

**COUNCIL
 19 FEBRUARY 2021**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR M BROOKES (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors T Bridges (Vice-Chairman), B Adams, W J Aron, P Ashleigh-Morris, 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, 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, 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, C E Reid, R P H Reid, R A Renshaw, S P Roe, P A Skinner, E J Sneath, H Spratt, A N Stokes, M J Storer, E W Strengiel, Dr M E Thompson, R H Trollope-Bellew, M A Whittington, Mrs S Woolley, L Wootten, R Wootten, C N Worth and B Young

48 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors K Cook, S Kirk, Mrs S Rawlins, A J Spencer and A H Turner MBE JP.

49 DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS

Councillor S R Parkin advised that she had a DPI related to the labour amendment of the Council Budget (agenda item 6) in relation to her tutoring business and would leave the meeting for discussion of this item.

Councillor S P Roe advised that he had a DPI in relation to the Council Budget (agenda item 6) and would leave the meeting for discussion of this item.

50 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 11
 DECEMBER 2020

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2020 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

51 CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman reported that the devastating loss of lives all around the world continued to be witnessed and we were comforted to know our NHS staff and key workers were continuing to work hard and tirelessly to keep us all safe and well. The rollout of the vaccine was proving to be successful and this gave us hope for the

future but we must continue to encourage all to adhere to the guidelines issued by the Government.

The Prime Minister's announcement on the Government's roadmap for emerging from the current lockdown was awaited, and it was hoped that it would enable schoolchildren to return to lessons in their classrooms, as soon as it was safe to do so.

The Chairman looked forward to being able to carry out his civic duties in person rather than via the virtual world afforded to us by the likes of Microsoft Teams and Zoom.

The Chairman was pleased to attend the virtual Public Sector Compact Apprenticeship Celebration Event last month, where he was invited to speak about the importance of the apprenticeship scheme and in particular how Lincolnshire County Council contributed greatly to this. It was inspiring to hear from providers who reported on how apprentices had continued to progress with focus and determination, despite facing such unique and difficult challenges, and this was recognised and celebrated.

On a sadder note, the Chairman reported the death of the following former County Councillors:

Mrs Edna Chapman who represented the Grantham North West electoral division from 1985 until 1993 and again from 2001 until 2009. Mrs Chapman served as Chairman of the Council for the year 2005-2006.

Mr Jim Dodsworth who represented Wainfleet and Burgh electoral division from 1981 until 2001.

A number of members paid tribute to the two former councillors.

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

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

<u>Question by:</u>	<u>Answered by:</u>	<u>Subject</u>
a) A N Stokes	Mrs S Woolley	Update on Covid-19 community fund scheme
b) Mrs J E Killey	R G Davies	Pavement quality and repairs
c) Mrs A M Newton	C J Davie	International trade strategy

d) M D Boles	Mrs S Woolley	Services at John Copeland Hospital, Gainsborough
e) M A Whittington	R G Davies	Viking Way footpath through Allington misuse
f) Mrs M J Overton MBE	M J Hill OBE	References to Greater Lincolnshire
g) R Grocock	R G Davies	Pothole clusters in the south of the county
h) R A Renshaw	E J Poll	Provision for local jobs in contract tendering
i) Mrs A M Austin	M J Hill OBE	Use of emergency grant money received for Covid-19
j) C Matthews	C J Davie	County Council grants for businesses
k) K J Clarke	Mrs P A Bradwell OBE	Assistance for schools when they re-open
l) A P Maughan	Mrs P A Bradwell OBE	Additional funding for supporting domestic abuse victims during lockdown
m) P M Key	Mrs S Woolley	Services at John Copeland Hospital, Gainsborough
n) R B Parker	M J Hill OBE	County Council elections
o) R J Kendrick	C N Worth	Update on roll out of new fire appliances.

53 COUNCIL BUDGET 2021/22

(NOTE: Councillors S R Parkin and S P Roe left the meeting at 11.07am)

A report by the Executive Director – Resources had been circulated together with a separate document entitled 'Council Budget 2021/22' which described the Executive's Budget and council tax proposals.

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RESOLVED

- (1) That there be one debate;
- (2) That Councillor M J Hill OBE, Leader of the Council, in introducing and moving the budget and in responding to issues raised during the debate be allowed to speak without limit of time;
- (3) That proposers of the amendments each be allowed to speak without limit of time;
- (4) That Councillors seconding the motions each be allowed to speak for six minutes;
- (5) That other speakers be allowed to speak for three minutes; and
- (6) That no further amendments be moved

It was moved and seconded that the Council:

Council Budget 2020/21

1. approves that the budget for 2020/21 be amended as follows:
 - 1.1 a new Support for Businesses Reserve of £12.000m be created for the purpose of implementing schemes for supporting Lincolnshire businesses, by a transfer of £12.000m from the Financial Volatility Reserve; and
 - 1.2 £0.200m be transferred from the Financial Volatility Reserve to the existing Flood and Water Risk Management reserve for the purpose of providing 5,000 sandbags across the county, the part refilling of grit bins throughout the winter, and localised sandbags provided for emergency response to Parish Councils.

Council Budget 2021/22

2. has due regard to the responses to the consultation on the Council's budget proposals as contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix D - Budget Consultation Feedback);
3. has due regard to the Section 151 Officer's Statement on the Robustness of the Budget and the Adequacy of Reserves as set out in the appended Budget Book (Section 11 - Section 151 Officer's Statement on the Robustness of the Budget and Adequacy of Reserves);
4. has due regard to the Impact Analysis relating to increasing the Council Tax by 1.99% in 2021/22 set out in the appended 'Budget Book' (Appendix C – Impact Analysis relating to increasing the Council Tax by 1.99% in 2021/22);

5. approves:

5.1 the service revenue budgets for 2021/22 contained in the appended Budget Book, (Table 2 - Net Service Revenue Budget 2021/22) subject to the addition of £25k recurring expenditure in 'Other Budgets' to cover the County Council's share of the cost of Lincolnshire District Councils providing discretionary Council Tax relief for Special Constables, with a corresponding reduction of £25k in the proposed transfer to the Financial Volatility Reserve Earmarked Reserve;

5.2 the capital programme and its funding contained in the appended Budget Book (Section 8 - Capital Programme) and (Appendix P - Capital Programme), subject to the addition of a further £2.3m to the new Rural Road Fund to maintain Highways funding at record levels, with the stated purpose of the fund to be amended to read "Investment Fund for Rural Roads across the county, with priority primarily afforded to minor rural and unclassified roads". This will be funded by a corresponding reduction of the New Developments Capital Contingency Fund in 2021/22 only;

5.3 the County Council element of the council tax for a Band D property at £1,364.16 for 2021/22 contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix B - County Precept 2021/22);

as together being the Council's Budget.

6. approves the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix E – Medium Term Financial Strategy);
7. approves the Council's Capital Strategy 2021/22 contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix O – Capital Strategy 2021/22);
8. approves the Council's Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy 2021/22 contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix G - Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy);
9. approves the prudential targets for capital finance and notes the prudential indicators contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix N - Prudential Indicators);
10. approves that the minimum revenue provision (MRP) be based on the asset life method, charged on an annuity basis for major infrastructure projects and in equal instalments for all other assets, over the estimated life of the assets acquired through borrowing as set out in the appended Budget Book (Section 10 - Minimum Revenue Provision).

An amendment was moved and seconded by the Councillor R B Parker and R A Renshaw on behalf of the Labour Group as follows:

The Labour Group's alternative budget again recognises that our residents look to the County Council to provide important services which protect and promote their interests. This is particularly true at this time when Covid-19 continues to have a major impact on the lives of many of our residents, families and businesses. The budget put forward by the Conservative Group only deals with some of the issues presented by the Covid-19 pandemic. In particular there is scant recognition by way

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of extra funding of the serious educational and social challenges that many children and young people are and will continue to face because of Covid-19. This alternative budget deals with that deficiency through making sufficient and effective use of the balances available to the County Council at this time of need. Because, after all, that is what balances are for. Despite a council commitment to a 'Green Agenda' there is little recognition in the budget put forward by the controlling group of new innovative developments aimed at reducing carbon emissions. Under this revised budget, the balances going forward will stand at £27.773m.

It is proposed therefore that the following amendments are made to the circulated 'Council Budget 2021/22' report:

Extra Revenue Spending 2021/22 and succeeding years

		2021/ 22	2022/23 and 2023/24
1a	<p>Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Support for Children and Young People.</p> <p>This funding would be used to strengthen our response to the emerging emotional wellbeing and mental health needs of children and young people across Lincolnshire. It is well documented that the impact of the pandemic has been severe and supporting children and young people is essential to mitigate long lasting effects.</p> <p>The funding would provide additional capacity across our established pathways to reduce and prevent waiting times and allow services to be responsive to need as it emerges. This will include our preventative, early intervention and specialist services.</p>	£3.000m	-
1b	<p>Extension to the catch up programme (for 1 further year) The additional support should enhance the Government Funded Catch Up Funding which is set to provide £80 to schools for mainstream pupils and £240 for pupils in Special schools and APs.</p> <p>To ensure that catch up funding is targeted appropriately and teachers are skilled in addressing gaps in learning, schools should be supported in ensuring that assessment for all year groups is accurate. A group of trained professionals would deliver training to all schools (at a cost of £0.185m) and work with teachers across schools to ensure teachers are able to identify gaps in learning and address these in the most effective way – this would be based on a monitoring and moderation model for targeted support and a system wide offer, and provide governance.</p> <p>Schools would then be given additional funding to provide catch up for their pupils in the way that leaders determine best fits with their school priorities. This could include individual and small group support for pupils or additional teaching time either before or after school. Sessions should be delivered by highly skilled experts to ensure pupils make the best progress</p>	£7.000m	-

	<p>possible. Schools could use some of the funding to purchase equipment so pupils can access the high quality materials already provided by Oak Academy and integrate these into face to face delivery so pupils access bespoke programmes which are designed to meet their needs.</p> <p>Schools could use some of the funding for holiday catch up programmes to support pupils in catching up with the content of the curriculum but also to develop broader social skills pupils have missed whilst being at home.</p> <p>There should be a particular focus on transition year groups who will be moving onto their next phase of education who may have missed a substantial part of their course. This includes children in the Reception cohort, those in Year 6 due to start secondary school, those in Year 8 or 9 due to start GCSE courses and those in Year 11 looking to move into the next stage of education.</p> <p>A mechanism for providing this funding to schools would need to be agreed with the DfE</p>		
1c	<p>Additional funds for the virtual school for addition tuition for Looked After Children: This would provide catch up programmes using additional tutoring for 300 children young people from years 4-11 for 12 months</p>	£0.400m	-
2a	<p>Touring Exhibition – Usher Gallery Presentation of the Exhibition</p>	£0.050m	-
3a	<p>Green Master Plan: Sustainability Projects Solar Canopies: This project would develop solar canopies for car parks that incorporated panels to generate electricity. The canopies could include electric vehicle charging points that utilised the electricity generated from the panels</p>	£0.300m	-
3b.	<p>Green Master Plan: Sustainability Projects LCC Buildings: Installation of solar panels to LCC owned buildings</p>	£0.250m	-
3c	<p>Green Master Plan: Sustainability Projects Schools: Energy efficiency programme in LCC maintained schools to reduce running costs for schools and reduce carbon emissions for LCC</p>	£1.000m	-
3d	<p>Green Master Plan: Sustainability Projects Create a fund to purchase low grade land for habitat development. At the same time the project could generate income through carbon credits</p>	£0.750m	-
	Total Extra Revenue Spending	£12.75m	-

Extra Capital Spending 2021/22 and succeeding years

1.	<p>Street Lighting LEDs £7m over three years to implement full LED conversion with aggressively dimmed all-night lighting and re-visit existing part-night lit LEDs to make all night and aggressively dimmed</p>	£2.330m	£4.670m
	Total Extra Capital Spending	£2.33m	£4.67m

Funding of the Extra Spending 2021/22 and succeeding years

The extra revenue spending is all one-off and will be funded via a drawdown from the Financial Volatility Reserve. The balance prior to the amendment as shown in the budget book (p71) is £40.483m and the commitments set out here would reduce that balance to £27.733m.

The extra capital spending is a three-year programme totalling £7m. This will be funded by top slicing the annual New Developments Capital Contingency Fund which is set at £7.5m per annum as shown in the budget book (p116) and reduce it to £5.17m per annum for the three years 2021/22 to 2023/24.

Executive Director of Resources/s.151 Officer Commentary

The Executive Director of Resources has confirmed these proposals are viable and broadly compliant with the existing Financial Strategy of the Council.

The capital proposals make use of a proportion of the annual capital contingency for the first three years of the plan and therefore means less flexibility to bring forward new proposals in year.

The revenue proposals make use of a significant drawdown of the Financial Volatility reserve. Reiterating my comments from Section 11 of the budget book, the stated intention of the reserve is to manage future funding volatility and given that issue is yet to be resolved, it is my strong professional opinion that the reserve should be maintained towards its historical level of around £50m and steps should be taken to replenish it to that level at the earliest opportunity.

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a recorded vote was held for the amendment, and upon it being put to the vote, the amendment was lost.

Details of the recorded vote taken:

Those for the amendment:

M D Boles, K J Clarke, G E Cullen, P M Key, Mrs J E Killey, Mrs M J Overton MBE, R B Parker and R A Renshaw

Those voting **FOR – 8**

Those voting against the amendment:

B Adams, W J Aron, P Ashleigh-Morris, T R Ashton, Mrs A M Austin, Mrs W Bowkett, Mrs P A Bradwell OBE, D Brailsford, C J T H Brewis, T Bridges, Mrs J Brockway, M Brookes, R D Butroid, L A Cawrey, P E Coupland, 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, Mrs C J Lawton, C S Macey, C E H Marfleet, C Matthews, A P Maughan, D McNally, Mrs A M Newton, C R Oxby, N H Pepper, C L

Perraton-Williams, E J Poll, C E Reid, R P H Reid, P A Skinner, Mrs E J Sneath, H Spratt, A N Stokes, M J Storer, E W Strengiel, M E Thompson, R H Trollope-Bellew, M A Whittington, Mrs S Woolley, L Wootten, R Wootten, C N Worth and B Young.

Those voting **AGAINST – 53**

ABSTENTIONS – 0

In accordance with the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, a recorded vote on the motion was taken. Upon being put to the vote, the motion was carried.

Details of the recorded vote taken:

Those voting for the motion:

B Adams, W J Aron, P Ashleigh-Morris, 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, T Bridges, Mrs J Brockway, M Brookes, R D Butroid, L A Cawrey, P E Coupland, 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 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, N H Pepper, C L Perraton-Williams, E J Poll, C E Reid, R P H Reid, P A Skinner, Mrs E J Sneath, H Spratt, A N Stokes, M J Storer, E W Strengiel, M E Thompson, R H Trollope-Bellew, M A Whittington, Mrs S Woolley, L Wootten, R Wootten, C N Worth and B Young.

Those voting **FOR – 56**

Those voting against the amendment:

K J Clarke, Mrs J E Killey, R B Parker and R A Renshaw.

Those voting **AGAINST – 4**

Those Abstaining:

G E Cullen

ABSTENTIONS – 1

RESOLVED

That the Council:

Council Budget 2020/21

1. approves that the budget for 2020/21 be amended as follows:

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1.1 a new Support for Businesses Reserve of £12.000m be created for the purpose of implementing schemes for supporting Lincolnshire businesses, by a transfer of £12.000m from the Financial Volatility Reserve; and

1.2 £0.200m be transferred from the Financial Volatility Reserve to the existing Flood and Water Risk Management reserve for the purpose of providing 5,000 sandbags across the county, the part refilling of grit bins throughout the winter, and localised sandbags provided for emergency response to Parish Councils.

Council Budget 2021/22

That the Council:

2. has due regard to the responses to the consultation on the Council's budget proposals as contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix D - Budget Consultation Feedback);
3. has due regard to the Section 151 Officer's Statement on the Robustness of the Budget and the Adequacy of Reserves as set out in the appended Budget Book (Section 11 - Section 151 Officer's Statement on the Robustness of the Budget and Adequacy of Reserves);
4. has due regard to the Impact Analysis relating to increasing the Council Tax by 1.99% in 2021/22 set out in the appended 'Budget Book' (Appendix C – Impact Analysis relating to increasing the Council Tax by 1.99% in 2021/22);
5. approves:
 - 5.1 the service revenue budgets for 2021/22 contained in the appended Budget Book, (Table 2 - Net Service Revenue Budget 2021/22) subject to the addition of £25k recurring expenditure in 'Other Budgets' to cover the County Council's share of the cost of Lincolnshire District Councils providing discretionary Council Tax relief for Special Constables, with a corresponding reduction of £25k in the proposed transfer to the Financial Volatility Reserve Earmarked Reserve;
 - 5.2 the capital programme and its funding contained in the appended Budget Book (Section 8 - Capital Programme) and (Appendix P - Capital Programme), subject to the addition of a further £2.3m to the new Rural Road Fund to maintain Highways funding at record levels, with the stated purpose of the fund to be amended to read "Investment Fund for Rural Roads across the county, with priority primarily afforded to minor rural and unclassified roads". This will be funded by a corresponding reduction of the New Developments Capital Contingency Fund in 2021/22 only;
 - 5.3 the County Council element of the council tax for a Band D property at £1,364.16 for 2021/22 contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix B - County Precept 2021/22);as together being the Council's Budget.

6. approves the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix E – Medium Term Financial Strategy);
7. approves the Council's Capital Strategy 2021/22 contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix O – Capital Strategy 2021/22);
8. approves the Council's Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy 2021/22 contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix G - Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy);
9. approves the prudential targets for capital finance and notes the prudential indicators contained in the appended Budget Book (Appendix N - Prudential Indicators);
10. approves that the minimum revenue provision (MRP) be based on the asset life method, charged on an annuity basis for major infrastructure projects and in equal instalments for all other assets, over the estimated life of the assets acquired through borrowing as set out in the appended Budget Book (Section 10 - Minimum Revenue Provision).

(NOTE: Councillor S P Roe rejoined the meeting at 12.42pm)

54 PAY POLICY STATEMENT

A report by the Executive Director – Resources had been circulated.

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED

That the Council approves the Pay Policy Statement 2021/22 attached at Appendix A to the report, as recommended by the Pay Policy Sub-Committee.

(Note: Councillor S R Parkin rejoined the meeting at 12.48pm)

55 LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL'S GREEN MASTERPLAN

A report by the Executive Director – Place had been circulated.

(NOTE: Councillor H Spratt left the meeting at 12.54pm)

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED

That the County Council supports the Green Masterplan as attached as Appendix A to the report.

(NOTE: The meeting was adjourned at 1.20pm and reconvened at 1.50pm)

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(NOTE: Councillors P Ashleigh-Morris and R D Butroid did not rejoin the meeting when it reconvened)

56 REVIEW OF THE LINCOLNSHIRE MINERALS AND WASTE LOCAL PLAN

A report by the Executive Director – Place had been circulated.

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED

That the County Council:

1. Approves the document attached to the report as Appendix A for publication as the "Review of the Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan – February 2021".
2. Approves the document attached as Appendix B to the report for publication as the "Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Development Scheme – February 2021" and resolve that it takes effect on 19 February 2021.
3. Authorises the updating of the Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Local Plan as a whole in accordance with the Lincolnshire Minerals and Waste Development Scheme referred to in the recommendation above.

(NOTE: Councillor E J Poll left the meeting at 2.09pm)

57 CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION

A report by the Monitoring Officer had been circulated.

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED

That the Council approves the changes to the Constitution shown in Appendices A, B, C and D of the report.

58 EXECUTIVE DECISION - RULE 17 (SPECIAL URGENCY)

A report by the Leader of the Council had been circulated.

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED

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

(NOTE: Councillor S P Roe left the meeting at 2.20pm)

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

(NOTE: Councillor R P H Reid left the meeting at 2.21pm)

Motion by C J Davie

It was moved and seconded as follows:

In 2012 this Council signed the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change and we have made significant progress in reducing the Councils Carbon footprint to date. The Executive recently approved the Green Masterplan, that we debated earlier today, and this is the Council's road map to becoming zero carbon by 2050.

We also note the Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnerships significant involvement and support for the low carbon economy which has an economic value to the area of £1.2bn per annum and holds enormous potential for future investment of up to £60bn over the next 15 years. Already employing over 12,000 people the newly announced off shore wind licenses, issued by the Crown Estate, presents further opportunities for growth, not just in offshore wind but in other technologies such as hydrogen and carbon capture that are setting up in our wider economic area and are part of long term Government initiatives.

In 2013 this council agreed a Wind Energy Position statement due to the enormous public concern over large scale industrial wind farms coming into the County area and the harm they would cause to our visual amenity and landscape settings which are a significant driver for our visitor economy. In 2015 the government's own position statement made it clear that communities must support any local application for wind turbines before it could be approved and this is explicit in Paragraph 154 (b) of the National planning policy Framework. This motion seeks to update this councils position statement, especially as the turbines which were of concern in 2013 have been replaced by much bigger units having a much greater visual impact.

This Council and the GLLEP both recognise the huge importance of our County for its role in the agri-food sector, especially for high quality food production and for supporting the requirements of the supply chain to meet contractual requirements to achieve zero-carbon targets. It is therefore vital the County's highly prized Grade 1 Agricultural land is, wherever feasible, protected solely for the production of food and for the appropriate investment in new technologies to achieve zero-carbon targets to be supported across the agri-food sector.

Within the strategic Economic plan is the need to progress 100,000 new homes in the GLLEP area by 2035. In Lincolnshire the progress to modern zero carbon homes has been painfully slow and leadership is now required to push developers to build the homes of the future. The arguments often used by developers against such a move vary but if whole life costings are used as a benchmark then there are no arguments that will prevail against Lincolnshire leading the way in building the homes that a

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modern, environmentally and socially aware workforce require. The public sector can set the standard for the properties that they seek to build as landowner and promoter of new development sites

It is therefore moved:

1. That this Council should play a leadership role in encouraging the take up of zero carbon policies across the entire public sector. We should therefore encourage and instigate joint initiatives to help the County, as a place, to deliver a zero carbon future.
2. To recognise the work of GLLEP on the wider low carbon agenda and creation of new green jobs which this council endorses. This Council will provide, through its economy team and working with GLLEP, advice and support to all sectors, businesses and the supply chain who request it, who wish to embrace the green jobs agenda and the Governments Green Industrial strategy.
3. We reaffirm our support for the 2013 Wind Energy Position statement and accordingly amend it thus:
 - a) The Council responds to all revising local plans and suggests that Paragraph 154(b) of the NPPF is made explicit in all local plans - that majority community support must be demonstrated before any development is passed;
 - b) As a council we object to all applications for on-shore wind turbines, other than for small scale (1-2 turbines), which are specifically linked to development and business sustainability issues and subject to them complying with all other planning policy considerations;
 - c) This council recognises the importance of our landscape and big open skies as a significant economic driver for our Visitor economy and for the role of the RAF in the County and this must be protected for future generations to enjoy and use.
4. Of increasing importance post-Brexit is the fact that the County makes one of the largest contributions to the fresh produce supply for the nation. We recognise the value of our land, particularly Grade 1. Therefore we will object to any development proposal on Grade 1 land, unless it is temporary, time-limited, provides demonstrable alternative environmental benefits or where there is no viable alternative.
5. The wider Lincolnshire area should seek to lead by example on new housing growth and therefore this Council supports a position that all new development in the County should be designed and built to Zero Carbon standards. We request the Director of Place to communicate our view on this subject to the Local Planning Authorities, working with them and supporting them in the achievement of this position.

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

(NOTE: Councillor D McNally left the meeting at 2.51pm and Councillor R H Trollope-Bellew left the meeting at 2.53pm)

Motion by Councillor R B Parker

It was moved and seconded as follows:

In April 2020 weekly payments of Universal Credit were increased by £20 a week to provide extra support during the Coronavirus pandemic. That increase is set to be withdrawn on 31 March.

In January the Resolution Foundation warned that millions face the sharpest drop in living standards in a generation and the decision whether to keep the benefit uplift would “help define whether this is to be a Parliament of ‘levelling up’ living standards or pushing up poverty”.

Earlier this month a report by MPs on the House of Commons Work and Pensions committee argued that removing the extra payment as planned by the government would represent a ‘failure’ by government to recognise the reality of people struggling as a result of the pandemic.

The cost to the Exchequer of extending the £20 a week uplift for six months would be £3 billion. But that sum should be seen in the context of a total cost to date of £260 billion on responding to the Coronavirus pandemic and the annual cost of £100 billion spent on working age welfare payments.

The table below shows the sheer size of the increase in the number of Lincolnshire people claiming Universal Credit over the last year or so across nine of our centres of population.

	December 2019	December 2020	% change
Boston	3562	8372	135.04%
Gainsborough	2274	4111	80.78%
Grantham	3180	6094	91.64%
Lincoln	8852	17973	103.04%
Louth	1264	2549	101.66%
Skegness	4626	8229	77.89%
Sleaford	1455	3529	142.54%
Spalding	3312	7706	132.67%
Stamford	3056	6503	112.79%
Total	31581	65066	

It is therefore moved that this Council:

- (1) notes the large numbers of Lincolnshire people likely to be left struggling financially by the ending on 31 March of the £20 a week uplift in Universal Credit.

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- (2) calls on the Leader of the Council to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer:-
- (a) making the point that the uplift of Universal Credit has had a positive impact on the lives of many families and that now is not the right time to end the uplift and
 - (b) calling on the Chancellor to extend the uplift for six months to allow time for the UK economy to expand following the easing of lock-down restrictions and the greater numbers of people having been vaccinated. The situation then to be reviewed in the light of known health factors.

(NOTE: Councillor A G Hagues left the meeting at 3.16pm)

Upon being put to the vote the motion was carried.

The meeting closed at 3.18 pm