to ensure the continued relevance of the Strategy, a review is being undertaken to consider:

- The LWP's progress towards meeting those objectives, and
- Whether any of those objectives might need updating.

The LWP will receive, at their meeting in November, a report based on the attached notes (Appendix A). As things currently stand in those notes, the report is likely to conclude that:

- The objectives are all still valid and are in line with emerging national policy, and
- The LWP are making good progress towards achieving most of the objectives, although COVID-19 has had a negative impact on some, particularly our recycling rate.

2. Conclusion

This committee is asked to consider the proposed contents and conclusions of this review of strategic objectives, and to suggest any further items which they think should be included in the report to the LWP.

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

No

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

Risks and impacts will be considered in preparation of the final paper for the LWP. Any input from Scrutiny can be included in that process.

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Draft report - Review of Waste Strategy Objectives

5. Background Papers

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Waste Strategy for Lincolnshire	LWP page of LCC website – https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/recycling-waste/lincolnshire-waste-partnership

This report was written by Matthew Michell, who can be contacted on 07825 388134 or matthew.michell@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

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	Strategic Objective	LWP Progress	COVID Impacts	National Policy – Collections	National Policy – Other	Summary
1	To improve the quality and therefore commercial value of our recycling stream.	Paper & card trial has increased quality of those materials and reduced contamination of remaining MDR. This will now be implemented more widely commencing in Spring 2021.	MDR quantity down overall but contamination levels unaffected.	Consistency: Gov't are defining list of materials to collect & we need to comply. Will hopefully help to improve clarity of message and thus quality. Food Waste: Giving a specified container for food waste should divert some contamination.	EPR: Will help to fund collection of recyclables although, depending how it's defined, might we only get "net costs" and miss out on financial benefits of income for quality material? DRS: Significant quantity of material could be diverted from current stream. Whilst losing some valuable material, savings on sorting costs should offset this.	Impacts of national policy (e.g. EPR & DRS) difficult to predict but improving quality will always benefit us. Trial demonstrates that twin-stream collections, with accompanying comms messages, help to achieve this objective.
2	To move towards a common set of recycling materials.	List and publicity now consistent across LWP. Regularly reviewed and updated if necessary.		Consistency: Need to ensure we align with any changes in the gov't list of materials. Food Waste: n/a	EPR: May prove a financial incentive for manufacturers to use different materials, so proportions of mix may change. DRS: Diversion of specific materials which gov't may then remove from their required list.	Now achieved but need to keep an eye on national policy to ensure continued compliance.
3	To consider the introduction of separate food waste collections where technically, environmentally and economically practicable.	Trial has demonstrated that, although technically possible, these are currently not economically practicable.		Consistency: n/a Food Waste: Likely to be mandatory from 2023 but will be funded as a "new burden".	EPR: n/a DRS: n/a	Work commencing to establish disposal capacity (AD) for countywide collections when they become mandatory.

	Strategic Objective	LWP Progress	COVID Impacts	National Policy – Collections	National Policy – Other	Summary
4	To explore new opportunities of promoting waste minimisation and of using all waste as a resource in accordance with the waste hierarchy.	Separate paper & card has higher quality, allowing for recycling into better products. Ongoing communication campaigns consistent across the county.	Overall HH waste tonnage is down so need to find a way to maintain that whilst improving the recycling rate which has fallen.	Consistency: n/a Food Waste: n/a	EPR: Requirement to fund processing of their materials may encourage manufacturers to use more recyclable products. DRS: Some material may be recycled which would otherwise have become litter.	Need to consider how we can promote minimisation and reuse.
5	To contribute to the UK recycling targets of 50% by 2020 and 55% by 2025.	LWP recycling rate rose in 2019/20 but has now been hit by COVID.	Recycling rate has fallen and needs to be addressed.	Consistency: n/a Food Waste: This will make a step-change in our recycling rate from 2023.	EPR: Manufacturers may use more recyclable materials to save on their pass-through costs. DRS: Diverted material may not count towards LWP rate so may need to lobby for it to count or set a lower target.	LWP rate had grown in 2019/20 but has been hit by COVID. Rollout of twin-stream, with accompanying comms, should help to address this, as will food waste.
6	To find the most appropriate ways to measure our environmental performance, and set appropriate targets.	2 new KPIs in place to measure Waste Hierarchy. Soon to approve measures for carbon, contamination & customer-satisfaction.	Targets set for 2020/21 for the new KPIs may become largely irrelevant.	Consistency: n/a Food Waste: n/a	EPR: n/a DRS: n/a	May miss 2020/21 targets due to COVID impacts. Continue to develop full suite of other measures for 2021/22.
7	To seek to reduce our carbon footprint.	It has been proposed that the LWP have a Carbon Management Plan.		Consistency: n/a Food Waste: Need to assess whether benefits of recycling outweigh additional emissions from collections.	EPR: n/a DRS: Diversion of some materials may reduce the number of trips required by RCVs to disposal points.	If agreed, a Carbon Management Plan will help us to set out a way forwards for this which ties in with each council's own plans.

	Strategic Objective	LWP Progress	COVID Impacts	National Policy – Collections	National Policy – Other	Summary
8	To make an objective assessment of what further waste processing/disposal capacity is required and, as necessary, secure appropriate capacity.	Seeking ways to develop AD capacity to process food waste if, as proposed nationally, it becomes mandatory.		Consistency: n/a Food Waste: Suitable processing capacity (AD?) required by 2023.	EPR: Funding available for any additional capacity which may be required due to population growth? DRS: n/a	Need to focus initially on AD capacity to process food waste from 2023. Possible tie-in with commercial food waste?
9	To regularly review the LWP governance model in order to provide the best opportunity to bring closer integration and the implementation of the objectives set by the strategy.	Established first shared post – LWP Project Manager. Already seeing benefits through success of P&C trial and proposed rollout.		Consistency: n/a Food Waste: n/a	EPR: n/a DRS: n/a	Other shared posts coming for twin-stream rollout. Need to consider whether (and when?) to do a formal governance review.
10	To consider appropriate innovative solutions in the delivery of our waste management services.	Trials of new collections for food waste and P&C.		Consistency: n/a Food Waste: Consider a variety of options both for collection and processing.	EPR: Funding may be based on a formula so may enable us to make savings if we can find more efficient ways of collecting & disposing. DRS: n/a	In planning any new project or service, we need to consider whether there are any innovative options.

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

Report to:	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee
Date:	20 October 2020
Subject:	Lincolnshire LEADER Programmes

Summary:

This Report sets out the background and performance of the four Lincolnshire LEADER Programmes to date, provides case studies and an overview of emerging business needs based on the recently closed LEADER grant call.

The report invites Committee to recommend the commissioning of a LEADER Evaluation encompassing the programme and other areas of rural activity and a Rural Engagement Programme. These are intended as vehicles to establish current and future economic needs and opportunities in order to help drive sustainable rural growth as part of the COVID-19 economic recovery activities (short and long term) and to inform the Council's advocacy and influencing role.

Actions Required:

The Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee is invited to:

1. Consider and review the pattern and performance of the LEADER programmes to date - both pre and post COVID-19.
2. Endorse the proposed evaluation and engagement approach of the LEADER programmes recommended in the report, to inform future policy and activity to support sustainable joined up rural growth in Lincolnshire.

1. Background

LEADER 2014-2020 is a rural funding programme aimed at creating jobs, economic growth and community benefits. It is implemented under the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) and reflects a mandated top-slice of funding from the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD). In England, it is managed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) though the Rural Payments Agency (RPA).

LEADER is a locally-based bottom up programme. The grant funding is available to local businesses, communities, farmers, foresters and land managers and is managed by a Local Action Group (LAG) comprising local public, private, third sector members with an appropriate sectoral balance.

Broadly, each Programme focuses the funding around 6 national LEADER priorities to boost rural economic growth through:

- a) supporting micro and small businesses and farm diversification
- b) boosting rural tourism
- c) increasing farm productivity
- d) increasing forestry productivity (excludes Wash Fens Programme)
- e) providing rural services and
- f) providing cultural and heritage activities

LEADER in Lincolnshire

Lincolnshire has 4 geographically specific LEADER Programmes and the Council is the Accountable Body. The headline performance of the programmes is set out in Table 1.

Table 1					
	Coastal Action Zone	Lindsey Action Zone	Kestevens	Wash and Fens	Total
SPEND/ALLOCATIONS (to date) PER PROGRAMME –<u>NOT</u> including Summer Call and on-going costs of post completion monitoring					
Project Commitment (to date)	739,191	1,907,000	1,409,000	1,507,000	5,562,191
PROJECT NUMBERS BY PRIORITY AND PROGRAMME					
Micro and small businesses and farm diversification	5	25	11	4	45
Rural Tourism	5	5	8	8	26
Farm Productivity	9	35	15	21	80
Forestry Productivity	0	2	4	NA	6
Rural Services	2	2	2	0	6
Culture and Heritage	1	3	0	1	5
TOTAL PROJECTS	22	72	40	34	168
JOBS					
Jobs contracted	28	84.5	55	87	254.5
Average cost per job (£30,000 RDPE Growth Programme Average)	£26,399	£22,568	£25,631	£17,326	£22,981

LEADER grants are capital only and projects are eligible for a grant of at least £2,500 and as a general rule of thumb, under de minimis, is the maximum grant is approximately £145,000. Grants are typically limited to a maximum of 40% of the project's total eligible costs. Although there are various exceptions to this.

Appendix A includes a series of slides which set out some case studies to demonstrate the types and variety of positive interventions and support which LEADER has enabled in Lincolnshire. A link to a video compilation of case studies is also included in the slides.

Overall, the Programmes have been received positively in the county with a wide variety of projects receiving funding or being referred by programme staff to alternative sources by working closely with the Growth Hub and other funding advisors. A key benefit of the programme has been the leverage created, with LEADER meeting only a proportion of project costs – the rural investment it has catalysed has been significant.

LEADER Grant Call – Summer 2020

A summer call for new applications was launched in June 2020 to allocate the remaining £400,000 of funding. The reasoning for this was three-fold: to maximise grant investment in the rural economy, to demonstrate the ability to spend contracted funding and to respond to the needs of the rural economy post COVID-19.

This call resulted in 87 Expressions of Interest (EOIs) being submitted and processed with 78 being invited to proceed to Full Application (FA). Whilst all LEADER criteria must be met, an additional weighting to jobs created has been attached to the call together with a demonstrable ability to deliver the project and claim the funding by the 31st December 2020. This has yielded 33 FAs requesting a total grant value of £845,595. Fewer than half of the applications can be funded. Any drop out to date has been due to ineligible activity or an applicant's decision not to proceed based on a variety of factors including the likelihood of success. A position statement by programme appears in Table 2.

Table 2					
Summer Call 2020	Coastal Action Zone	Lindsey Action Zone	Kestevens	Wash and Fens	Total
EOIs Received	10	33	25	19	87
EOIs Rejected (Ineligible)	0	5	2	2	9
EOIs Invited to full application	10	28	23	17	78
Full Applications not submitted	6	16	14	9	45
Full Applications Received	4	12	9	8	33
Applications that will create jobs	3	4	6	7	19
Applications with no jobs	1	8	4	1	14

The level of demand generated by the call far exceeded expectation, at one point it was anticipated that if all enquiries and EOIs materialised, only 1:6 of proposals could be approved based on funding availability. There was particular demand from farmers around seed drill purchases but business and rural tourism interest was also generated. It must be noted that given the deadline for claiming the funding is 31st December 2020, the call was skewed to "one-off purchases" and whilst more detailed analysis will be required, it can be concluded that rural businesses and organisations:

- a. Are seeking funding
- b. Have cash reserves to provide match funding - generally 60% of project costs available and
- c. Are still looking to create employment.

As LEADER is a funder of last resort, without which projects cannot proceed, it is reasonable to assume that grant support will be a key component of the future recovery of the rural economy.

Rural Evaluation and Engagement Programme

A full quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the LEADER programmes is not only best practice but could also be critical to informing the Council's future role in driving rural economic recovery and growth and how future Community Led Local Development (CLLD) could build on the LEADER model and the rural engagement generated thus far.

However, there are opportunities to build on this further in order to assess emerging needs around areas not covered by the LEADER Programmes (geographically and thematically). This could include an evaluation of rural needs and opportunities in line with:

- a) The emerging Greater Lincolnshire Tourism Action Plan (nature tourism and leisure cycling and walking)
- b) The emerging Local Transport Plan and connectivity (broadband/digital, highways, public transport, cycling etc.)
- c) Rural business premises and hubs (cost/supply/demand/location)
- d) Employment and skills needs (including digital exclusion, the Lifetime Skills Agenda and transferrable apprenticeships in a rural setting),
- e) Access to services and
- f) The inter-connections between villages/towns/coast and particularly the capture of rural benefits from Town Deals and coastal investment.

In addition to the Evaluation Report, a Rural Opportunities Positioning Statement could be produced to help the Council focus on key rural investment priorities and align with emerging plans such as the Strategic Investment Development Plan and the Local Transport Plan 5 (LTP5). This could be underpinned by a one off or an on-going Rural Engagement Programme, building on existing LAG relationships and drawing in new businesses, organisations and stakeholders in order that emerging rural priorities can be identified and updated in real time, accounting for the impact of COVID-19 and other factors, setting a rural agenda around "What next for rural Lincolnshire – investment needs and fulfilling our potential".

Together the Evaluation, the Engagement project outputs and emerging national, regional and local data could be brought together as a strategic 'Rural advocacy and future funding business case' for the County in preparation for future funding opportunities including UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) to ensure that rural business and communities are appropriately included.

2. Conclusion

The LEADER Programme has produced some very positive results in the county in terms of jobs created, investment and leverage. Of critical importance has been the role of the LAGs in guiding these investment decisions to areas of greatest need and impact together with the work of officers in supporting projects to access funding.

The take up of grants in the current call demonstrates a demand for external funding support across several sectors. This particularly relates to business needs in response to the impact of the pandemic.

Given there is a narrow window of opportunity ahead of decisions on UKSPF and other funding being made available by government as part of its COVID-19 response, it is prudent to pull together a robust case for investment in the county's rural economy at a time when much of the government's levelling up agenda is focused on towns and cities.

In evaluating the LEADER Programme and extending that scope to current rural needs and opportunities and engaging with further with rural businesses, stakeholders and communities, the Council can draw together a prioritised approach to rural investment going forward. This in turn can be refined and tested with emerging data to produce critical insights and information to support the case for government investment in the county's rural economy and to add value and focus to the Council's advocacy and influencing role.

3. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

The Risks and Impact Analysis will be undertaken during the procurement of the Evaluation work and built into ongoing project management of that work and the delivery of its findings.

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	LEADER Project Case Studies

5. 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 Mandy Ramm, who can be contacted on 07917 520402 or mandy.ramm@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Report to the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee 20th October 2020

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Lincolnshire LEADER Programmes Appendix A PROJECT CASE STUDIES

Cheers Nurseries, Kirton

2 grants totalling £116,080 to purchase an automated transplanter and seeder , a sensor controlled transplanter, thermal screens and rain water harvesting to mechanise operations and improve output. Four permanent jobs created



- Began as a half-acre site in 1987, operations currently cover 6.5 acres over 3 sites
- Produce 150,000 packs of bedding plants and 450,000 packs of vegetables per annum. Propagation facilities are used to grow vegetable modules for local farmers and over 30 vegetable lines are supplied to Wyevale Garden Centres.
- One of only eight nurseries in the country registered with the Soil Association to produce Organic Transplants.
- The business wanted to invest in automation to increase capacity, improve productivity and reduce reliance on casual, seasonal staff.



Lincolnshire Game Ltd – Swineshead

Awarded a LEADER grant of £124,000 to purchase equipment and convert a disused agricultural barn into a state-of-the-art venison and red meat processing factory. 19 new jobs created

- Established in July 2015, the business began processing traditional game birds whilst also striving to improve quality and standards in the industry.
- It became the first UK game producer to obtain The British Retail Consortium Global Standard for Food Safety, an internationally recognised benchmark for best practice.
- Traditional game birds have a relatively short season – business model sought to take advantage of the growing consumer demand for venison and generate year round sales and employment and reduce reliance on casual workers.
- The grant investment has helped secure contracts with major retailers such as Waitrose and Marks & Spencer. Annual Turnover last year was to £2.2m, compared to £1.13m at the time of the LEADER application.



Simon Wilkinson (Left) David Thorpe - Chair, Wash Fens LAG (Centre) and Tristan Kirk (Right)

Agri-gem Ltd, Saxilby

A grant of £98,371 to enable the construction of a 3,500sq ft warehouse extension; purchase of pallet wrapping and card shredding machines and warehouse racking. 5 new jobs created.



- Privately owned, specialist advisor and supplier of ground care products (fertiliser, seed, agrochemicals, equipment & biopesticides) to the amenity, horticultural, equestrian, forestry & agri-cultural industries.
- Founded in 2013, it won the Lincolnshire Media Awards "Best New Business Start up" 2015 and "Best SME Business in Lincolnshire" 2018.
- Rapid growth of the company required increased product storage and streamlined processes in storage and logistics to keep up with demand – as supported by LEADER.

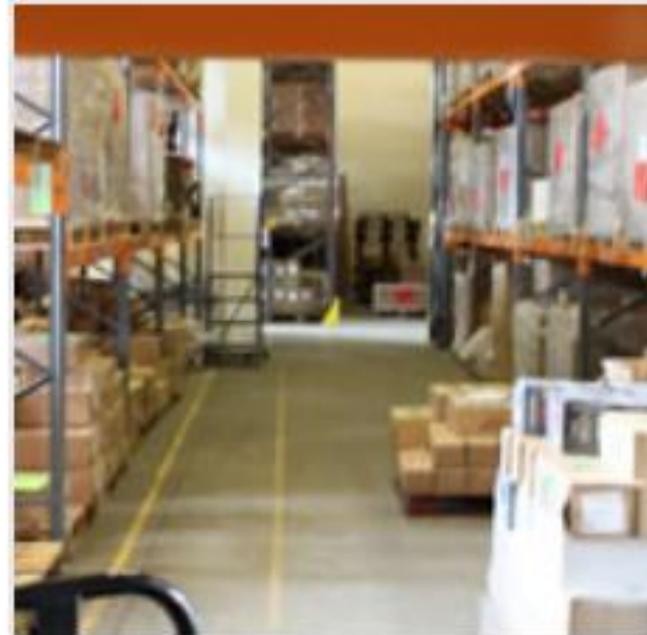


Safelincs, Alford

A grant of £70,662, supported Safelincs to refurbish a dilapidated warehouse part of the building in order to expand its services and operations and to create 4 FTEs



- Safelincs was founded in 2001. The fire safety business provides retail and wholesale of fire safety equipment as well as installations and servicing of fire safety equipment nationwide.
- Customers include the Church of England, the Catholic Church of England and Wales, many schools, colleges such as Eton College, universities and hospitals as well as thousands of businesses and consumers.
- The business has grown rapidly in the last three years (over 30% each year) but further expansion and employment was restricted by space.
- In July 2017 a new site in Alford was purchased and with the refurbishment grant expansion of services and products enabled



Carlton's Safe and Easy Access Footpath

A grant of £32,947 was awarded to Great and Little Carlton Parish Council to meet 100% of the costs of the project.

The project supported capital ground works required to create two stages of safe, multi-user footpath, completing the connection of the rural communities of Great and Little Carlton.

The footpath starts opposite Lodge Gardens, Great Carlton, LN11 8JY and finishes in-front of The Old Mill, Little Carlton, LN11 8HP.



(indicative image)



The Mansion House, Louth

An 80% LEADER grant of £52,190 has supported the conversion of a Listed Building into a successful restaurant/bistro serving local residents and visitors. 6 new jobs were created.

- This project restored heritage features within the Grade II* listed Georgian Mansion House
- Renovation work included significant specialist plaster work, lime plastering and renovation of the glass ceiling lantern. The building has primarily been used for storage, since its closure as the town library in 1990.
- The renovated building was nominated at The Georgian Group's national architectural awards in London in 2019, narrowly missing out to the likes of the Old Royal Naval College, Greenwich and the Royal Pavilion, Brighton



Lily's Lavender Hut, Corby Glen

A grant of £19,366.63 was awarded to enable a dilapidated wooden building to be replaced, extended and modernised with a new, bespoke shop, kitchen and café area.

- The new facility has enabled the owners to grow from a sole trader, operating a shop with limited product lines, to a busy store with a range of fresh local produce.
- The kitchen area within the shop is used to bake fresh cakes and meals, which are served in the adjoining café.
- Since receiving the grant, the business employs an additional 13 local people on a part time basis, with an expected FTE of 4 employees.
- As well as providing essential services to the community, during 2020/21 Lily's Lavender Hut will build on a trialled service of providing cookery courses to local people to teach 'healthy living' skills, and introduce children at Early Years stages to preparing and cooking fresh produce.



Kestevens LEADER Fund
Commerce, Community and Countryside

LEADER Case Study Video Compilation

<https://youtu.be/tSZKF8nvl7s>



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Open Report on behalf of Andrew Crookham, Executive Director of Resources

Report to:	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee
Date:	20 October 2020
Subject:	Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee Work Programme

Summary:

This item enables the Committee to consider and comment on the content of its work programme to ensure that scrutiny activity is focused where it can be of greatest benefit. The work programme will be reviewed at each meeting of the Committee to ensure that its contents are still relevant and will add value to the work of the Council and partners.

Members are encouraged to highlight items that could be included for consideration in the work programme.

Actions Required:

Members of the Committee are invited to review, consider and comment on the work programme as set out in this report and highlight for discussion any additional scrutiny activity which could be included for consideration in the work programme.

1. Background

Overview and Scrutiny should be positive, constructive, independent, fair and open. The scrutiny process should be challenging, as its aim is to identify areas for improvement. Scrutiny activity should be targeted, focused and timely and include issues of corporate and local importance, where scrutiny activity can influence and add value.

All members of overview and scrutiny committees are encouraged to bring forward important items of community interest to the committee whilst recognising that not all items will be taken up depending on available resource.

Members are encouraged to highlight items that could be included for consideration in the work programme.

2. Work Programme

20 OCTOBER 2020	
Item	Contributor
1	Charging for pre-application in planning Neil McBride, Head of Planning
2	Adult Learning Programme Thea Croxall, Principal Commissioning Officer (Learning)
3	Waste Strategy Update Matthew Michell, Waste Strategy Manager
4	Leader Update Mandy Ramm - Funding and Investment Manager

24 NOVEMBER 2020	
Item	Contributor
1	Green Master Plan (Pre-Decision Scrutiny Item) David Hickman, Head of Environment
2	Post COVID Mid Term Economic Strategy Justin Brown, Assistant Director (Growth)
3	County Farms / Rural Support Network Item Vanessa Strange Head of Infrastructure Investment / Sarah Wells, Business Manager - Corporate Property
4	Fifth Local Transport Plan Vanessa Strange Head of Infrastructure Investment
5	Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub Angela Driver, Senior Commissioning Officer - Enterprise

12 JANUARY 2021	
Item	Contributor
1	Revenue and Capital Budget Proposals 2020/21 <i>Pre-Decision Scrutiny – Executive</i> TBC
2	Review of the Minerals and Waste Local Plan Neil McBride Head of Planning
3	Internationalisation Strategy Samantha Harrison, Head of Economic Development
4	Employment & Skills Audit and Action Plan Samantha Harrison, Head of Economic Development

3. Conclusion

Members of the Committee are invited to review and comment on the work programme and highlight any additional scrutiny activity which could be included for consideration in the work programme.

4. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out?

Not Applicable

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not Applicable

5. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Forward Plan of Decisions relating to the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee

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 Daniel Steel, Scrutiny Officer, who can be contacted on 01522 552102 or by e-mail at daniel.steel@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Forward Plan of Decisions relating to the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee

DEC REF	MATTERS FOR DECISION	DATE OF DECISION	DECISION MAKER	PEOPLE/GROUPS CONSULTED PRIOR TO DECISION	DOCUMENTS TO BE SUBMITTED FOR DECISION	HOW AND WHEN TO COMMENT PRIOR TO THE DECISION BEING TAKEN	RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER AND CHIEF OFFICER	KEY DECISION YES/NO	DIVISIONS AFFECTED