



County Offices
Newland
Lincoln
LN1 1YL

9 September 2021

Council

A meeting of the Council will be held on **Friday, 17 September 2021 in the Council Chamber, County Offices, Newland, Lincoln LN1 1YL, commencing at 10.30 am** for the transaction of the business set out on the attached Agenda. The attendance of all Councillors is requested.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'DBarnes'.

Debbie Barnes OBE
Chief Executive

Membership of the Council
(70 Members of the Council)

Councillors M Brookes (Chairman), Mrs A M Austin (Vice-Chairman), B Adams, M G Allan, P Ashleigh-Morris, T R Ashton, A J Baxter, S A J Blackburn, M D Boles, Mrs W Bowkett, Mrs P A Bradwell OBE, Mrs J Brockway, S Bunney, R D Butroid, I D Carrington, T A Carter, L A Cawrey, K J Clarke, M R Clarke, Mrs N F Clarke, R J Cleaver, K H Cooke, P E Coupland, A Dani, C J Davie, R G Davies, P M Dilks, T J G Dyer, I G Fleetwood, R A Gibson, W H Gray, M A Griggs, A G Hagues, A M Hall, M J Hill OBE, R J Kendrick, A M Key, Mrs J E Killey, J L King, K E Lee, C S Macey, C E H Marfleet, C Matthews, A P Maughan, D McNally, Mrs A M Newton MBE, Mrs M J Overton MBE, R B Parker, S R Parkin, N H Pepper, Clio Perraton-Williams, Mrs S Rawlins, R P H Reid, S P Roe, N Sear, P A Skinner, T Smith, E J Sneath, H Spratt, A N Stokes, E W Strengiel, G J Taylor, Dr M E Thompson, J Tyrrell, M A Whittington, Mrs S Woolley, L Wootten, R Wootten, R A Wright and T V Young

**COUNCIL AGENDA
FRIDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2021**

Item	Title	Pages
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2	Declarations of Councillors' Interests	
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11	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020 - 21	117 - 136
12	Motions on notice submitted in accordance with the Council's Constitution	

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Please note: for more information about any of the following please contact the Democratic Services Officer responsible for servicing this meeting

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

Contact details set out above.

Please note: This meeting will be broadcast live on the internet and access can be sought by accessing [Agenda for Council on Friday, 17th September, 2021, 10.30 am \(moderngov.co.uk\)](https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/council-business/search-committee-records)

All papers for council meetings are available on:

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



**COUNCIL
21 MAY 2021**

PRESENT: COUNCILLOR M BROOKES (CHAIRMAN)

Councillors B Adams, M G Allan, T R Ashton, Mrs A M Austin, A J Baxter, S A J Blackburn, M D Boles, Mrs W Bowkett, Mrs P A Bradwell OBE, Mrs J Brockway, S Bunney, R D Butroid, I D Carrington, T A Carter, K J Clarke, M R Clarke, Mrs N F Clarke, R J Cleaver, K H Cooke, P E Coupland, C J Davie, R G Davies, P M Dilks, T J G Dyer, I G Fleetwood, R A Gibson, W H Gray, M A Griggs, A M Hall, M J Hill OBE, R J Kendrick, A M Key, Mrs J E Killey, J L King, K E Lee, C S Macey, C E H Marfleet, C Matthews, A P Maughan, D McNally, Mrs A M Newton MBE, Mrs M J Overton MBE, R B Parker, S R Parkin, N H Pepper, Clio Perraton-Williams, Mrs S Rawlins, R P H Reid, S P Roe, N Sear, P A Skinner, T Smith, E J Sneath, H Spratt, A N Stokes, E W Strengiel, G J Taylor, Dr M E Thompson, J Tyrrell, M A Whittington, Mrs S Woolley, L Wootten, R Wootten and T V Young

1 TO ELECT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL FOR 2021/22

On the nomination of Councillor M J Hill OBE, seconded by Councillor P A Skinner, and there being no other nominations, it was

RESOLVED

That Councillor M Brookes be elected as Chairman of the County Council for the year 2021/22.

Councillor Brookes took the Chair and thanked the Council for electing him.

COUNCILLOR M BROOKES IN THE CHAIR

2 TO ELECT THE VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL FOR 2021/22

On the nomination of Councillor M Brookes, seconded by Councillor T R Ashton, and there being no other nominations, it was

RESOLVED

That Councillor A M Austin be elected Vice-Chairman of the County Council for the year 2021/22.

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3 **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P Ashleigh-Morris, L A Cawrey, A Dani, A G Hagues, H Spratt and R A Wright.

4 **DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLORS' INTERESTS**

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

5 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD ON 19 FEBRUARY 2021**

RESOLVED

That the minutes of the meeting held on 19 February 2021 be signed by the Chairman as a correct record.

6 **CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Chairman welcomed all the newly elected County Councillors and congratulated the Councillors who had been re-elected. The Chairman commented that in normal circumstances he would be welcoming councillors to the Council Chamber at County Offices, however, under the current Covid-19 restrictions it had been necessary to hold the meeting at the Epic Centre, where there was enough space to enable members to observe social distancing rules.

This venue was adjacent to the large vaccination centre where hundreds of Covid-19 vaccinations were administered daily and the Chairman took the opportunity to thank all the NHS staff, key workers and volunteers who were working hard to ensure the vaccination programme continued to be a success.

The Chairman was looking forward to seeing the progress being made to move forward out of lockdown. He was hoping that Lincolnshire Day this year on 1st October would be a big celebration and would provide the opportunity to come together as a County.

Next year would celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and the Chairman would encourage all Councillors to get involved in the Queens Green Canopy in their area. This initiative would see tree planting across the Country to celebrate the Jubilee year.

On a sadder note the Chairman reported the death of former County Councillor Jim Speechley, who represented the Crowland and Whaplode electoral division from 1973 until 2004 and was Leader of the Council from 1997 to 2002.

The Chairman reminded councillors that there was an opportunity for them to have their photograph taken for the website in the foyer, as well as access to IT support and officers from democratic services to support members in the signing of various forms.

7 LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION - RETURN OF PERSONS ELECTED - 6 MAY 2021

The Council received the return of Person's Elected following the Lincolnshire County Council election on 6 May 2021.

8 ELECTION OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL

On the nomination of Councillor Mrs P A Bradwell OBE, seconded by Councillor C J Davie, and there being no further nominations, it was

RESOLVED

That Councillor M J Hill OBE be elected as Leader of Lincolnshire County Council in accordance with Article 5.03 of the Constitution.

9 THE LEADER TO REPORT ON EXECUTIVE PORTFOLIOS AND APPOINTMENTS TO THE EXECUTIVE AND EXECUTIVE SUPPORT COUNCILLORS

In accordance with Article 5.02 of the Council's Constitution the Leader notified the Council of the appointments to the Executive and for the purposes of Part 3 (Responsibilities for Functions) the responsibilities of each portfolio holder. The Leader also notified the Council of the Executive Support Councillors he had appointed in accordance with Article 5.07.

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

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

It was highlighted that Councillor T Dyer would be replaced on the Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee.

It was moved, seconded

That the Council:

1. Approves the Committees and Sub-Committees with the number of seats set out in the proportionality spread sheet circulated with the Order of Proceedings of this meeting;
2. Approves the allocation of seats on said Committees and Sub-Committees set out in the said proportionality spread sheet, subject to the above change.

An amendment was moved and seconded as follows:

That an additional point be added that the Council recognise the Labour Group as the Opposition Group under Article 3.05 of the Constitution until the next meeting of the Council

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pending a review of the constitutional processes relating to the Opposition Group and discussions between the Leader of the Independent Group and Labour Group.

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was carried. A vote then took place on the substantive motion, as follows:

That the Council:

1. Approves the Committees and Sub-Committees with the number of seats set out in the proportionality spread sheet circulated with the Order of Proceedings of this meeting;
2. Approves the allocation of seats on said Committees and Sub-Committees set out in the said proportionality spread sheet, subject to the above change.
3. That the Council recognise the Labour Group as the Opposition Group under Article 3.05 of the Constitution until the next meeting of the Council pending a review of the constitutional processes relating to the Opposition Group and discussions between the Leader of the Independent Group and Labour Group.

Upon being put to the vote, this was carried, and it was

RESOLVED

That the Council:

1. Approves the Committees and Sub-Committees with the number of seats set out in the proportionality spread sheet circulated with the Order of Proceedings of this meeting;
2. Approves the allocation of seats on said Committees and Sub-Committees set out in the said proportionality spread sheet, subject to the above change.
3. That the Council recognise the Labour Group as the Opposition Group under Article 3.05 of the Constitution until the next meeting of the Council pending a review of the constitutional processes relating to the Opposition Group and discussions between the Leader of the Independent Group and Labour Group.

- 11 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES (EXCEPT THE LINCOLNSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD, THE HEALTH SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR LINCOLNSHIRE, THE BOURNE TOWN HALL TRUST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE CORPORATE PARENTING PANEL)

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

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED

That the appointment of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen as circulated be approved.

12 QUESTIONS TO THE CHAIRMAN, THE LEADER, EXECUTIVE COUNCILLORS AND
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>Question to:</u>	<u>Subject</u>
a)	Mrs S Rawlins	R G Davies	Condition of footpaths
b)	R B Parker	M J Hill OBE	Devolution
c)	P M Dilks	M J Hill OBE	Policy in relation to potholes
d)	M D Boles	D McNally	Restrictions at Household Waste Recycling Centres
e)	Dr M E Thompson	R G Davies	Western Growth Corridor
f)	C E H Marfleet	R G Davies	Grass verges on the side of roads
g)	Mrs J E Killey	R G Davies	Green Transport Strategy
h)	R J Cleaver	D McNally	Waste collection in Stamford
i)	R J Kendrick	C J Davie	Tree planting pledge
j)	Mrs A M Newton	D McNally	Booking system for household waste recycling centres
k)	K J Clarke	C J Davie	Investment in flood protection
l)	Mrs M J Overton MBE	M J Hill OBE	Additional Highways funding
m)	B Adams	M J Hill OBE	Litter in hedgerows and verges
n)	S R Parkin	R G Davies	Café culture and independent traders in market towns

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- | | | | |
|----|-----------------|----------------------|--|
| o) | M A Whittington | R G Davies | Grantham Southern Relief Road |
| p) | S Bunney | R G Davies | Maintenance of road surfaces |
| q) | A M Austin | C J Davie | Businesses at the Riverside Industrial Estate, Boston |
| r) | K E Lee | Mrs P A Bradwell OBE | Tackling the impacts of Covid-19 on mental health |
| s) | A J Baxter | R D Butroid | SKDC leisure centre plans |
| t) | P A Skinner | R G Davies | Measures to tackle speeding in communities |
| u) | C Matthews | C J Davie | Measures for managing an influx of tourists to the coast |

13 **COUNCIL CONSTITUTION - CHANGES TO THE LINCOLNSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD TERMS OF REFERENCE AND MEMBERSHIP TO INCORPORATE THE FUNCTIONS OF THE INTEGRATED CARE SYSTEM PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

A report by the Monitoring Officer had been circulated.

It was moved and seconded that the Council:

1. Approves the proposal put forward by the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board to:
 - a) Change the Terms of Reference of the Health and Wellbeing Board to incorporate the functions of the Integrated Care System Partnership Board; and
 - b) Expand the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board as detailed in Section 5 of Appendix B of the report.
2. Approves the amendments to the Constitution set out in Appendix C to the report.

An amendment was moved and seconded as follows:

That an additional paragraph 3 is added as follows – The Leader of the Council applies the principles of political proportionality when exercising his power to appoint councillors to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

(Councillor K E Lee declared an interest as an NHS employee and stated that she would not vote)

Upon being put to the vote, the amendment was lost.

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

RESOLVED

That the Council:

1. Approves the proposal put forward by the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board to:
 - a) Change the Terms of Reference of the Health and Wellbeing Board to incorporate the functions of the Integrated Care System Partnership Board; and
 - b) Expand the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board as detailed in Section 5 of Appendix B of the report.
2. Approves the amendments to the Constitution set out in Appendix C to the report.

14 APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES

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

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED

That the Council makes the appointments to the organisations detailed in Appendix A of the report and circulated as Schedule 4 to the Order of Proceedings.

15 CALENDAR OF MEETINGS 2021/22

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

It was moved, seconded and

RESOLVED

That the Calendar of Meeting Dates 2021/22, as circulated with the Order of Proceedings, be approved.

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

Motion by Councillor Mrs J E Killey

It was moved and seconded as follows:

In his first speech as Prime Minister in August 2019 Boris Johnson made clear his intention to reform Adult Social Care Services. He said

‘My job is to protect you or your parents or your grandparents from the fear of having to sell your home to pay for the costs of care. And so, I am announcing now – on the steps of Downing Street – that we will fix the crisis in social care once and for all, and with a clear plan we have prepared to give every older person the dignity and security they deserve’.

On 11 May 2021 there was a single line in the Queens Speech which read ‘Proposals on reforms to social care will be brought forward’. But, it should be noted, similar words were used in the 2019 Queens Speech. As Councillor Wendy Bowkett remarked recently to the local media

"We've heard strong messages from the Prime Minister indicating the desire to have a long term plan for social care and provide a sustainable method for future funding, which is good news. However, it's disappointing that the Queen's Speech only hints at some future plan sometime in the future and there is no detail on what that will look like. After many years of austerity in social care coupled with short term funding 'fixes', there really does need to be some certainty and confidence behind much needed reforms.

Bearing that argument in mind, the time has come for this council on behalf of the people of Lincolnshire to press the government to bring forward as a matter of urgency a set of proposals to reform Social Care services with a clear timeline for implementation. It should be made clear that such proposals need to be based on a fair and long-term sustainable funding model. Not only that, but we should also take the opportunity to make clear to government those reforms that we think would be of benefit to our residents, families, service providers and staff.

Accordingly, I move that

This council calls on the Leader of the County Council to write without delay to the Prime Minister pressing him

1. to bring forward before this year's Summer Parliamentary Recess, proposals for a fair and long term sustainable funding model for the delivery and funding of Social Care services which allows people to live the lives they want to lead;
2. to take account in such proposals of the following points of view
 - the Dilnot Report's 7 key recommendations on how to deliver a fair, affordable and sustainable funding model should be re-visited given that at different times it has had support from all major political parties;
 - the fulfilment of the pledge in the Conservative Party Manifesto at the 2019 election to seek a cross-party consensus before bringing forward proposals;
 - the importance of the need for greater integration and collaboration of health and social care services;
 - the need for more accessible preventative services;
 - the importance of maximising independence including giving greater emphasis to the use of digital technology to help people stay connected;
 - the need for greater availability of specialist housing;
 - the particular challenge of delivering services in rural areas;
 - much greater recognition of the importance of the social care workforce so as to attract and retain workers with clear opportunities for career progression with recognised qualifications and registration of managers.

An amendment was moved and seconded as follows:

This council calls on the Leader of the County Council to write without delay to the Prime Minister ~~pressing~~ asking him

1. to bring forward ~~before this year's Summer Parliamentary Recess,~~ proposals for a fair and long term sustainable funding model for the delivery and funding of Social Care services which allows people to live the lives they want to lead;
2. to take account in such proposals of the following points of view
 - ~~the Dilnot Report's 7 key recommendations on how to deliver a fair, affordable and sustainable funding model should be re-visited given that at different times it has had support from all major political parties;~~
 - the fulfilment of the pledge in the Conservative Party Manifesto at the 2019 election to seek a cross-party consensus before bringing forward proposals;
 - the importance of the need for greater integration and collaboration of health and social care services;
 - the need for more accessible preventative services;
 - the importance of maximising independence including giving greater emphasis to the use of digital technology to help people stay connected;
 - the need for greater availability of specialist housing;
 - the particular challenge of delivering services in rural areas;

- ~~much~~ *to continue the* greater recognition of the importance of the social care workforce so as to attract and retain workers with clear opportunities for career progression with recognised qualifications and registration of managers.

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

This then became the substantive motion, and upon being put to the vote was carried.

RESOLVED

This council calls on the Leader of the County Council to write without delay to the Prime Minister asking him

1. to bring forward proposals for a fair and long term sustainable funding model for the delivery and funding of Social Care services which allows people to live the lives they want to lead;
2. to take account in such proposals of the following points of view
 - the fulfilment of the pledge in the Conservative Party Manifesto at the 2019 election to seek a cross-party consensus before bringing forward proposals;
 - the importance of the need for greater integration and collaboration of health and social care services;
 - the need for more accessible preventative services;
 - the importance of maximising independence including giving greater emphasis to the use of digital technology to help people stay connected;
 - the need for greater availability of specialist housing;
 - the particular challenge of delivering services in rural areas;
 - to continue the greater recognition of the importance of the social care workforce so as to attract and retain workers with clear opportunities for career progression with recognised qualifications and registration of managers.

The meeting closed at 1.04 pm

Agenda Item 5

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 17 September 2021

Statement from: Councillor M J Hill OBE – Leader of the Council, Executive Councillor for Resources, Communications and Commissioning

FINANCE

Statement of Accounts 2020/21

The Government has again extended the date for the publication of the statement of accounts for 2020/21 to the end of November 2021. We have continued to work to an earlier deadline and the draft accounts were presented to Audit Committee on 12 July. Our external auditors, Mazars, are currently reviewing our accounts with an aim to publish our final accounts within the reporting deadline.

Revenue and Capital budget monitoring Q1 and financial impact of Covid-19

The first budget monitoring reports for the current financial year 2021/22 are based on the forecast position as at 30 June 2021. The reports include the financial impacts of Covid-19 for which the Government has provided funding for in the first quarter of this year. The reports were presented to the Overview & Scrutiny Management Board at its meeting on 26 August, with the comments of the Board presented to the Executive on 7 September 2021.

COMMERCIAL TEAM

New One Council Commissioning Framework

A new One Council Commissioning Framework setting out what commissioning means to the Council, our vision, aims and principles more closely aligned to the Corporate Plan, was agreed by the Executive on the 6 July 2021. It increases the emphasis on listening, collaboration and partnership, supporting local business and the environment whilst making the best use of the scarce public pound in Lincolnshire. The focus on partnership reflects the importance of joint commissioning with other public sector bodies, particularly the Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group and the desire to work across Greater Lincolnshire.

Serco

Serco and the Council (IMT and Democratic Services) worked very closely together on the Councillor's IT refresh, applying lessons learned and providing sufficient individual support so that the refresh was successful.

Serco has achieved Customer Service Excellence, the Government's national standard for excellence in customer service, for the Customer Service Centre. Assessments for the standard includes robust examination of evidence against 57 elements across key areas, which research has indicated are a priority for customers. These include insight, organisational culture, information, accessibility, service performance and the quality of service delivered.

Following a two day final assessment, which included discussion with members of the Serco Management Team, Customer Service Advisors and service representatives from Lincolnshire County Council, Serco exceeded the standard and achieved a Compliance Plus grading.

Commercial Team Infrastructure

The team has recently conducted a number of procurements including: ERP Testing Support, Route Planning Software for School Admissions and Transport eligibility, Microsoft Unified Support, a committee management system, a replacement data management system for Waste Services, and Lincolnshire growth grant fund. In addition, the team has supported the Smarter Working Programme procuring contracts for office furniture and the cloud booking system.

A significant piece of work during this period has been the development of a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) for post-mortems and mortuary services. This provides flexibility in the event that there is a merger of coronial areas with North Lincolnshire and/or North East Lincolnshire Council as it allows those authorities and others to call off from the DPS.

The team is in the initial stages of a procurement for a Framework Agreement for refuse collection vehicles, the current framework has yielded income for the Council and we are hoping to replicate its success into the future as District Council partners consider new vehicle technologies. We are also in the process of establishing a framework for grounds maintenance services which is due to be live before the end of 2021.

We are working closely with our colleagues in Highways to establish the Highways Select Framework and on initial work on the North Hykeham Relief Road.

We have also delivered a number of procurements for our District Council partners including the Cogglesford Watermill restoration project, document management system for WLDC and data centre for NKDC.

Commercial Team People

We have recently concluded the homecare re-procurement and have awarded new contracts to 9 different organisations to cover 12 geographical zones across the county. We are welcoming 3 new organisations to the county and look forward to working with them. The procurement was due to take place in 2020 but was delayed due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

New contracts will commence on 1 October 2021 and have been awarded for a 5 year duration with the option to extend for a further 3 years. This length of contract help provide a level of stability in an extremely challenging sector.

COLLABORATIVE WORKING WITH OUR PARTNERS

Devolution

The Government announced its intention in the Queens Speech to introduce a Levelling Up White Paper later this year. The Levelling Up White Paper is expected to put Councils at the heart of delivering the Government's programme to improve opportunities in all parts of the country, advance recovery from the pandemic and deliver on the Government's manifesto commitment to devolve power to all parts of the country.

In advance of the publication of the White Paper, the Secretary of State wrote to local authorities setting out the Government's commitment to devolving power to local places and closer to citizens through 'County Deals' and inviting discussions on early pilots for readily deliverable proposals. All Councils across Greater Lincolnshire have offered to participate in such discussions and commenced work to develop a range of options setting out the types of flexibilities and specific powers that could form part of a deal and the benefits that a deal could bring for residents across Greater Lincolnshire.

Lincolnshire Day

Plans for Lincolnshire Day are now well developed across Greater Lincolnshire. A civic event has been planned for 1 October and will be held at Normanby Hall in North Lincolnshire. The event will include a tree planting ceremony to show the commitment of each authority to enhancing and protecting our environment. As part of the activities surrounding Lincolnshire Day, we are running the Greater Lincolnshire Menu competition and inviting chefs and food business to submit a recipe for a Lincolnshire dish. We're already inviting entries to this event and are working closely with local media outlets to promote the excellent offer that Greater Lincolnshire has. The judging will take place across the three authorities, with the three winning entries being invited to the civic celebration at Normanby Hall where they will be able to present their dishes.

Lincolnshire Day has a strong community focus to it. We've developed digital resource packs for our schools that offer activities to do on the history of Greater Lincolnshire. We are also working with Town and Parish Councils, the Chamber of Commerce, the Federation of Small Businesses and a range of community groups to promote the celebration of Lincolnshire Day.

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COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 17 September 2021

Statement from: Cllr Mrs P A Bradwell OBE - Deputy Leader and Executive Councillor for Children's Services, Community Safety and Procurement

CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Children's Health

Throughout the pandemic, our Health Visitors and Nurses have continued to support Lincolnshire families. Some programmes were delivered virtually, but we are beginning to restore face-to-face sessions.

An extra £2.5m to improve mental health care and support for children and young people with complex needs was successfully secured from NHS England (Health and Justice) through a joint bid by the Council, NHS Lincolnshire, CCG and Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust. Our plans include the creation of a new trauma-informed Complex Needs Service to support children with high-harm and high-risk vulnerabilities. Implementation has already begun, with the full roll-out due to be completed by 2024.

We are currently reviewing and redesigning our services to support children and young people's mental health, emotional wellbeing and behavioural needs, to make it easier for families to access the right support at the right time. By September 2022, we aim to have introduced a transformed model of integrated, community-based services, with more focus on self-referral.

Children's Centres

Face-to-face sessions are restarting in our 48 children's centres and outreach venues, with an average of 350 early years sessions being delivered each week, alongside a range of learning and development opportunities. The activities have been positively received by families and attendance is increasing.

Supporting our Foster Carers

Caring2Learn has established a hub to provide support to fostering households, facilitated by our foster carer champions. We currently have 22 champions, who have supported over 150 households over the last year. Overall, more than 90% of fostering households have accessed this support.

In addition, Lincolnshire County Council is now a Foster Friendly Employer, offering staff additional benefits and flexibility to help them care for foster children. We are now encouraging other Lincolnshire employers to join the initiative.

Schools

Our schools are doing an amazing job meeting the many challenges arising from the pandemic, while continuing to provide our young people with a high-quality education. I would like to thank all our school leaders and staff and also our governing bodies for their efforts during a time of national crisis.

Schools continue to receive support from our education team and the Recover Lincolnshire programme, and I am pleased to see everyone's hard work recognised in the Ofsted visits and inspections that have taken place in a number of schools.

With no national examinations taking place this year, students have been provided with teacher-assessed grades for GCSE and A levels. Students achieved some very good results this year bearing in mind their education has been interrupted for 2 years as a result of the pandemic and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate them all and wish them well for the next stage of their education, training or employment.

We received over 15,000 applications for schools places this year, with the vast majority of families once again being offered their first-choice.

Building Communities of Specialist Provision Strategy

Despite the pandemic, we are making excellent progress on our special schools improvement project. This will see £86m spent on the expansion and development of 13 specialist settings over the next few years. The new Boston Endeavour Academy has recently been completed and will open in September, providing space for 140 pupils with 16 classrooms and additional specialist teaching spaces. It also benefits from a hydrotherapy pool, sensory and soft play rooms and dedicated therapy spaces. Outside, there are hard and soft-surfaced play areas, as well as a sensory garden and wildlife areas. Improvements at Willoughby Academy and The Eresby School are also underway and due to be completed in early 2022.

Lincolnshire Music Service

The Lincolnshire Music Service has been named 'Youth Organisation of 2020' by the Classical Music Digital Awards in recognition of their amazing achievements in online music teaching and video collaborations during the pandemic. Despite Covid restrictions, the music service has continued to teach music to our children either in-person or via an innovative online offer. In July, the service took part in an online Share Sound Ensemble performance, with over 150 Lincolnshire children participating.

ADULT SKILLS & FAMILY LEARNING

2020/2021 has proved to be a challenging year for the Adult Skills & Family Learning Service as a result of the uncertainties around Covid-19. Fantastic work has taken place by our contracted Learning Providers and Family Learning tutors to develop a blended programme so that learners have the choice of studying either in the classroom or in a

virtual learning environment. End of year figures show that we worked with over 5,300 learners, delivering 1,206 qualifications. Throughout 2020/2021 qualification provision continued to be aimed at targeted learners with a result of 47% of the qualifications achieved by male learners and 33% by learners who previously had no, or low levels of qualifications. In spite of the challenges faced, the programme continues to deliver good outcomes for the learners involved.

Contracts have been signed with 22 Learning Providers to deliver training courses to 6,179 learners in the 2021/2022 academic year. The service will continue to prioritise under-represented learners with 40% of provision planned to be delivered in areas of deprivation, targeting unemployed learners and those with low levels of qualifications who will benefit the most from our programme.

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Stay Safe Partnership

The Stay Safe Partnership continues to be a trusted source of preventative education for schools and academies in the county. The Community Safety Team works in collaboration with Lincolnshire Police, Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue, Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership, We Are with You, Futures4Me and Domestic Abuse specialists to ensure that age appropriate preventative messages relating to road and fire safety, internet safety, anti-social behaviour, alcohol and drugs awareness, healthy relationships, county lines and knife crime are actively promoted in Lincolnshire schools.

The 2020/21 academic year proved particularly challenging for the partnership, with Covid restrictions impacting on their ability to deliver safety messages to pupils in a classroom setting. In response, the Stay Safe Team developed alternative methods of delivery including virtual 'Stay Safe Days', both independent student and teacher led modules. By the end of the academic year, as a result of moving to this blended learning approach, the team had delivered sessions to 14,164 secondary and 7,159 primary school pupils.

The team also created YouTube online safety content for pupils and delivered live stream sessions to parents through the LSCP YouTube channel, covering matters such as parental controls, grooming, sexting and bullying. To date, these live stream resources have been viewed 1,961 times.

Domestic Abuse

The Domestic Abuse Act came into effect on 1 April 2021. This legislation places a new legal duty on the County Council to provide support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in refuges and other safe accommodation. Preparatory work, including a comprehensive review and consultation, ensured the Council were well placed to meet the requirements of the statutory framework when the legislation came into force. One of the

necessary changes was to the governance arrangements for Domestic Abuse (DA), to one that is better able to deal with the complex nature and breadth of DA, whilst also meeting the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Act. The partnership has now transitioned to these new arrangements, and there is now a separate Domestic Abuse Partnership Board that sits alongside the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership, the Lincolnshire Children's and Lincolnshire Adult's Safeguarding Board. The partnership has excellent representation at both operational and strategic levels, from a wide range of agencies.

During this period the Community Safety team, in conjunction with colleagues in the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, were successful at securing additional funding from the Ministry of Justice. This funding will enable EDAN Lincs, the Council's commissioned provider of DA support services, to invest in new areas of specialist provision; including a DA Court Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA), a Rural IDVA, a CHIDVA (Children's IDVA) as well as additional community IDVA and Outreach provision.

Safer Lincolnshire Partnership

The Safer Lincolnshire Partnership, of which LCC is a member, has a statutory duty to work together to reduce re-offending; to tackle crime and disorder; anti-social behaviour; alcohol and substance misuse; and tackle any other behaviour which has a negative effect on the local environment. There is a requirement to review levels and patterns of crime and disorder by way of a strategic needs assessment every three years. This year there has been consultation between Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adults Board, Lincolnshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership and Lincolnshire Police, and given the significant crossover between boards and policing, this assessment will be a joint one.

Analysts within the Community Safety Service have been working to analyse the current and emerging issues across Lincolnshire, which impact on community safety and the safeguarding of adults and children residing in or visiting the county. A report will be presented to the respective partnership boards and Lincolnshire Police this week. This will be the evidence base upon which partners can agree their respective priorities for future work, as well joint work on shared areas of concern.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 17 September 2021

Statement from: Councillor Mrs W Bowkett – Executive Councillor Adult Care and Public Health

ADULT CARE

Occupational Therapy Teams

Occupational Therapy (OT) Teams have continued to see an increase in referral rates which is an increase of over 22% on the last year, with 6,775 referrals in total. This increase may be related in part to changes in the operating model of NHS community therapy services, but also increased referrals from Adult Care practitioners as they increasingly are better able to identify the need for OT intervention as a result of the Strength Based Approach work (which is all about maximising independence and resilience). The OT teams continue to deploy service improvements and new ways of working to increase capacity and productivity including improved skill mix and utilisation of Community Care Officers (CCO). The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic remains significant, with a greater reduction in capacity as a result of being "pinged" to self-isolate, than at the start of the pandemic. Despite these challenges the average waiting time for assessment remains less than 2 months at 58 days – a significant improvement on previous performance.

Improvement Programme

Analysis using the independent IMPOWER INDEX suggests that Adult Care is much better in delivering services at lower than average spend compared to other local authorities; and has strong foundations to move from being good to great; which is why there is an Improvement and Development Programme across the Directorate to identify and implement interventions to improve outcomes for individuals and maximise independence across the care pathway. This has included working with frontline teams to embed strengths-based approaches into practice and ways of working.

Interventions have been trialled, embedded and scaled, with demonstrable impact on outcomes and demand though full roll-out will take 18 months. Early impact has been seen across the care pathway, through improved outcomes for individuals, and through winning 'hearts and minds' of frontline teams - demonstrably changing the practice and culture of teams involved.

Performance data has been captured throughout work with teams, which has enabled the teams to reflect on their approach and to demonstrate the impact of the changes they have introduced.

Case studies highlighting the positive impact of utilising strengths based approaches, and demonstrating the impact on increased independence have been captured throughout work with front line teams.

Headlines of key impact achieved across ACCW during various interventions have been outlined below:

Front Door	Wellbeing Service	AFLTC Assessment Teams	AFLTC Review Teams	LD Teams
68% Overall reduction in CSC conversations leading to a referral to ASC teams (53% of conversations initial trial baseline, ongoing reduction to 17% of conversations by 6 weeks after roll out complete)	100% Increase in Wellbeing Service conversations resulting in information, advice and NFA during initial trial (From 17% of conversations in week 1 to 34% of conversations in week 6)	142% Increase in signposting following ICs/ assessments in Louth team (33% of conversations in week 1 to 80% of conversations in week 6) 55% Proportion of initial reviews resulting in decrease in support or avoided an increase in support in Sleaford team	22% Proportion of Adult Frailty reviews resulting in decrease in support needed or avoided an increase in support in West Review team	10% Average proportion of LD reviews resulting in decrease in support needed or avoided an increase in support (Trial team 21%, Lincoln & Hykeham 6%, Sleaford & Spalding 3%)

Lincolnshire Adult Care and Community Wellbeing Market Position Statement 2020-2023

The Adult Care and Community Wellbeing Market Position Statement 2020 – 2023 is now live and accessible online, via the Lincolnshire County Council website. The purpose of an MPS is to satisfy one of the requirements in the Care Act outlining the Council's strategic direction surrounding the care and support market, what services are currently being delivered within the sector and to inform current and potential providers of upcoming business opportunities. It is intended to be used by providers to plan for the future, informing business choices such as investment in capital or personnel.

Mental Health - Managed Care Network (MCN)

The Managed Care Network is an alliance of community groups and organisations across Lincolnshire which offers a variety of support activities services and projects that provide people with structure and choice in their lives whilst helping them to maintain their wellbeing in the community.

Whilst the MCN will continue to offer this excellent range of support and services, the management of the network has recently transferred from 'Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Trust' (LPFT) to 'Shine Lincolnshire' who are currently undertaking the administration for the funding of Wave 2 Community Mental Health Transformation Funding.

Shine are a well-established and knowledgeable mental health support service with strong local connections. They are working closely with LPFT to ensure a smooth transition of the service, whilst continuing to deliver the fantastic work which has been achieved to date. LPFT continue to work in partnership with Lincolnshire County Council to support and promote local services, community groups and organisations through the remainder of the current phase of projects and funding.

Mental Health Transformation

Adult Social Care and other system partners have supported Lincolnshire CCG and LPFT with a successfully bid for the following additional Mental Health funding in Lincolnshire for the period 2021/22:

- £1.4 million has been allocated for the Wave 2 Community Mental Health Transformation Funding. This funding has been allocated to expand the Community Transformation Programme to an additional four sites:
 - East Coast (SOLAS, East Lindsey, First Coastal)
 - Lincoln North (Imp)
 - Stamford (Four Counties)
 - Countywide integrated place based Mental Health Teams
- £500K has been allocated for the expansion of the Mental Health Liaison Service.
- £375K has been allocated for Community Crisis Alternatives which will be used to expand crisis support on the East Coast.

Mental Health Act Consultation

The Mental Health Act White Paper is currently under review with a key focus on improving the patient experience in each element of the pathway. Mental Health as my colleagues will know is a personal priority of mine and I am pleased that it has also been identified as a priority in the Lincolnshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and in the NHS Long Term Plan. It was agreed that as part of our system collaboration we would work together on the response, demonstrating how we are operating as an integrated health and care system. Feedback from the consultation will be used to inform the final drafting of the revised Mental Health Bill.

Team Around the Adult Initiative

The Team Around the Adult (TAA) initiative continues to go from strength to strength. Since the initiative commenced in February 2021, the two employed Coordinators have dealt with twenty-nine people directly and discussed and supported an additional fifty-nine with other professionals. To date the feedback received on the help and support this has offered in respect of some of the most complex and challenging cases has been positive; there have already been some significant achievements which have greatly improved outcomes for individuals and demonstrate that by working creatively together, we can ensure that the most vulnerable and disconnected people in Lincolnshire get the right support at the right time.

The TAA initiative has adopted a pro-active approach to collating and sharing knowledge, experience and evidence of 'what works' with partners across Lincolnshire in order to support a creative approach to working with those who don't always engage with traditional services. This has been facilitated through multi-agency online practice forums covering a plethora of areas including; working with people who misuse substances, applying strengths-based approaches in practice, gaining insight into sex-offending behaviour and understanding the meaning of safeguarding. These have proved very popular with good representation from a wide-range of partners. These are supported by the monthly TAA newsletter which currently has over two hundred subscribers. If you would like to receive a copy please contact the TAA coordinators at TAA@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Learning Disabilities In-House Day Centres

Lincolnshire County Council's in house day services continue to work closely with families to support disabled people across the County. All families have been offered support and the service has been able to respond positively to each families request regarding a resumption of the service. Service uptake continues to increase and in July 2021, the service was able to operate at 80% of pre pandemic levels in terms of people supported, whilst still adhering to Covid 19 guidance. The service continues to maintain community-based activities and a virtual offer for people not currently returning to the centres. An action plan has also been developed to support a wider care offer.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Covid-19 Update

As we entered step 4 of the government road map and more businesses began returning to “the new normal”, the Public Health Team continued their efforts in response to the pandemic. Key work streams including testing, vaccination, communication and outbreak response continue to be ramped up and stepped down as case rates and outbreaks fluctuate locally.

Most recently, the team have led the response to a sharp rise in cases in Lincoln. This has included the following measures across the City of Lincoln:

- Increasing access to testing on the high street using an agile testing unit, near to the areas with the highest number of cases
- Working with the NHS to co-locate a pop-up vaccine hub alongside this testing unit in City of Lincoln
- Working with local night-time economy businesses to promote local testing and vaccine uptake
- Working with district council environmental health teams to assess if businesses are operating in a safe manner, and what can be done if they are not
- Deployment of an outreach team to engage with the local 18–30-year-old population, providing test kits and signposting to vaccine drop ins
- Working with local businesses which are regularly accessed by the target population, to provide customers with LFD test kits.

The Health Protection Team continues to support care homes and the local health and care sector. Testing for those displaying obvious Covid symptoms will continue until the end of the year at the earliest, with asymptomatic testing being reviewed by national government in September.

With the return to schools in September, the Health Protection Team have been providing additional support to educational settings. A series of webinars were held with schools at the end of the summer break, to help staff navigate the testing landscape and to make them aware of key updates to guidance published over the summer, which will help inform them

on how to keep themselves and children safe and reduce the disruption of Covid in these setting.

Substance Misuse

Substance misuse services continue to follow national guidance, delivering face to face interventions using personal protective equipment (PPE) and lateral flow tests to ensure staff and client safety. Although many sessions are being delivered virtually due to their popularity during Covid restrictions, face to face groups and appointments are now more widely available as recovery plans are implemented.

I am pleased to announce that Lincolnshire has been successful in securing more than half a million pounds (£506,000) of new funding from Public Health England to improve substance misuse services; specifically, criminal justice provision and reducing drug related deaths. This funding has allowed services to recruit additional workers including a criminal justice team, mental health liaison staff and a dedicated female worker. There is also provision for residential rehabilitation and an innovative peer-to-peer scheme to reduce overdose deaths in hard-to-reach communities. We have also been successful in securing a further £382,000, as part of a consortium with Leicestershire and Rutland Councils, to provide residential alcohol and drug detoxification treatment.

Falls Response Service

I am pleased to confirm that the Falls Response Team continues to support people across Lincolnshire following the launch of the new permanent service in April 2021. The service is delivered by Lincolnshire Integrated Voluntary Emergency Services (LIVES) through their Community Emergency Medicine Service (CEMS) and funded jointly by Lincolnshire County Council and Lincolnshire Clinical Commissioning Group. The funding provides three fall teams across the county, with specially equipped vehicles able to perform diagnostics, lift patients from the floor and provide emergency treatment.

The initial figures for the April to June 2021 period show:

- The service supported 604 people, continuing the level of response achieved during the pilot programme.
- 84% of people attended by the service were aged over 60 and nearly half (48%) were aged 80 or above.
- Two thirds (66%) were discharged at scene, either by the falls crew or with the assistance of CEMS or East Midlands Ambulance Service (EMAS).

In line with the key purpose of the service, lifts or assisted recovery from the floor were the most common interventions. The crews have also provided Community First Responder (CRF) care, administered pain killers and provided ECG readings for remote review as required. The scheme continues to be a fine example of partnership working and innovation in Lincolnshire.

Chief Medical Officer's 2021 Annual Report – Health in Coastal Communities

I am sure you saw the reports in the media over the summer following the publication of the [Chief Medical Officer's \(CMO\) 2021 Annual Report](#) and the poorer health outcomes for people living in coastal towns. The report highlights that, despite the significant efforts of local leaders, coastal communities continue to have a high burden of health challenges across a range of physical and mental health conditions, often with lower life expectancy and higher rates of many major diseases. Lincolnshire contributed to the report by providing a case study on the issues facing our coastal communities in East Lindsey.

I would urge colleagues to read the report and support the CMO's recommendation for a cross government strategy to improve the health and wellbeing of coastal communities with a particular focus on improving housing, environment, education, employment, and transport.

Sexual Health Campaign

A summer campaign to promote good sexual health has been launched on social media to nudge people to take action and protect themselves from unwanted pregnancy and sexually transmitted disease. The campaign is positive and vibrant with lots of information on where to find support and advice. As lockdown easing continues and we get into a summer of fun and relaxation, the messages are very timely. Follow the sexual and reproductive websites - [Lincolnshire Sexual Health \(LiSH\)](#) and social media @[LCHSSexHealth](#) and [Positive Health](#).

Online Financial Assessment Tool

I am pleased to announce that at the end of June 2021, the Adult Frailty and Long-Term Conditions West Team started to use an online financial self-assessment tool for non-residential cases. The online assessment has been offered by Social Workers where they see it is appropriate for the person to complete the form online.

We have received feedback and are continuing to develop and improve the system. From September 2021, we are planning to make the assessment available for all people in receipt of mental health support from LPFT. We believe that this cohort of people is much more likely to use the online form compared to Adult Frailty teams. Once we have reviewed the roll out with LPFT, we will then look at rolling out the online financial assessment tool for non-residential cases across every team in the county.

We are continuing to develop the residential assessment part of the system, which should be ready for a rollout in winter 2021/22.

Wellbeing Service

The [Wellbeing Lincs Annual Report](#) is now available. The service has played a key part in our Covid-19 response in addition to continuing to provide its core service.

Homes for Independence Blueprint

I am delighted to share the final version of Lincolnshire's Homes for Independence Blueprint [Lincolnshire Homes for Independence](#), developed with District Councils, the CCG, housing providers, Police and others through the Housing, Health and Care Delivery Group (HHCDG). As the new HHCDG chairman, Cllr Gray will oversee progress to achieve its ambitions through a formal Delivery Plan. The document is published on the LRO - [Lincolnshire Homes for Independence](#).

One You Lincolnshire

I am pleased to inform colleagues that Lincolnshire has secured an additional £425,000 to expand our offer of support to Lincolnshire residents who are looking to lose weight, move more, go smoke free or drink less. Being healthy and happy will help us all as we all look to move on from the pandemic, and Lincolnshire's Integrated Lifestyle Service, One You Lincolnshire, will now be able to support an additional 2,000 individuals to achieve their goals. This additional funding will be used to increase our offer of support in several key areas:

- Digital interventions (via the 'Gloji' digital weight management app)
- Additional support for people with a diagnosed mental health condition
- Post-pregnancy support
- Additional support for men who want to lose weight, including expansion of the 'Man vs Fat' challenge

Further information on One You Lincolnshire is available at www.oneyoulincolnshire.org.uk.

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COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 17 September 2021

Statement from: Councillor R D Butroid – Executive Councillor People Management, Legal and Corporate Property

CORPORATE PROPERTY

Smarter Working

The Council's first managed workspace successfully opened on 2 August 2021 at Lancaster House. All staff are able to book a space using an online booking system giving access to rooms and desks.

LCC will be investing in the refurbishment of Orchard House B which will be a service hub. The refurbishment will significantly enhance the working environment for staff and will include comfort heating, cooling and mechanical ventilation.

Special Schools Programme

Boston Endeavour became the first new special school to be handed over on 16 August. The £13million state of the art building will significantly improve the learning environment for young people and it replaces the existing John Fielding building.

Lincoln Castle

A successful bid for funding to Historic England has enabled the Council to repair and stabilise the embankments at Lincoln Castle. This will ensure that the castle's structure will be secure for future generations.

PEOPLE MANAGEMENT

Apprenticeships

Overall Position - We gave a commitment to grow our workforce, particularly with younger generations, focusing on the number of apprenticeships to increase availability and attractiveness of working within Lincolnshire. Therefore as we come to the end of a challenging academic year, it has given us time to pause and reflect on the achievements despite the pandemic.

It is pleasing to report that as of the 31 July 2021, the total number of apprentices enrolled was 235, with a levy allocation of £2,116,642. Local training providers deliver 61% of training provision.

Highlights - We would like to share some of our achievements:

- The first Apprenticeship Ambassador Forum was successfully held. Neilesh Champaneri, Chair of the East Midlands Young Apprenticeship Ambassador Network, was the guest speaker.
- 'Learning at Work' week concluded with a number of events including a video reel shared with all employees on some of the opportunities available at LCC.

- We have been working more closely with the local university and colleges to share the full scope of opportunities at the Council.
- A broad portfolio of apprenticeships is being undertaken across the organisation.
- 68% of the apprenticeships being undertaken are in recognised roles of 'hard to recruit and retain'.
- We have taken advantage of the incentive payments for new start apprentices and to date have claimed £207,500; of which £32,000 has been claimed corporately and £175,500 has been claimed on behalf of schools.

Levy Transfer Process - As part of our efforts to support local employers, the Council was pleased to be able to support requests to support a total of 48 apprentices through the levy transfer scheme; this equates to £223,650 that has been allocated to support apprentices outside of the Council.

To date 13 of the 48 apprentices have been confirmed on the Digital Apprenticeship Service (DAS) system. The apprenticeships they have requested funding for include important roles:

- Trainee Nursing Associate
- Adult Care Workers
- Senior Healthcare Support Workers
- Leadership & Management (Care Sector)
- Community Activator Coach (Education Sector)
- Community Health & Sport Officer
- Teaching Assistants
- Production Chef (Care Sector)

On the horizon - The Lincolnshire & Rutland Education Business Partnership have asked Lincolnshire County Council to participate in filming 'a day in the life' across a number of job roles, using multi body cameras. The footage will then be edited to create a work experience video that will be offered to schools.

LEGAL

Legal Services Lincolnshire (LSL) continues to support the County Council and its District Council partners, which now include South Kesteven District Council. That support continues to include advice to the Covid-19 outbreak management response as legislation and guidance changes.

LSL has, since its inception, maintained accreditation to the Law Society's LEXCEL practice management standard which provides externally validated assurance that the work of the legal department is being managed in accordance with good practice. The latest inspection of LSL's compliance with the standard took place on 10 and 11 August 2021. The assessor identified only one minor non-compliance which made it the most successful inspection result since the service first achieved the LEXCEL standard.

This is particularly pleasing as it demonstrates that despite working remotely the service has remained committed to the highest standards in the management of the Council's legal work.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 17 September 2021

**Statement from: Councillor L A Cawrey, Executive Councillor for
Fire & Rescue and Cultural Services**

FIRE & RESCUE

We continue to have a good number of potential on-call recruits (284) and we are now able to run full courses within restrictions, with 51 new recruits commencing since 1 January 2021. We will also be trialling our new modular training for on-call recruits later this financial year. We had 83 applications for our Wholetime Transfer (WT) recruitment campaign appointing 15 competent WT firefighters from our existing on-call workforce or from other Fire and Rescue Services. Our recruitment team are currently processing more than 470 applications for the 20 new trainee WT firefighters who will commence training in January 2022.

Our training team have certified 245 Breathing Apparatus wearers this year and have also appointed 18 new co-responders. Whilst Covid19 precautions placed significant restrictions on driver training, we have been able to provide familiarisation training to all of the crews receiving the new Scania fire engines and are now catching up on the LGV and co-responder new and refresher driver training. We have recently awarded the contract for our new Trauma Care training to LIVES and this will commence later this year.

Lincolnshire County Council Internal Audit has carried out two audits in the period. The audit of our training recording process provided for a high level of assurance. The second on re-imbursement of expenses found substantial assurance with some minor remedial actions being taken.

Our operational support team have continued to deliver a number of key fleet projects completing the procurement and delivery of 33 Scania Fire Engines; the new Water Carrier to Market Rasen and the additional Hidrostal Flood Pumps and vehicles intended for Alford and Holbeach. They also completed the full refresh of all our Breathing Apparatus sets and radios by 31 March; the supply of 200 Draeger smoke hoods (as recommended by Grenfell enquiry); improved protection half-face masks and our procurement team are currently out to tender for the provision of gym equipment to our wholetime stations. We have commenced repairs to our Fire Training buildings at Skegness and Gainsborough with remedial work also planned for Boston and Lincoln South. Equality Impact Assessments are being completed for all of our Fire buildings and will inform any future building planned at Grantham and Leverton.

Emergency Planning

The Emergency Planning and Business Continuity team continue to play a significant role in the multi-agency recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. The team are co-ordinating the involvement of Lincolnshire County Council services and voluntary organisations and ensuring that our internal plans and business continuity arrangements dovetail with those of the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum (LRF).

The Secretary of State has approved an LRF Funding Pilot with an approved budget of £7.5m nationally. Each LRF has received an allocation based upon a combination of population size and the Index of Multiple Deprivation; in Lincolnshire's case this amounts to £179,187.00.

The purpose of the funding is to support LRF's building of core strategic capacity and capability, to take an active role in developing and delivering national priorities as set out in the Integrated Review and to provide evidence to feed into the National Resilience Strategy and review of the Civil Contingencies Act.

The Emergency Planning and Business Continuity team have picked up this project on behalf of the LRF for the duration of the pilot funding scheme. The team are already involved in the initial stages and capacity has been found for a project team to deliver different elements of it. These skills have already been utilised as part of the EU Exit and COVID response and recovery. It is also seen as an opportunity to help shape the future of emergency planning and LRFs nationally through involvement in the Integrated Review and the Civil Contingencies Act. All costs associated with the project are being met by the LRF.

From 1 September the team moved from Fire and Rescue and joined the Resources Directorate under Public Protection reporting to Di Coulson and Andrew Crookham. The team will remain in their accommodation at the County Emergency Centre and all preparations are underway to ensure as smooth a transition as possible.

CULTURE

The Usher Gallery

Following discussions between the County Council and the City of Lincoln Council, subject to formal agreements being made, we will continue to run the Usher Gallery as an art gallery and Lincoln's museum and art collections will remain in Lincolnshire.

Discussions finalising these formal agreements are at a mature stage and as a result of the new arrangement, we look forward to using the Usher Gallery more flexibly with the gallery being used for community, cultural and creative industry use including but not limited to income-generating activity through third party hire including cultural talks and tours, weddings, ceremonial celebrations, educational and children's activities.

It will be a much improved solution – bringing more visitors to the site, for more reasons and more often.

Lincolnshire Archives

Archive Service Accreditation Award

In July, The National Archives announced that Lincolnshire Archives had successfully retained its Archive Service Accreditation. This award looks at an organisation's ability to develop, care for, and provide access to its collections, and those areas such as resources and planning which underpin those activities. In essence, Archive Service Accreditation

defines good practice and nationally agreed standards for archive services across the UK, thereby encouraging and supporting the development of the archive service.

As a result, Lincolnshire Archives remains as an appointed Place of Deposit for public records. The Accreditation Panel which made the award noted:

“...that this is an effective service closely integrated within Culture and with strong embedded support.”

Heritage

Treasure

In April 2021 we made a number of exciting new acquisitions, all early Medieval in date, via the British Museum Treasure Scheme. External funding was secured via the Arts Council England/Victoria & Albert Museum (ACE/V&A) Purchase Grant Fund, The Headley Trust and the Friends of Lincoln Museums and Art Gallery to fund the purchases.

The new acquisitions include two gold pendants and a silver gilt mount. The high status gold pendants from Binbrook and Rauceby are both Early medieval dating from the 7th century. The exquisite styling of their decorative gemstones and glass are uncommon and the first additions to our collection. The high status silver gilt mount represents only one of twenty existing similar mounts found in England, thought to derive from richly embellished belts or equestrian equipment manufactured on the Frankish continent during the period of Carolingian period (9th-10th century).

Thomas Price sculptures

We have recently taken receipt of three new acquisitions of contemporary sculptural work by the leading black British artist, Thomas J Price, funded via our membership of the Contemporary Art Society (CAS) acquisition scheme and the support of the Heslam Trust. The works consist of three heads depicting three black men cast in bronze. Each character has been based on people's behaviour 'types' represented in the media, and ancient, classical and neoclassical sculptures.

It provides an opportunity to connect Lincolnshire audiences with a black British working artist who is taking centre stage as part of a national campaign, exploring local links to current social movements and debate.

Art Fund Grant

In January 2021 we were also successful in the awarding of £35,000 from the Art Fund Respond and Reimagine Grant to help develop more online learning resources. The funding will support the development of new digital content and outreach activities encompassing a range of new learning offers that emphasise the sense of our 'local place' by linking to our sites, collections and exhibitions.

The project involves designing new innovative digital assets to engage audiences and showcase our collections and exhibitions. Our outreach kits explore the art and history of our sites, from prehistory to the twentieth century, and we are creating new digital learning kits with films, podcasts, live streamed sessions and much more.

A new Virtual Immersive Environment of the archaeology gallery launched as part of our July 2021 festival of archaeology. We're currently exploring creating 3D scans of artefacts from our wonderful collection of art and archaeology and the bringing to life, via Virtual Reality, hidden stories of Roman and Viking Lincoln. We'll also be delivering digital training sessions inviting young people to take up opportunities to work alongside us.

Exhibitions and engagement

Despite closures during lockdowns we have continued to deliver a range of exhibitions and engagement:

We initiated our latest Wildlife Photography Competition which will open up at the North Sea Observatory in Autumn 2021.

We opened Old Salt, a commissioned art work from the artist Laura Wilson, which has culminated in a sound installation at The Collection and included works from the archaeology collection that inspired her work.

We worked with the National Gallery to bring the Van Huysums painting to The Bridge food bank on Newark Road, linking this with workshops, special 'make kits' and facilitating the link to the National Gallery for two local schools.

We continued our work on the make kits working with the food banks in Lincoln and in particular The Bridge on Newark Road. We also worked closely with EDAN to bring a group of women and children in from the nearby refuge, and are continuing with the workshops being delivered there.

Visit England Assessments

The Collection, Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Visitor Centre and Lincoln Castle have all been nominated for Visit England's Welcome accolade following mystery visits to each site this summer. In order to be nominated for this award, the staff must score at least 98% for this section of the overall report. We are delighted and incredibly proud of the standard of customer service that our teams deliver.

The Visit England Assessment (otherwise known as VAQAS which stands for Visitor Attraction Quality Scheme) is a quality accreditation for visitor attractions including museums, art galleries, safari parks, gardens, historic houses, theme parks etc.

Performance

Visitor numbers to our heritage attractions - as lockdown restrictions have eased - have been very positive, with Lincoln Castle grounds continuing to be very popular as a green space for people to enjoy. With almost 200,000 having visited since April 2021, we are proud to report that income at the castle is up on pre Covid levels.

Libraries

Reopening of Libraries continues to be positive

This past year has highlighted how truly amazing the library service has been, proactively responding and improving delivery to ensure essential services have been provided – so no

one has been left behind or suffered from social isolation. Feedback received from customers shows they are a real lifeline to many, and further illustrates how important this service is to the community.

The positive start to the libraries recovery continues with all 15 core libraries offering browsing to customers alongside PC use and deposits of existing loans. Since the easing of restrictions, study spaces and casual seating have also been reinstated, with plans in place to re-establish events and activities over the coming weeks. Thirty three of our community hubs have also returned to service delivery to customers, which again has been a welcomed development by many.

Performance

The number of new online joiners, over 300 a month from April through June, is significantly above the pre Covid average of 48.

E-book and e-audio issues are still performing higher than pre Covid, though they have reduced compared to the same period in 2020 when sites were closed. Due to customers now returning to sites and borrowing physical items and e-newspapers and magazines, we are happy to report that issues are still increasing.

Community Hubs

GLL continue to provide support to 36 community hubs through dedicated Library Development Officers. Of these, 34 hubs are run by community groups. They continue to thrive and have proven to be well embedded within the communities.

We are close to finalising a new potential provider taking over the management of the Ermine Community Hub, following Learning Communities' voluntary liquidation in May 2018. We are excited to be able to once again offer this vital service to its local residents.

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COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 17 September 2021

**Statement from: Councillor C J Davie, Executive Councillor for
Economic Development, Environment and Planning**

Growth

We are currently seeing significant changes to global markets, notably as a result of Covid-19, and to local economic conditions. These changes are seen most keenly in supply chain difficulties – whether that is increasing material prices, long lead-in times, or recruitment difficulties. These are global problems, but we are doing what we can to soften the impact in Lincolnshire. And in recent days studies have started to indicate that businesses are starting to feel more confident again. In this statement I will describe what we are doing to support the economy during these difficult times – investing in economic infrastructure to help businesses to locate in Lincolnshire and to grow, providing training and career advice to reduce hard to fill vacancies, and providing direct support to businesses.

Economic infrastructure

Rapid progress continues at the South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone near Holbeach. The roads on the 15-acre phase 1 of the scheme were completed in May, and reinforcement works to provide electricity to phase 1 are on target for completion by the end of the year.

The Council's new Cluster Hub building, funded by the Government's Getting Building Fund, which is focused on economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, is also under construction and due for completion in Spring 2022. This will provide a high quality business and collaboration space for small and start-up businesses working in the agri-tech sector and related businesses in the food supply chain, and will be the flagship of the development.

Alongside this, the University of Lincoln's national Food Centre of Excellence was completed in February and is now welcoming students. Construction of its new Institute of Technology is underway and due to open in November. The University is planning a grand opening of both buildings, as well as a Ministerial visit to celebrate.

In March the Council made history by jointly purchasing, and now jointly owning with South Holland District Council, an additional 27 acres to form phase 2 of the development; this is the Council's first joint land purchase and the significant scale of the now enlarged development will give confidence to investors, with evidence of this already being seen.

Also in March the marketing launch took place – South Lincolnshire FEZ, at the heart of the UK Food Valley – and this and the work of the appointed agents has met with unprecedented success; as of this month 10 of the 12 plots on phase 1 are either sold, at Heads of Terms stage or with strong interest, and there is also already strong interest in 3 on phase 2.

In East Lindsey, the Skegness Countryside Business Park extension completed in May, and will provide a much needed opportunity for employers in sectors which will help to diversify the coastal economy to expand. Agents have been appointed to promote this scheme to

local developers and small businesses, and the sale of one plot is nearing completion, which will lead to the construction of a number of small commercial units.

Nearby in Huttoft, the new Boatshed Beach Café is scheduled to open in October, for the tourism shoulder season, which will help to raise the quality of our tourism offer.

In Boston Borough, the Pilgrim Fathers installation at Scotia Creek was unveiled in early July, and will form part of the 400-year Pilgrim Fathers celebrations, delayed from 2020 due to the coronavirus.

Over in South Kesteven, the design and construction programme is being finalised to spatially reconfigure the Eventus business centre in Market Deeping, to provide grow-on space and adapt to small businesses' new ways of working, and this will provide a test bed for new forms of business accommodation, which could be developed elsewhere.

Across the county, we continue to support our small business tenants, which total around 140, in our 5 business centres and many industrial units. The recent resilience of local businesses has been amazing, and the occupancy levels in some of our business centres have grown to above pre-Covid-19 levels.

Economic development

Skills

My colleague Cllr Patricia Bradwell and I are part of a Joint Commissioning Board along with the Chairman of the LEP and its Skills Advisory Panel, the Department of Work and Pensions, and the Federation of Lincolnshire Colleges. This Board provides the vehicle for a strategic partnership which supports the skills and employment sector in Lincolnshire. We have recently provided match funding to establish a Career Hub which will give all schools in Lincolnshire, including schools for students with special educational needs, a careers mentor from the local business community. These mentors will be able to help the schools to enthuse young people about the careers available to them in Lincolnshire. The Board has also recently commissioned a major social media campaign which provides information to young people, and we have been able to support the LEP's online jobs fairs which tell job seekers about the job opportunities available to them now. The online job fairs are an important part of tackling the immediate problems of hard to fill vacancies that I mentioned earlier in this statement. One of the Board's next priorities is to establish and promote retraining programmes for people whose period of furlough is coming to an end.

One of the Board's next priorities is to establish and promote retraining programmes for people whose period of furlough is coming to an end. Latest figures show that that is 14,800 people in Lincolnshire, or 5% of the workforce. We expect most of these people to be absorbed into the labour market rather than to become unemployed, but promoting the right on-the-job retraining opportunities to them will help them to have a secure job into the future.

Place and Investment

The drive to entice further investment into the region has been accelerated by a series of investment propositions that have been developed in partnership with all our local authority partners and stakeholders. These include Agrifood, Advanced Engineering and Manufacturing and Low Carbon Energy & Industry. Logistics, Visitor Economy and Defence propositions are currently in development with further propositions planned for Health & Lifesciences, Digital Technology and a brochure on Place. These propositions showcase the region's offer – comparing us with the UK and neighbouring regions, telling investors about our skilled workforce and the outstanding R&D capabilities located across the whole of Greater Lincolnshire. They are already proving to be invaluable in our talks with investors.

Since April 2021 we have received 25 inward investment enquiries with 14 being from foreign investors and 11 from the UK. They are from a diverse range of sectors with 18 being from the Agrifood sector. We are currently working with the wider team on a large number of enquiries in relation to the South Lincolnshire Food Enterprise Zone at Holbeach. Since showcasing our region's High Potential Opportunity for Automation in the Food Processing sector to the Department for International Trade's global network in May 2021, we are also now attracting at least 2 enquiries per week from food related automation and robotics.

Visitor Economy

Work on delivering the recommendations of the Tourism Commission, under the themes of Investment, Skills, Product Development and Marketing, is progressing well since they were agreed in February 2021. These themes have been developed to support the sector's recovery and future growth. The new www.visitlincolnshire.com website was launched in March and is going from strength to strength. The site is now receiving around 20,000 visits per month and the average conversion rate is currently around 15% which provides a strong indication that the website is performing well. Everything leads to and from the website including our marketing effort.

A Green Tourism toolkit is in development and advisory support continues to be provided to new and existing visitor economy businesses via the Growth Hub's dedicated adviser, Gill Harvey. Digital skills within the Visitor Economy are not as good as we would like, so dedicated online support and guidance is being produced and hosted on the Business section of the www.visitlincolnshire.com and www.businesslincolnshire.com websites which will include video masterclasses and downloadable worksheets and toolkits. Within Product Development we are majoring on 6 areas: Cycling, Walking, Heritage, Natural Coast, Generation Alpha and Business Tourism; all are progressing well.

The Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub

The team have had a busy start to the year. In Quarter 1, 619 businesses have been supported, which is due to a good uptake of the business support services offered through the Business Lincolnshire Growth Hub and also the successful delivery of the Lincolnshire County Council grants including the Business Recovery Fund grant, Digital Voucher Scheme and the Invest for the Future Grant which were developed to support the recovery and restart of businesses post Covid.

There continues to be Growth Hub Adviser provision across the county as well as a packed business events calendar and we are pleased to say there has been a measured return to face to face client visits, with some clients actively requesting a return to in-person meetings. In terms of new support offers, the highly successful national Peer Networks programme has launched for a second round.

There is an opportunity for businesses to work with like-minded business leaders to tackle common business issues by joining one of twenty Peer Networks which will be delivered over the course of the rest of this financial year. There are sector specific networks for Visitor Economy, Health and Care, Manufacturing, Agriculture, Horticulture, Charities and Rural businesses, as well as some general and High Growth networks.

As a result of the support provided in Quarter 1, 170 jobs were safeguarded, particularly as a result of uptake by businesses of the Business Recovery Fund grants as well as the Digital Voucher Scheme which have both been highly successful. These schemes have been vital for businesses in surviving and recovering after the effects of Covid-19. Through the support provided by the Growth Hub Advisers, and even against such a difficult economic backdrop, there has also been good growth in new jobs created with 88.34 new jobs evidenced between April and June. The Growth Hub Advisers are continuing to see good jobs growth potential within many businesses, and there is an expectation that our quarter by quarter targets will continue to be met as the economy gradually re-opens throughout the rest of the year.

Finally on business, we are coming to the end of the Council's programme to assist small businesses during the Covid period, especially those who had not been able to receive government support. We launched the programme in March and as we come to the end of the programme I am delighted to say that we have assisted close to 900 businesses. 358 businesses have received essential finance to keep them going through the toughest times that our economy has experienced in recent decades, 65 have received support to adapt their premises and operations for a post pandemic future, 398 have been helped to invest in the vital digital technology for the future, and 46 have been helped to grow quickly. A final 46 business projects are under assessment. Within 6 months we have made a real and practical difference in our local business community and that is something that the Council can be very proud of. There is a clear countywide coverage of the programme, and once the final payments have been processed I will share a detailed breakdown with all members of the Council.

Planning

The Planning and Regulation Committee returned to meeting face to face in July but with some of the measures put in place for virtual Committee meetings being retained. New technology has enabled speakers to appear 'virtually' and the meetings can now be viewed on line.

This will make it easier for those interested in the outcome of planning meetings to participate from the comfort of their homes rather than travelling to Lincoln which will encourage more residents to get involved in the planning process.

The Planning Applications team has now implanted charging for pre-planning application advice.

The Historic Places team continue to provide advice on archaeology for planning decisions to 3 Districts in Lincolnshire and 2 in Nottinghamshire. The cost of this service is recovered through commercial contract and opportunities for providing this service on a commercial basis is being explored with other councils.

Inns on the Edge

Following all the publicity around the time we were advertising for the post, work on the project has now started. It is early days but we are getting lots of really good engagement – including from a number of national bodies who are really keen on the project. The project is covering the 52 parishes of the coastal strip from Grimsby to Boston and will culminate with an exhibition at the North Sea Observatory and also in Lincoln next summer.

Extensive Urban Survey

As part of a national programme being funded by Historic England, we are undertaking a survey of the 30 historic towns of Greater Lincolnshire. The idea is to understand how each town has developed and how we can read the history in the townscape as it looks today. The towns of Lincolnshire are hugely varied. We hope the evidence we produce will feed into local plans and inward investment opportunities for new economic and social development.

Infrastructure Investment

Local Plan

Central Lincolnshire covers the combined area of the City of Lincoln, West Lindsey and North Kesteven and the joint Local Plan provides the strategic framework through which local planning decisions are taken within each locality. Initially adopted in 2017, the Local Plan is now being revised as part of a systematic review to ensure it remains current and consistent with both the latest national guidelines and local circumstances. The consultation on the Draft Central Lincolnshire Local Plan ran for 8 weeks from 30 June to 24 August 2021. This was the first opportunity to view and comment on the new Local Plan which is proposed to replace the Local Plan adopted in 2017. This consultation followed on from the Issues and Options consultation undertaken in June and July 2019. The Plan addresses a range of issues such as climate change, housing, employment, shopping and more. The consultation welcomed any views and comments on any of the draft policies, supporting text, or maps throughout the document and any associated evidence. Whilst the Local Plan will remain familiar, retaining broadly the same vision and objectives, there have been some policy changes/updates together with structural changes to the document to aid navigation of the policies, which will mean it looks quite different. We have responded strongly to the consultation, reinforcing the Council's recent resolution over clean energy and our opposition to onshore wind turbines.

Key policy changes include:

- Climate change: Following a mandate from Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee members to pursue a Carbon Neutral Local Plan, a number of climate change policies have been included to help deliver this, including a requirement for net-zero-carbon homes and a framework for considering renewable energy infrastructure.
- Retail: In recognition of some of the challenges facing retail, the Draft Local Plan seeks to protect more local retail centres in rural areas; in the face of uncertainty in both the industry and from national policy changes allowing shops to change use without the need for planning permission.
- Housing: Reflecting the Government's new housing needs methodology and the Central Lincolnshire's housing and economic needs assessment evidence, the housing requirement of the Plan has been reduced from 1,540 homes each year under the 2017 Local Plan to between 1,060 and 1,325 homes each year in the new plan, meeting the overall requirement of 29,150 dwellings across the plan period from 2018 to 2040.

RAF Scampton

A new draft policy, designed to safeguard the future of RAF Scampton once the site has been decommissioned, has been included. It highlights RAF Scampton as an 'opportunity area' and requiring a masterplan prior to any major development. The policy aims to provide a framework which will enhance and protect the area whilst remaining adaptive and responsive to future decisions on the decommission and disposal of the base.

Funding

LEADER

Live delivery on contracted activity of the 4 LEADER Programmes in Lincolnshire is nearing an end with resources focusing on final claims and post payment monitoring as is the contractual obligation of the accountable body. This will evidence the impact of the programme including the number of jobs the grant investment has created.

In recent weeks, a further opportunity to access £1.1m of LEADER grant has arisen to support 19 projects in the county. To qualify for inclusion, the projects had to already be known to the Local Action Groups or the LEADER Managers. Many of these projects were submitted as part of the 2020 LEADER Summer Call and due to timings could not meet the tight turnaround. This time around the projects will have longer to access the funding and to develop quality projects. Contracting is expected to be completed by the turn of the year and successful applicants will then have until the autumn of 2022 to deliver and claim their grant.

UK Community Renewal Fund (UKCRF)

The Council as the Lead Authority submitted a bid for £9m to MHCLG in June. If successful, the UKCRF programme will support business, employment, skills and place based activity in priority areas of Boston, Lincoln and East Lindsey but benefits will be delivered across all parts of the county. The programme appears to be heavily oversubscribed nationally and decisions have been significantly delayed so scenario planning is underway to assess what and how activity could be delivered if reduced funding is offered and how that might inform

local aspirations going forward. Key ambitions in the UKCRF bid were around developing the green economy, supporting net zero, reinvigorating the high street and market towns, driving digital skills and digital inclusion and supporting key sectors – including agri-food, the visitor economy, creative industries and driving entrepreneurship in the county.

Coastal Communities Fund (CCF)

Work continues to deliver at pace to maximise the impact of the remaining balance of the £370k funding awarded to the county. This includes the development of leisure/green skills and training activities. Further, the National Coastal Tourism Academy has been commissioned to undertake specific research into the coastal Visitor Economy to develop robust data and evidence to support future aspirations, investment and skills participation along the Lincolnshire coast and to help understand the unique set of needs and opportunities that the coastal economy presents – including its demography, environment and its seasonality.

Other coastal activity continues including the Coastal Communities Alliance and on-going work with the APPG, One Coast and the Coastal Developers Forum to drive the best opportunities for inclusive growth in the Lincolnshire coastal economy, raise productivity and to position the coast to benefit from the government's Levelling up agenda.

Communities

Flood Management

I am pleased to be able to report that the flood alleviation scheme to protect 53 homes in Digby has been completed, and we have also commenced a trial scheme this year to explore the potential to help householders access property level flood resilience measures where they can take such action for themselves. The Council supported the Environment Agency earlier this year to complete dredging works on the River Steeping and the Steeping Relief Channel, and is continuing to work with our partners to plan for longer term measures in the wider catchment to help reduce pressure on specific locations in the event of future extended periods of high rainfall and elevated river levels.

In connection with looking ahead to address future issues, the Council has been successful in submitting an expression of interest for £7.5m funding from the Government's Flood and Coastal Resilience and Innovation Programme. Addressing the issue of groundwater flooding, the county's proposal is to work with North Lincolnshire and North East Lincolnshire Councils to develop new ways of tackling one of the more difficult sources of flood risk to manage. Members will recall that a number of places across Greater Lincolnshire have recently experienced issues with very high water levels and groundwater flooding, and I am very pleased to be able to announce that in response, the Council will be leading this project as one of twenty five innovation pilots.

In developing new approaches to this problem, we will be working with other parts of the country, and subsequently helping to promote solutions nationally. We will be creating a detailed plan for the programme over the course of this year, and intend to submit our outline business case in time to commence delivery in the next financial year. Officers will

keep members updated through regular reports to scrutiny committees and through this forum too.

Staying with the theme of future adaptation, we continue to work closely with our partners in the Environment Agency and other bodies to ensure that our policies for coastal Lincolnshire provide a solid foundation for prosperity and recovery from the setbacks of Covid, while being responsible and making sure that we adapt to the ongoing impacts of climate change – particularly future sea level rise. We wish to ensure that coastal prosperity develops in a way that works with, rather than against, natural processes and ensures that our coastal communities become more resilient over time. For this reason we have begun work to fully assess the future impacts and opportunities that will come from climate change in coastal Lincolnshire, and establish a clear adaptation strategy to ensure that genuinely sustainable growth underpins the future prosperity of Lincolnshire's coastal communities.

Sustainability

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

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

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

In addition, the development of the Green Masterplan has now been brought into alignment with the Council's transformation programme, strengthening our ability to embed sustainable working as a principle across all our priority activities, in line with our commitment to reach net carbon neutrality by 2050 at the latest. I would like to make members aware that the Council will be hosting a Lincolnshire Climate Summit in October of this year at the EPIC Centre. This event will bring together a wide range of national figures and local communities and businesses in the run up to COP26, to learn from good practice around the country and to build on and develop leading examples of good practice already here in Lincolnshire.

Natural Environment and Countryside

Also looking forwards, Members will undoubtedly be aware that the Environment Bill continues to make its way through Parliament and is expected to become law towards the end of the year. Among the provisions in the bill is the creation of Nature Recovery

Networks across the country – essentially local strategies for nature, likely to be at county level. In anticipation of this, the Government has very recently issued a consultation document preparing the way for the new arrangements. We will be engaging closely with this, and with the implementation of Nature Recovery Networks with our partners over the coming months and years.

To ensure that the environment service can continue to engage and lead on this complex and changing agenda, we are making some important changes to the teams, improving their capacity to deliver environmental benefits and restructuring the flood risk team to make better use of our resources and to improve liaison with elected members, the public and with services across the Council and our partners. In doing this, we are seeking to implement the One Council approach to service delivery, while maintaining an absolute focus on delivery of the Council's corporate priorities.

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COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 17 September 2021

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

HIGHWAYS

Major Projects

Lincoln Eastern Bypass

This is the final update to highlight that the road is complete with all remaining excess spoil removed from site and footpath connections made to the Sustrans route and the Viking Way. There will be ongoing landscaping works, including maintenance over the next few years along with any correction of defects should they occur.

Grantham Southern Relief Road

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

Phase 2 consists of tunnelling underneath the A1 while keeping the running lanes live to create a new grade separated junction with the A1 south west of Grantham. The main works commenced in September 2019 being constructed by Galliford Try. The project is nearing completion with the main bridge completed and the underpass excavated. The existing cattle creep has been filled in with the majority of final surfacing on the slip roads installed. Final works include realigning the A1 to how it was before the works commenced, street lighting, signage, final surfacing to the rest of the phase and landscaping. Planned completion of this phase is winter 2021.

Phase 3 is the final phase of the project and is the largest and most complex to deliver. It consists of a five span viaduct carrying the road over the East Coast Mainline railway and the River Witham. Works commenced April 2021 and have focussed on topsoil strip, embankment preparation works, ground water management and pre-bridge foundation preparation. Planned completion of this phase is summer 2023, however there are many risks between now and then they may impact on this planned completion.



Phase 2



Phase 3



Phase 3

North Hykeham Relief Road

When complete, this new road will link the A15 Lincoln Eastern Bypass with the A46 Western Bypass at Pennells Roundabout to create a full ring road around Lincoln. The project also aims to:

- Assist the sustainable economic growth of Lincoln and Lincolnshire
- Maximise accessibility to Lincoln
- Improve journey times and road safety in Lincoln

In December LCC was informed that the project had achieved programme entry approval from the DfT, which also secured £110m towards the project from the DfT. LCC accepted the terms of the funding agreement, and the project is now being progressed with an aspirational start in 2025. Works are currently focussed on liaising with homeowners and landowners, compiling a reference design, agreeing a procurement strategy, detailed cost forecasting and key risk mitigation. These along with the detailed design are all in advance of the first milestone, being an application for planning permission in 2023.

Spalding Western Relief Road

Section 5 (Northern Connection) – In February 2018 SHDC in collaboration with LCC were successful in securing £12m from the Homes and Communities Agency for delivering this section of the SWRR. Since then a further £8.13m has been sourced from the HCA. Enabling works have commenced on site, which includes archaeology investigations, some vegetation clearance, utility diversion preparation and property demolition.

A target cost has been agreed with the contractor with the remaining element to complete before main works can commence being the land acquisition. The Heads of Terms for the land is now agreed by all parties with the legal document also now drafted. LCC is awaiting a response from the landowner solicitors. Once this is agreed and sealed the project will commence immediately with an 18 months' work programme.

A46 Dunholme/Welton Roundabout Improvement

This is the final update to highlight that the roundabout is complete and operating very well. There are some minor landscaping works still to complete along with some fencing and gates, however these will be completed soon.



Holdingham Roundabout, Sleaford

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

The works commenced in February 2021 and are programmed to be complete by the end of 2021. The following activities took place in March:

- Drainage works on the central island are complete
- Internal widening of the roundabout has been completed and traffic have been moved on to the new widened carriageway
- Approach and departure lane works continue. It has been programmed in such a way as to minimise traffic disruption (so widen on one side and surface before switching over to do the other side, where possible) – we have one-way closures programmed for four Saturdays throughout July. This will be to complete the surfacing of the widening on the A17 (West) and A15 (South).
- The project is on programme for completion by the end of the calendar year



Corringham Road Junction, Gainsborough

This is the final update to highlight that the junction improvements are complete and operating very well.



Roman Bank, Skegness

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

Works started on site September 2020 and were progressing well, however in February/March 2021 Cadent Gas informed LCC that they would need to divert a gas main

that they had previously informed the delivery team didn't need diverting. This caused a significant delay to the project and resulted in the works spanning Summer 2021 period. To avoid the road works affecting the summer tourism period, it's likely that the works will be postponed, with the contractor demobilising in May 2021. The contractor will then recommence the works in September and complete the project. Due to the need to accommodate Cadent Gas this has extended to programme by months which when combined with vacating the site between May and September has caused the completion date to move to Spring 2022.

In addition, Anglian Water have also insisted on a utility diversion during the works, which they previously communicated didn't need diverting. This has been resisted as LCC do not believe this main requires diverting and is instead an opportunity for betterment by Anglian Water at LCC's expense. LCC has allowed Anglian Water to complete the diversion during the summer when the works aren't progressing, however, to date Anglian Water have failed to achieve their own programme and have still not commenced works. Anglian Water also want to progress a diversion in the works area that LCC is restarting in September, but again they have failed to plan or prepare for these works and LCC is therefore carrying on with the planned works. If Anglian Water feel is necessary to divert the mains, then they will need to do so at a later time once the highway works are complete.





Lincolnshire Coastal Highway

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

Further projects related to the Lincolnshire Coastal Highway are currently being considered.

Wragby Pedestrian Crossings and Mini-Roundabout Improvements

This is the final update to highlight that both the pedestrian crossing on the A158 and the improvements to the mini-roundabout are complete and operating well. These sites are subject to a 1 year maintenance period where any defects will be addressed, should they occur.

Levelling Up Fund Projects (LUF)

LCC submitted a bid to central government under the LUF initiative; this consisted of the following projects:

- A16/A151 Springfield roundabout capacity improvement
- A16 Greencell roundabout (Spalding Power Station) capacity improvement
- A16 Kirton four-way signalised junction – with associated small section of dual carriageway leading into and out of the junction along the A16
- A16 Marsh Lane Roundabout – designated north bound lane
- Boston Active travel schemes

In advance of the outcome of this funding bid LCC is progressing detailed feasibility studies for each project, which are planned to be completed February/March 2022.

Major Route Network (MRN)

Midlands Connect have announced an opportunity to bid for a small amount of revenue funds, if successful these funds can be used to progress a desired scheme to a Strategic Outline Business Case Stage. This is a rolling fund to be used over three financial years, with the intention to build-up a sizable 'pool' of credible business cases that the region can then prioritise for submission to DfT when the next MRN fund and Regional Evidence Base process is called. A date for which is unknown at this stage, but it could possibly be in 2023.

Work has commenced to identify the scheme or schemes that LCC may want to bid for.

Reactive Service

Key Data from Year 1

Around 40,000 enquiries from the public have been received despite lockdowns which vastly reduced the amount of miles travelled by the public. The Highways Work Term Contract delivers a large amount of the key highway service, with maintenance of carriageways a priority. In Q1 of 2021/22 we repaired 16610 defects (up from 15419 in Q4 of 2020/21) including 12515 carriageway potholes. We have fixed 156 gully grates, 436 footway potholes, 403 footway slabs, replaced 13 gully pots completely, as well as carrying out 155 kerbing jobs, 32 minor tree jobs and we have repaired or replaced 149 signs and refreshed the lines at 176 sites. Around 300 miles of carriageway received essential maintenance to renew, extend life and improve safety. 99 winter gritting runs were completed using nearly 30,000 tonnes of UK produced salt. Around 90,000 potholes and reactive repairs were completed. The network increased by over 45 miles. Over 1700 traffic signal faults repaired.

Highways Key Supplier Partnerships (Formally Highways 2020)

We are now past halfway through the second year of the three main highways supply contracts; the Highways Works Term Contract with Balfour Beatty, the Professional Services Contract with WSP and the Traffic Signals Term Contract with Colas. Strategic plans have been developed with all partners and are being implemented across the service which have been designed to enable the future road map for service improvements across Highways to be put in place.

Performance is carefully managed for all partners, including LCC, and targets are much more stretching thanks previous contracts to ensure continuous improvements in service. Individual performance improvements have been identified across all contracts with key areas of focus looking at the timeliness and quality of the repairs we make, together with improving the responses we give to the public.

Following the massive improvements to some of the depot facilities and the start of the relaxation of COVID restrictions, plans are being implemented to facilitate much improved co-location between LCC and contractor staff within the umbrella of the Council's Smarter Working initiative.

Balfour Beatty are underway with a major new project to significantly improve the reactive element of the service which will further increase efficiency and productivity.

Already this year we have delivered over 2.2million square metres of surface dressing with a success rate of over 98%.

Next steps

The additional and targeted funding provided by the Council is currently being delivered across the network with several more work streams about to start to deliver the commitments made to the public by Members.

Significant resource challenges are being faced by the service as a whole. Recruiting and retaining drivers for gritters, engineers, designers and supply chain partners is very difficult; coupled with shortages and large price increases in materials & equipment which are causing problems across the service and the schemes we deliver.

A revised Asset Management Strategy will be in place for the start of 2022/23 and so consultations will be happening through the autumn with Members to make sure the service delivers maximum value whilst balancing expectations of the public in an environment of uncertain future budget provision from central government.

Commencement of the delivery of some of the wider social benefits offered within the new contracts, on top of those already underway, with a focus on projects suggested directly by Members to Leverage the most from these new contracts in wider benefits for our communities.

Constant review of the way the service is delivered together with the materials and technologies used. A key focus over the next period will be to look in more detail at further recycling initiatives across the network and to focus on making sure we can reuse the materials we produce and can source locally can be used to their maximum potential without sacrificing the quality of repairs and the condition of our highways assets.

Implementation of the action plans designed to ensure the performance improvements required from all of the partners but with a particular focus on the key reactive areas of the service.

Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership (LRSP)

Fatal Figures per year 1 January – 4 August:

Year	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016
Fatalities	25	23	34	25	35

Whilst there has been an increase in the number of collisions resulting in fatal injury in recent months good progress continues with Lincolnshire's Department of Transport Safer Road Fund.

Works on the A18 are nearing completion with the 50mph speed limit now in place. Reactive signs are imminent. Resurfacing works are complete on the section of the A631 between Market Rasen and North Willingham and more surfacing is due adjacent to West Rasen in June / July 2021. In addition, surfacing work is currently underway to improve the surface grip along sections of the A1084 and additional funding has been secured to cater for lengths within Caistor town. The new 50mph speed limit is also being installed between Caistor and Brigg.

Lincolnshire Road Safety Partnership staff met to draw up plans for the proposed average speed camera system on the A631 between Ludford and Middle Rasen.

Following the suspension of all National Driver Offender Retraining Scheme classroom courses due to Covid-19 LRSP continue to deliver online classes as an alternative to prosecution for some road traffic offences. Two pilot classroom courses have now been successfully delivered in Lincoln. It is hoped that more classroom Covid stay safe courses will be scheduled soon. Online digital courses will continue as the most favoured choice into 2022.

Lincolnshire's Prince Michael International Road Safety Award Winning 2fast2Soon initiative is due to return in September.

Due to the closure of RAF Scampton, the LRSP driver training centre will also need to close. LRSP is now working towards a revised suite of training and education packages, taking into consideration our high priority user groups and the most appropriate methods of delivery linked to content and learning techniques.

The LRSP Education team is creating a training package to assist with issues relating to speed and parking issues surrounding schools. This will be linked to technology use including Tag Master devices and Speed Indicator Devices.

LRSP has successfully (and safely) delivered a number of Bike Safe courses in 2021, including bespoke events for the RAF.

LRSP has developed a digital training package to more efficiently train up new Community Speed Watch Groups. So far we have trained over 60 volunteers via Zoom with a further 6 sessions planned then 1 session per month for the foreseeable future. In addition LRSP staff are now attending the first speed monitoring session community groups undertake to provide support.

LRSP continue participating in a regional Elderly Drivers Working Group. A new mature Driver booklet has been written by LRSP and adopted by the various regions. Each region will print their own and send out to surgeries, medical centres, parishes.

TRANSPORT

Passenger Transport

The Covid pandemic has continued to impact on the activities of the Transport Services Group, with increased demands on our service area due to frequently changing scenarios, new guidance and/or obligations in relation to passenger and sustainable transport.

Public Transport Services

In March 2021, the Government launched its National Bus Strategy, 'Bus Back Better'. It sets out the Government's vision and outline plans to help post-Covid recovery and to arrest the cycle of national decline in bus usage (outside of London). £3bn has been pledged to support the strategy.

The Strategy places a significant onus on Local Transport Authorities (LTA). It requires LTAs to work with Local Bus Operators to develop and deliver a Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) through a formal Enhanced Partnership or Franchising arrangement. The timescales mandated by the DfT are extremely tight with the submission of the Council's BSIP required by the end of October and formal establishment of the Partnership and delivery of improvement schemes to commence by 1st April 2022. Some of the £3bn pot has already been distributed to LTA's to help with resourcing capacity to meet these requirements.

Any LTA and/or Operator not wishing to sign up to such an arrangement will have all existing and potential future transport funding withdrawn from 01/09/2021.

The Government has confirmed that there will be some 'Recovery Funding' for the period 01/09/2021- 31/03/2022 for those Operators and LTA's engaging in the formal partnership process. The mechanism and amounts involved have yet to be declared but it is anticipated that funding will be much less than the Covid support funding (CBSSG) which ends on 31/08/2021.

The funding allocation for the National Bus Strategy pot will depend on the content of each LTA's BSIP. Details of the evaluation process are not yet known but the Government is encouraging LTA's to be ambitious in their plans.

Following cessation of the last lockdown, passenger numbers were steadily increasing and operators were starting to re-instate more of the services suspended during the pandemic. By July 2021 Adult and Child passengers had risen to around 70% of pre-Covid levels, but Concessionary Pass Holders were showing a much lower take up rate at only c.45%. There

are signs however that the rise in the Delta Variant is impacting on the rate of passengers returning and some operators are now reviewing their service level plans.

Like the HGV market, the Passenger Carrying Vehicle (PCV) market is also facing significant challenges in relation to driver shortages. Over recent weeks we have seen a number of operators handing back contracts and/or not bidding for new work because they do not have the required driver resource.

The current exemptions for school services in relation to Public Service Vehicle Accessibility Regulations (PSVAR) are due to run out this year. Details are starting to emerge that the Government is likely to offer operators a further period of exemption, but this time the onus will be on individual operators to make an application.

2021 is a peak year for Concessionary Bus Passes, with 42k of the 103k passes in circulation needing to be renewed in accordance with the scheme rules.

We are re-starting roadside timetable updates and other publicity material. QR Codes at on-street bus stops where timetables are still changing frequently continue to be a useful addition.

Several App based booking solutions are being trialled for use on CallConnect. The first is currently being evaluated on the Gainsborough service and a further product will be piloted on the Stamford and Welland vehicles from the autumn.

We have just received confirmation of another external commission. We will be scheduling DRT services for Gloucestershire in the very near future.

Despite the lockdowns, the Poacher Line Community Rail Partnership has continued to champion activities and development of stations along the Nottingham-Skegness line. Activities include:- growing the number of station volunteers from 43 (pre-Covid) to 99; attaining funding to develop the former waiting room at Sleaford into a Community and Education Room; station TLC days and the creation of station gardens and allotments; various art projects including murals and a sculpture at Boston; rail safety presentations in schools; creating a promotional video to attract visitors to the line and on-going work on integrated travel opportunities.

Fleet & Compliance

The Fleet Team have continued to support various service areas with specifications and acquisition of vehicles. The team are currently reporting long manufacturer lead-in times.

We have supported bringing about improvements in the Gritter Maintenance arrangements. From June 2021 the Council's transport teckal company, TCL, took over the contract to maintain gritters deployed in the south of the county.

Our field based officers remain busy undertaking risk assessments for pick up/drop off points around the county; assessments of individual SEND/Social Care passenger needs; delivery of specialist equipment, delivering and/or organising specialist training for transport crews and on/off bus contract compliance checks.

Client Services

The Team are now fully engaged on establishing the transport arrangements for the start of the 2021/22 Academic Year. The long awaited software replacement of SEATS for managing home to school transport activity is now installed and in use.

During the last school year, we still managed to provide Moving Up sessions to 106 Primary Schools, offering advice to Year 6 pupils on how to travel safely on Home to School Transport.

On behalf of Children's Services, the team have been delivering work for the Council's Sustainable Modes of Travel to School (SMoTs) strategy. We are well on target to have supported 10 schools with their travel planning and 'modeshift' accreditation.

Under the Transformation Programme, the first phase of the Transport Review looked primarily at Home to School. A report and recommendations have been considered and a plan for next steps and implementation is now being worked on. The Government's requirement for a local bus service improvement plan has provided the mechanism for phase two of the review which has public passenger transport as its main focus.

Projects

The creation of a lease scheme has been extremely successful with the majority of local bus services now equipped with Electronic Ticket Machines. Many services, including all CallConnect, can also now accept contactless payments.

TSG continues to support smaller local bus Operators to meet the Government's requirement for Bus Open Data through a bureau facility.

Our real time passenger information (RTPI) system was successfully retendered this year and we are continuing to add sites to the junction priority facility which can give late running services a green light.

Focus on Walking and Cycling is currently sitting under the Sustainability Team as part of their work around the Council's Green Master Plan.

IMT SERVICES

Demand for the support desk remains stubbornly high and reflects a new level of demand, driven primarily by the hybrid working arrangements. The additional layers of technology that working patterns require, coupled with other factors such as home broadband and WIFI, further increase demand. The increase is somewhat structural and there is configuration change required to modernise our device management to solutions which are suitable for hybrid working. There is potential at the end of the program that some of this demand can be taken out, but it is not expected to return to pre-covid levels.

The worldwide uplift in IMT activity and spend is in part creating challenges in the retention and recruitment of technical staff across the service. This, combined with the aspiration to resource IMT engagement within the Corporate Transformation Programme, has required difficult choices to be made in how to progress the portfolio of work and the pipeline of future work.

The service continues to balance a steep increase in business demand from corporate programmes, lifecycle management and changes in services. This will also occasionally include demand imposed by vendors or partners, and the requirement to deliver the remediation program of outstanding cyber security controls.

The following work items have progressed recently:

Corporate Support Services Review (CSSR)

IMT Management, working with the Commercial Team, have spent significant time on the CSSR programme and the initial reports have been delivered to Council. After initial research, IMT have developed the outline service design for the future delivery of IMT services, which could become effective at the end of the existing contractual arrangements. The first market contact in the form of an Expression of Interest invitation has been completed and is now being analysed.

In addition, the specification for the re-procurement of the Council's Wide Area Network (WAN) has also been developed. Approval has been received from Executive for an approach that will allow an evolutionary migration away from private infrastructure where appropriate, avoiding a significant cost of change and preserving arrangements which have served Lincolnshire schools well in recent years.

This work continues and is significant.

Members' IMT

Covid restrictions required a new approach to equipping incoming new Members with their IT equipment, which centred around a booked appointment approach. Due to the worldwide shortage of laptops, other significant work to ensure we could secure enough equipment to complete the induction had to be undertaken.

Stability Upgrade to Existing Telephony

Progress includes the software build for the Contact Centre and currently the system branch sites (STD telephone controls) are being finalised. The following stage will migrate services to the new software versions.

Lincs to the Past

The Archives Service has identified and procured an upgrade to an existing System (Calm), which is currently hosted internally through the incumbent provider Axiell. The upgraded solution will be externally hosted with Axiell and will include a public web portal allowing the public to search archival records currently stored on the Lincs to the Past website. The upgrade provides the Archives Service with a modern supported platform that they can build on to develop the service in the future.

Alongside identifying a replacement system to enable the Archives Service to move away from the Lincs to the Past website, work to identify all the data needed for migration took place. This currently stands at around 7TB of data. Activity continues with Serco and Axiell on how best to migrate this data to Axiell.

The build work with Axiell is scheduled to start in late August with an estimated delivery timeframe of 8 -10 weeks. The Archives Service are working with Axiell and Serco to ensure the smooth migration of data from the Lincs to the Past website over to Axiell's, with the eventual redirection of the Lincs to the Past domain name so that there is continuity of access for the public once the data is moved to Axiell's hosting.

FaxPress

A surprising number of business services are still required to maintain Fax capabilities, which are integrated into their expert systems and have been for several years. The Faxpress project upgraded the Network Fax services to a supported version.

Enterprise Gateway

This project builds a server to manage the security permissions between our Microsoft services in the Cloud and their access to on premise resources within the LCC environment.

To embrace the benefits which come with the Microsoft services such as the Power Platform, including Power BI, Flow etc. we need to be able to maintain security of our data that sits on the local infrastructure. This gateway allows us to manage those permissions providing read and/or write permissions to certain Microsoft services according to the business need.

SQL Databases from Sungard

Some LCC systems require Hi Band access to their Data Structures or are otherwise not suitable to be migrated to the Azure Cloud hosting. This project moves a number of important Database systems away from a hosting arrangement which is being decommissioned next year into our Lincoln Data Centre.

Meeting Room VC Solution and Network Changes

A natural extension to the way we use Microsoft Teams is to equip certain meeting rooms to enable hybrid meetings. Commercial Off the Shelf meeting systems have been used to reduce cost, though special networking arrangements had to be developed to allow these Internet of Things (IOT) devices to operate in a secured network. County Offices rooms are working and Lancaster House is in progress.

Server Hardening & Legacy Operating Systems (OS)

A long running programme of work to upgrade business systems away from legacy Operating Systems and hardware to supported versions, as required by .gov.uk/PSN connectivity.

Azure Migration

The first services have been migrated to Microsoft Azure, a public cloud hosting solution that meets .gov.uk security requirements. The environment, when managed, can deliver cost savings and greater agility going forwards when building or consuming new services. The environment offers a growing number of services "As a Service" meaning they do not have to be built from scratch but simply subscribed to. Significant progress has been made after a detailed planning phase and the project is baselined to complete this calendar year which will involve moving over 200 services across.

Modern Device Management (MDM) & Office 365

The pilots recommenced after a fundamental redesign was forced by the Covid "Work from Home" directive. Several hundred devices/users have now been migrated to a hybrid cloud managed configuration, mostly remotely with some on site. The project is now steadily increasing the batches to a level our support services can deal with, as there is always some support fallout from migrations and we need to avoid overwhelming our support resources. This large migration project is baselined to complete this calendar year.

Lincolnshire Broadband Update

During Phases 1 and 2 of the Lincolnshire Broadband contract, over 170K premises were upgraded to a fibre-based Superfast broadband level. The number of premises involved in both phases equates to roughly 50% of the total premises count for the county. Current

Superfast percentage of coverage sits at 94%, slightly less than the original target, but this is primarily due to the significant increase in premises count from when the contract started and ended.

Since then, things have moved on further and LCC is now engaged in a third contract with a new supplier, Quickline Communications Ltd, who will provide 'Ultrafast' broadband (download speed in excess of 100Mb/s) to circa 8K premises in the first stage of the contract, rising by between 2K and 4K in the second phase due to complete by the end of 2022/early 2023. At this point in time, we are experiencing some planning application issues with East Lindsey District Council that, should we not be able to successfully conclude, will result in us having to move the deployment to another part of the county. This may add some small delays, but we have already concluded contingency planning.

In addition to this, a number of rural communities across the county are at various stages of a community fibre partnership funded by BDUK's Rural Gigabit Voucher Scheme, where all premises within the scheme will receive Fibre To The Premises (FTTP). One such scheme has over 500 premises with several others in excess of 100 premises. LCC has written to rural Parish Councils in an effort to increase involvement of rural communities in the scheme.

Furthermore, we now have no less than 5 privately funded organisations working in the county to provide gigabit capable FTTP to over 200K of our urban/sub-urban premises. All providers are in the very early phases of their respective deployments, but this represents a massive leap forward in improving the digital infrastructure within the county. In addition, BT/Openreach has also made announcements about their plans to upgrade circa 150K premises to FTTP over the next 4 years. Although these numbers collectively look very high; just one note of caution in that there will be duplication (overbuild) by several providers in some locations, so the overall total of individual premises may not look as high as the overall numbers quoted. We are keeping in regular contact with all providers to assist in any way we can and to understand their detailed plans.

With regard to the rural areas that are in danger of being left further behind, LCC is currently in discussions with BDUK and their contractor Quickline, to identify eligible rural premises with a view to building 'Lots' of premises in groups that can go out to Tender for potential suppliers under their Project Gigabit (formally 'Outside-In') project. This data has now been provided to BDUK and we are looking for BDUK to release these potential areas sooner than planned. We hope to maximise our involvement in this scheme in an effort to cover as many of the more remote rural properties as possible. To support this, a 'prospectus' making the case for why BDUK need to allow early release of these premises to Tender has been sent by Executive Members and our Chief Executive to Matt Warman, Digital Minister and to the Chief Executive at BDUK. It is hoped that will stimulate meetings to enhance our case.

In terms of mobile coverage, we now have some 5G coverage in Lincoln from both EE and O2 and we are told this will expand as demand increases. 4G coverage is improving as a result of an agreement between all main providers to share infrastructure, thus reducing costs and speeding up deployment. At the time of writing, O2 are carrying out significant

improvements in Skegness and we are working with O2 to facilitate this work. We are hoping that should demand exist, that O2 will upgrade this area to 5G in 2022.

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COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 17 September 2021

Statement from: Councillor D McNally - Waste and Trading Standards

WASTE AND RECYCLING SERVICES

The Covid-19 pandemic has significantly impacted waste management, creating issues for all contractors and members of the Waste Partnership in how waste is collected and disposed of. However we have continued to work closely with partners to ensure that services continue seamlessly in extremely challenging circumstances.

The largest areas impacted have been the Household Waste Recycling Centres which have remained open during the last 12 months. The restrictions we introduced at the start of the pandemic have gradually been relaxed as we have learnt to deal with the issues associated with Covid-19. Recently, the decision has been made that from 1st September the recycling centres will operate without a booking system, as society returns to a certain degree of normality. This decision was taken to allow as many customers to access the sites as possible, as the booking system was at its capacity and there were concerns that working people did not have as many opportunities to access the centres.

We have recently received planning permission to build our own recycling centre at Tattershall which will replace a privately owned facility. The new facility will create a better environment for residents of the Horncastle area to dispose of material. When the construction is complete in early 2022 it will become the eleventh facility which we own and operate and will create a long term cost saving.

The issue of fly tipping has become more of a problem during the last 12 months across the country. We are therefore working closer with the District Councils and Environment Agency to create initiatives whereby communities are provided with the necessary resources to carry out local litter picks. There are also challenges with enforcement and education which we will focus on in the coming year.

The countywide partnership project to introduce separated collections of paper and cardboard continues to progress. New bins have been provided in Boston and are currently being rolled out in North Kesteven, before the project continues across the rest of the county. This initiative creates a financial saving and improves the quality and quantity of material which can be recycled which has an environmental benefit.

Significant national changes in waste will be occurring in the next 5 years driven by the new Environment Bill. The Government's Resources and Waste Strategy consultations have recently taken place on the future of waste management and the outcome should be released later in the year. It is expected to say that separate weekly food waste collection will be mandatory and garden waste will also be required to be separately collected. This will have significant implications on our contracts and infrastructure and we may have to provide new sites such as anaerobic digestion facilities. The capital spend could be up to £20m and during the next 12 months we will be looking to develop a delivery strategy based on the government requirements.

TRADING STANDARDS

Trading Standards Officers have visited cold calling hotspots around the County to speak to businesses and residents about their rights and responsibilities during this year's Operation Rogue Trader. In June a joint operation, saw officers from Lincolnshire Trading Standards and Lincolnshire Police visit five areas in the county where residents had raised concerns about doorstep crime. The incidents reported included allegations that rogue traders attempted to charge for unnecessary work, damaged property deliberately in order to obtain money, left work unfinished and used intimidating behaviour.

The purpose of the visits was to make sure any businesses operating in these areas were aware of what paperwork they legally needed to provide to their customers, and the customers' rights, including the 14 day 'cooling-off' period. Teams visited Spilsby, North Hykeham, Spalding, Grantham, Gainsborough and their surrounding villages and spoke to 30 businesses. Twenty-two of those were not fully aware of their responsibilities and were provided with advice and guidance.

Further partnership work has been undertaken with Lincolnshire Police in support of Operation Vigilance. This project aims to tackle child sexual and criminal exploitation in the county and the sale of illegal cigarettes is directly linked to organised crime in our area. As well as undertaking joint enforcement visits to shops identified as selling illicit tobacco, the service also successfully applied for a closure order from the Magistrates Court to support a landlord in his efforts to evict tenants using his property. The order makes it a criminal offence to enter the premises within the period of the notice. The landlord had successfully evicted the tenants after Trading Standards had notified him that they were engaging in criminal activity from his premises. They had forced entry after the eviction and were continuing to trade in illicit tobacco products.

Trading Standards Officers have also seized 360 boxes of unsafe bangers, known as Thunder Snaps. These products were subject to a withdrawal notice issued under the Pyrotechnic Safety Regulations for not meeting the correct physical description of a throw banger and exceeding maximum sound levels. The products had been a source of anti-social behaviour in the area and a cause for concern, particularly when used around animals due to the noise levels created when thrown down.

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 17 September 2021

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

NHS LIAISON

Lincolnshire Integrated Care System

I am sure colleagues will be aware that Lincolnshire's Integrated Care System (ICS) was approved by NHS England and Improvement (NHSE&I) on 1 April 2021, and subject to the Health and Care Bill currently going through Parliament, it will become statutory from April 2022. ICSs are partnerships of health and care organisations, local government and the voluntary sector aimed at delivering joined up care to improve population health, tackle health inequalities and enable the NHS to support broader social and economic development.

The development of the Lincolnshire ICS is moving at pace:

- Following approval at Council in May, the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board met on 22 June 2021, in its enhanced role, as the ICS Partnership Board.
- The Joint Executive Working Group (JWEG) have held a series of planning days to understand the needs of Lincolnshire's population, identify the system priorities and agree governance arrangements.
- A Strategic Plan for October 2021 – March 2024 is being developed with input from LCC and key partners
- Recruitment is underway to appoint a collaborative leader to chair the Lincolnshire ICS body.

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

I can report that, at the last meeting of the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board on 22 June 2021, the Board agreed proposals to redesign and republish Lincolnshire's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). The JSNA is an assessment of current and future health and wellbeing needs of the people of Lincolnshire. The current JSNA is made up of 34 topics and is currently available to view on the [Lincolnshire Research Observatory](#).

Over the next 18 months the JSNA will be reviewed and will move away from the current topic structure to one based on a "life course" model constructed around the following headings:

- Start Well
- Live Well
- Age Well

It is anticipated the new JSNA will be published by March 2023.

Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) 2022

There is a statutory requirement for the Lincolnshire Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) to publish a PNA every three years. It was due to be republished by April 2021 but, due to

Covid-19, last year the Government announced this requirement was suspended to April 2022. With the on-going demands of the pandemic on the health and care system, the suspension has been extended until October 2022. In addition, the national regulations are being updated to reflect this change and updated guidance will be published shortly on the revised process for renewing the PNA.

COMMUNITY ENAGEMENT

Connect to Support

A new, searchable directory, of community assets in Lincolnshire has been added to the Connect to Support Lincolnshire (CTSL) website as part of the Joint Strategic Asset Assessment (JSAA) activity, enabling people to search for venues, buildings and facilities in the county that could be used to host groups, events, and activities. In addition, a new section called “Volunteering and Community” will shortly be added to the Information and Advice area, providing guidance and resources for people interested in volunteering.

The directory search function on the site has been developed to now include an interactive map, helping people to find providers, services and groups in their area. Tiles on the homepage also now provide a direct link to our Mental Health and Covid-19 information pages. Further developments over the next few months will include an improved “My Favourites” booklet function and a CTSL mobile app.

Council's engagement activities

Between 1 April 2021 and 31 July 2021 the Engagement team supported 57 engagement activities carried out by services across the council. This includes two consultations, 42 public and wider stakeholder engagements and 13 internal engagements, with 26 activities being supported at the time of writing this update. To date, these activities have engaged over 9,165 residents, visitors and organisations (note this refers to electronic representations and does not include face to face participation during a number of workshops and targeted conversations with infrastructure organisations and representatives' networks that were held during this period).

The Engagement team are introducing a new forward looking engagement plan to provide a roadmap of engagement and consultation for the year ahead. This will enable proactive and well planned approach and will ensure they can contribute fully to ensuring project success. Conversations with Directorate Leadership Teams about engagement and a need for more strategic forward planning are already in progress.

The Council now has a new online engagement platform called Let's Talk Lincolnshire. This is an exciting new venture that sets the stage for sustained participation by transforming the ways we can engage and reach out to wider audiences using a suite of engagement tools. These tools will be available to teams in service areas to carry out engagement in new ways moving beyond traditional surveys. The platform allows for better intelligence, data analysis and reporting and will contribute to better decisions being made. As well as building the size and scope of our audience for engagement through the new platform, the team are developing lists of stakeholder groups, representatives' networks and linkages to datasets held by others to ensure the right audiences can be effectively reached.

County Views Citizens' Panel

The Engagement team has led the development of a new citizens' panel, known as County Views. It is in place to establish what residents value most and where we can improve services. Panel members take part in a residents' survey and may also be invited to take part in a rolling programme of surveys, focus groups and workshops. This calendar year has seen two surveys asking about views on unpaid carers and climate change. A promotional programme to raise the panel's profile and enhance representation from across Greater Lincolnshire is ongoing. Since its launch in August 2020, the panel has grown to 451 members.

Funding portal

Content review and updates

Since May 2021 a major review of the Lincolnshire Funding Portal has been taking place in preparation for possible renewal of the contract in April 2022.

There are two areas on the website that provide a space for Lincolnshire based funders, infrastructure organisations and Local Authorities to provide relevant information on the type of grants and funding they have available and/or the funding support service they provide for community groups and organisations. We are in the process of contacting all relevant organisations and the content on these pages is in the process of being updated.

Accessibility

An accessibility test has also been carried out to ensure the website is accessible to all users. This includes people with disabilities who use assistive technology to access the internet, as well as people who may experience other obstacles in accessing websites.

Statistical data

In order to evaluate the performance of the Lincolnshire Funding Portal, we have devised a new survey which will be sent out monthly to registered users, specifically those that have logged in to use the Lincolnshire Funding Portal in the previous month to help us assess user experience.

Statistics for the Lincolnshire Funding Portal from April 2021 to July 2021

During April 2021 to July 2021 numbers and demand remained high for the Lincolnshire Funding Portal including the number of funding searches.

Month	Number of unique registered users who logged into the site (incl. those from out of county)	Increase % from the same month in the year before	Number of funding searches	Number of wards in Lincolnshire with enquiries
April 2021	400 (54)	56.9%	136	121
May 2021	356 (40)	34.3%	125	134
June 2021	350 (51)	29.6%	106	119
July 2021	294 (41)	-6.7%	140	121

Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils (LALC)

The year of remote meetings has now passed; lots of councils have embraced the use of technology, others have been glad to get back together. Lots of councils have given their views to the MHCLG call for evidence, so have to wait and see what long-term options are made available. As far as LALC is concerned, Zoom will be one of the ways forward. The benefits to LALC staff and course participants far outweigh the disadvantages of connection problems. Remote training removes the need for long journeys across the county, it gives more flexibility in when to hold courses, and it allows resources to be shared easily.

LALC will still continue to hold some training sessions and meetings face-to-face. It is important to keep the personal contact where possible. Networking is still a much-needed and invaluable part of what they do. One of the first events will be a physical CiLCA catch up for the current cohort of candidates in September.

The AGM will be held on 6th October at the Bentley Hotel, South Hykeham.

Voluntary Centre Services (VCS) & Community and Voluntary Sector Engagement (CVSE) Recovery Group

Voluntary Centre Services and Lincolnshire CVS are the county's two generic infrastructure organisations, providing a range of support to community and voluntary sector organisations including volunteering development, funding advice, capacity building and specific programmes supporting individuals such as the Social Prescribing service and the Greater Lincolnshire MOVE Project.

Colleagues will be very aware of the enormous contribution made to all our communities by individual volunteers, small community groups and larger voluntary sector organisations throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. The CVSE Recovery Group brings together LCC, District Councils, NHS and Voluntary Sector organisations to ensure on-going support to individuals and to continue to supply volunteers to vaccination centres, but also to build on relationships and services for the future. This includes developing a single digital platform for volunteer deployment, understanding the sustainability of the sector for the future and the opportunities for co-commissioning services. This work is enabling us to deliver key elements of our Community Engagement Strategy.

Supporting Volunteering

Volunteers have been a vital part of the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and the aim has been to help both organisations and members of the public wishing to volunteer with safe and practical advice and guidance; to minimise the spread of coronavirus and keep volunteers safe.

As their role in recruiting volunteers for the Covid-19 vaccination programme is starting to reduce and Covid-19 restrictions are starting to ease, the range of volunteering opportunities are now increasing and local groups and charities are starting to consider their needs over the next phase of recovery.

During the quarter they have supported 378 volunteers to access volunteering opportunities including 114 that continue to volunteer on a regular basis at the Covid-19 vaccination site at Ruston's in Lincoln.

Employer Supported Volunteering (ESV)

ESV is an aspect of volunteering that has understandably taken a back seat over the last year but has recently started positive discussions with RAF Waddington with a view to establishing an ESV opportunity with the Sleaford Station (East Midlands Railway).

Online training portal

The online training platform continues to be popular with 37 new volunteers accessing training within the quarter. The most popular courses were Equality & Diversity, Autism Awareness, GDPR, Making Every Contact Count (loneliness & isolation) and Safeguarding Awareness.

Support for local groups and organisations

With the pandemic severely impacting local groups, charities and organisations in different ways, they have adapted our services to enable us to help local groups and organisations navigate the ongoing challenges and support the recovery of the community and voluntary sector as lockdown measures continue to fluctuate.

For many groups this means finding new ways of operating and delivering services, whilst providing ongoing support to their staff, volunteers, and clients. They anticipate there to be a period of significant change for the sector as the pandemic continues to have a catastrophic effect on those services that have been needed more than ever.

VCS has adapted their support to local groups and organisations with advice, information and resources to help in delivering their vital services during these challenging times and providing support to their volunteers. During the first quarter of 2021-22, they have supported 334 organisations across Lincolnshire with:

- Practical advice and resources
- Online forums, coffee mornings and regular networking opportunities
- Funding advice
- Funding readiness online training and support
- Support to develop new roles and recruit volunteers
- Advice and support with DBS checks
- Online training platform for their volunteers

Although they have been unable to deliver any face to face training or networking events due to the pandemic, they have held our usual Voluntary Sector Forums, Volunteer Co-ordinator Forums and new monthly coffee mornings online, as well as a series of marketing workshops.

Citizens Advice Lincolnshire (CAL) Quarter 1 update

Citizens Advice Lincolnshire (CAL) provides free, impartial and confidential advice, information and support on a wide range of practical and civil legal issues such as debt,

benefits, employment and housing to Lincolnshire residents. CAL is a consortium of four independent local charities; Citizens Advice Lindsey, Citizens Advice Lincoln, Citizens Advice South Lincolnshire and Citizens Advice Mid Lincolnshire.

Demand for advice services remains high, with increases in key areas including welfare benefits appeals support and a steady increase in debt referrals.

As they begin to move out of lockdown CAL are examining the best ways to embed the successful developments they have made during the pandemic with the need to ensure their services are accessible to all. They are examining the strengths and weaknesses of different delivery models in terms of different communities – what may work for the residents of Lincoln may not work for the residents of rural West Lindsey for example.

During this quarter the service:

- Worked with 2,515 people, through the core service, and an additional 1,130 through funded projects totalling 3,645 people supported across the county
- Dealt with 4,014 issues and carried out 4,118 activities through core service alone, totalling 15,012 issues across all projects. People are presenting to CAL with on average 3 or 4 issues per person
- Advised on £603,029 worth of debt through core service alone, with a total of £1,869,742 of specialist debt support

During the reporting quarter CAL supported 745 clients with issues related to Universal Credit, with 328 of these being supported through the Help to Claim service.

Additionally, they have supported 369 clients on issues related to transitional benefits. The service is anticipating a spike in demand for support related to Universal Credit as protective measures put in place during the pandemic end and the financial consequences of the pandemic really begin to hit.

Benefits, Tax Credits and Universal Credit consistently remain the key advice areas and are continuing to see an increase in requests for support through the appeals process. These are complex and resource intensive cases and, following locally conducted research, CAL have highlighted they are the only service that provide this level of support to the general population.

CAL are continuing to see comparatively low numbers of debt clients approaching them for support, this is in line with national trends not just from Citizens Advice but other providers. They are beginning to see a steady increase in numbers and, as furlough comes to an end, the financial impact on businesses really hits and recovery of debts begins again in earnest, this demand will increase.

Housing issues are coming to the fore especially with the changes around section 21 notices, e.g. a landlord must give at least 4 months' notice under a Section 21 Notice to terminate an assured shorthold tenancy for any notices served on or after 1 June. This period has been reduced from the current requirement of 6 months' notice. This restriction will remain in place until 30 September 2021 (unless extended).

CAL have again seen a high number of issues classified as 'other', these issues are primarily related to supporting clients to access foodbanks, fuel vouchers and supporting clients to access other charitable support.

REGISTRATION AND CORONERS

Registration & Celebratory

The Registration Service continues to be heavily impacted by the pandemic during 2021. The service has remained open to the public throughout the year for births and death appointments; however national restrictions around weddings and civil partnerships ceremonies resulted in a severely reduced offering to the public for the first six months of 2021. As restrictions have now been lifted, the service is faced with the challenge of recovery and managing the demand for ceremonies is extremely difficult.

Birth registration appointments have largely been unaffected. Registrations have taken place throughout the year with all registrations being conducted face to face in Covid secure environments. As we moved through the year we have experienced a rise in requests for birth registrations with current demand for appointments remaining very high.

Death registrations remained a priority during 2021. The service continues to use the easements contained within the Coronavirus Act, with all death registrations undertaken via telephone. All medical certificates of cause of death (MCCDs) are now triaged by a lead registrar providing greater oversight and management of the process. We continue to engage with hospitals, bereavement centres, GP surgeries, nursing homes and funeral directors to ensure deaths are registered in a timely manner

Weddings & civil partnerships continued to be greatly impacted by restrictions during 2021, uncertainty and a lack of clarity resulted in increased volumes of customer contact putting huge pressure on the service. As we moved through the Government's roadmap with restrictions on ceremonies lifted, weddings and civil partnerships returned to normal with no limits on attendees or the duration of the event.

The service is currently faced with unprecedented demand for weddings and managing this demand is extremely challenging due to the large number of ceremonies deferred in 2020/21. To meet this demand and to increase the number of ceremonies the service can deliver, a recruitment exercise for new celebrant staff has been undertaken.

Citizenship ceremonies have taken place virtually during 2021 via the Home Office approved virtual ceremony (Microsoft Teams) option. This has been vital in providing continuity of service during lockdown and periods of heightened restrictions. Following the lifting of restrictions face to face group citizenship ceremonies recommenced in July.

Looking ahead, the Registration Service is focused on improving its digital offering. An enhanced customer offering will be introduced later this year allowing customers to self-serve for appointment bookings and to pay for services in advance online.

Coroner's

The Coroner's Service remains a key part of the death management process and has continued to operate throughout the pandemic. The service has experienced an increase in the number of referrals going to inquest. Along with this increase, the complexity and the information required to take a case to inquest has placed extra pressure on the service.

The service has recently commenced a transformation programme to modernise and change how it operates, with the aim of becoming a more digital and cost effective service. Currently the service is split in two; the Referrals team, who work remotely and deal with initial referrals from GPs, Hospitals, Police, EMAS and investigate cases that are likely to be a natural death, and secondly the Inquest team, who investigate all unnatural deaths.

The service will be moving out of its current accommodation at Lindum Road and relocating to Myle Cross later this year. The service currently has accommodation constraints and incurs large hire costs for court space at external venues. This move will be permanent and will provide the service with dedicated court rooms to hold jury inquests which the Senior Coroner plans to start holding from October. In addition, the co-locating of staff will ensure a more efficient and cost effective service is in place.

The Chief Coroner has directed that smaller coronial areas across the country need to merge, which is the case for North and North East Lincolnshire Coroner's Service. Lincolnshire has drawn up a business case to merge and create a Greater Lincolnshire Coroner's Service, the bid will be submitted to the Chief Coroner who will ultimately make the decision. If the bid is successful, the service would become the largest coronial area in England and Wales by area and be in the top ten of coronial areas by volume of death referrals with 5,000 referrals a year.



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

Report to:	County Council
Date:	17 September 2021
Subject:	Review of Financial Performance 2020/21

Summary:

This report:

- describes the Council's financial performance in 2020/21 and sets out the Executive's recommendations on budget carry forward arising from the underspends of £28.746m on Council budgets and £13.976m on Schools budgets, and seeks approval for those proposals not set out under Financial Regulations; and
- sets out performance against Prudential and Financial Indicators for 2020/21.
- describes how the Support to Businesses reserve has been used to support local businesses and includes a recommendation about the unused balance in the reserve.

Recommendation(s):

The County Council is recommended to:

1. Note the carry forward set out in paragraphs 1.16 to 1.18 of the report, which are made in line with Financial Regulations.
2. Approve the use of underspend in excess of 1% referred to in paragraph 1.20 to 1.24 as follows:
 - a. The transfer to reserves for "non-business as usual" activity described in paragraph 1.20.
 - b. The creation of and transfer of £0.300m to a new earmarked reserve for Council Elections described in paragraph 1.21 and approval for underspends on election budgets to be transferred automatically to the said reserve in future years.
 - c. The transfer of £2.200m to the Financial Volatility earmarked reserve as described in paragraph 1.23.
 - d. The creation of and transfer of £2.304m to a new Coronavirus Recovery Reserve described in paragraph 1.24.

3. Note the transfers to and from reserves carried out in 2020/21 and note the position of Earmarked Reserves as at 31 March 2021 as shown in Table F of this report.
4. Note the position of the General Reserves as set out in paragraph 1.28 and Table G.
5. Note the financial performance in 2020/21 as set out in Table H.
6. Approve the transfer of the remaining £1.8m in the Support to Businesses Reserve to the Financial Volatility Reserve as described in paragraph 1.25.

1. Background

1.1 We set our spending plans for 2020/21 in the context of continuing uncertainty about longer term government funding, growing cost pressures from demand led services such as adult and children's social care, and the Council's responsibility to pay the National Living Wage. In developing our financial plan for the year we considered all areas of current spending, levels of income and council tax to set a balanced budget. The budget proposals included an increase in council tax level of 3.50% (1.50% general increase, plus 2.00% for Adult Social Care).

1.2 The budget for 2020/21 was set before the coronavirus pandemic had taken hold in the UK, and the pandemic has not only had a material impact on our activities over the past year, it has also impacted on our financial performance during the year. This is because significant sums of money have been paid to us by the government in the form of various coronavirus grants, and significant amounts have consequently been paid out. Our 2020/21 expenditure due to the pandemic has been funded by the government during the year and therefore has had no impact on the local council tax payer.

Financial Performance

2020/21 Revenue Spending and Funding

1.3 We spent £1,044.840m providing public services. This equated to £1,382 for every person in Lincolnshire.

1.4 When compared to the budget set:

- Total service revenue spending excluding Schools, was underspent by £15.510m or 3.5%
- There was an underspend of £12.811m on Other Budgets (a number of corporate budgets including capital financing, treasury management and contingency) or 16.5%
- The Council received £0.425m or 0.1% more general funding income than originally budgeted for.

1.5 This gives the Council (excluding Schools) a total underspend against the revenue budget of £28.746m.

1.6 In addition there was an underspend relating to Schools of £13.976m. This amount will be carried forward for Schools to use in 2021/22.

1.7 Table A provides a summary breakdown of the Council's 2020/21 net revenue expenditure.

Table A – Net Revenue Expenditure Final Outturn 2020/21

	Revised Net Revenue Budget £m	Net Expenditure £m	Year End Variance £m	Actual Variance %
SERVICE DELIVERY				
Children's Social Care	79.870	78.414	(1.456)	(1.8)
Children's Education	43.447	43.767	0.320	0.7
Children's Services	123.317	122.181	(1.136)	(0.9)
Adult Frailty & Long Term Conditions	122.500	118.948	(3.552)	(2.9)
Adult Specialities	81.149	79.374	(1.775)	(2.2)
Public Health and Community Wellbeing	23.783	20.188	(3.595)	(15.1)
Public Health Grant Income	(33.546)	(33.546)	0.000	0.0
Better Care Funding	(50.019)	(50.019)	0.000	(0.0)
Adult Care and Community Wellbeing	143.866	134.945	(8.921)	(6.2)
Communities	47.278	46.032	(1.246)	(2.6)
Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership	0.343	0.263	(0.081)	(23.5)
Growth	5.067	5.013	(0.054)	(1.1)
Highways	23.898	24.014	0.116	0.5
Place	76.587	75.322	(1.265)	(1.7)
Fire & Rescue	22.628	22.543	(0.086)	(0.4)
Emergency Planning	0.451	0.433	(0.018)	(4.0)
Fire and Rescue and Emergency Planning	23.079	22.976	(0.103)	(0.4)
Human Resources and Organisational Support	14.603	13.856	(0.746)	(5.1)
Finance	6.836	6.800	(0.036)	(0.5)
Legal and Governance Services	2.488	1.900	(0.588)	(23.6)
Public Protection	4.199	4.457	0.257	6.1
Resources	28.126	27.013	(1.113)	(4.0)
Property	10.147	9.182	(0.964)	(9.5)
Information Management Technology	14.706	14.914	0.208	1.4
Transformation	7.332	6.942	(0.390)	(5.3)
Commercial	9.034	7.529	(1.505)	(16.7)
Commercial	41.219	38.568	(2.651)	(6.4)
Corporate Services	3.100	2.779	(0.321)	(10.4)
Corporate Services	3.100	2.779	(0.321)	(10.4)
TOTAL SERVICE DELIVERY	439.295	423.785	(15.510)	(3.5)
OTHER BUDGETS				
Contingency	1.227	0.000	(1.227)	(100.0)
Capital Financing Charges	56.924	48.277	(8.647)	(15.2)
Other	19.519	16.582	(2.937)	(15.0)
TOTAL OTHER BUDGETS	77.671	64.860	(12.811)	(16.5)
TOTAL NET EXPENDITURE (EXC SCHOOLS)	516.966	488.644	(28.322)	(5.5)
MOVEMENT OF RESERVES				
Transfer to/from Earmarked Reserves	7.952	37.206	29.254	367.9
Contribution to/from School Reserves	(9.794)	3.674	13.467	(137.5)
Contribution to Development Fund	(3.043)	(3.043)	0.000	0.0
Transfer to/from General Reserves	0.150	0.150	0.000	0.0
TOTAL MOVEMENT OF RESERVES	(4.735)	37.986	42.722	(902.2)
MET FROM:				
Business Rates local Retention	(123.990)	(124.359)	(0.369)	0.3
Revenue Support Grant	(20.467)	(20.467)	0.000	0.0
Other Non Specific Grants	(60.452)	(60.508)	(0.056)	0.1
County Precept	(315.574)	(315.574)	0.000	(0.0)
TOTAL MET FROM	(520.482)	(520.907)	(0.425)	0.1
TOTAL (EXCLUDING SCHOOLS)	(3.517)	(32.263)	(28.746)	
SCHOOL BUDGETS				
Schools Block	143.575	129.567	(14.008)	(9.8)
High Needs Block	77.679	78.583	0.904	1.2
Central School Services Block	3.193	2.834	(0.359)	(11.2)
Early Years Block	43.125	41.951	(1.175)	(2.7)
Dedicated Schools Grant	(256.757)	(256.538)	0.219	(0.1)
Schools Budget (Other Funding)	(2.563)	(2.120)	0.442	(17.3)
TOTAL SCHOOLS BUDGETS	8.252	(5.724)	(13.976)	(169.4)
TOTAL (INCLUDING SCHOOLS)	4.735	(37.986)	(42.722)	

2020/21 Capital Spending and Funding

1.8 The Council spent £168.174m on the County's major assets, in particular on road schemes and schools. The net capital spend was £52.235m, which was £59.534m less than planned.

1.9 Table B provides a summary breakdown of the Councils 2020/21 capital expenditure.

Table B – Capital Expenditure Final Outturn 2020/21

	Gross Programme			Net Programme		
	Actuals £m	Revised Budget £m	Gross Outturn Variance £m	Actuals £m	Revised Budget £m	Net Outturn Variance £m
Adult Care & Community Wellbeing	7.006	8.406	-1.400	0.030	0.030	0.000
Children's Services	23.874	24.090	-0.216	11.896	12.136	-0.240
Place	123.174	156.952	-33.778	34.516	80.487	-45.971
Fire and Rescue	3.731	4.605	-0.874	3.731	4.605	-0.874
Commercial	10.389	18.805	-8.416	3.379	11.795	-8.416
Resources	0.000	0.107	-0.107	0.000	0.107	-0.107
Other Budgets	0.000	3.926	-3.926	-1.317	2.609	-3.926
Total	168.174	216.891	-48.717	52.235	111.769	-59.534

1.10 The capital programme comprises a series of schemes/projects which often span a number of years. Hence over/underspends cannot always be related to time periods such as a single financial year.

1.11 The gross capital expenditure of £168.174m is funded from a number of different sources as set out in Table C below. The majority of expenditure is funded from Government grants and borrowing.

Table C- Capital Financing 2020/21

	£m
Revenue Contributions	7.751
Use of Reserves	4.080
Grants and Contributions	125.340
Capital Receipts	2.690
Borrowing	28.313
Total	168.174

1.12 The Council sets a voluntary limit on its total borrowing to ensure that it remains prudent and affordable over the longer term. This target is to ensure that the annual minimum revenue provision (MRP) charge plus interest on loans amount to no more than 10% of the Council's annual income. The MRP charge is the amount set aside by the Council each year as a provision to repay debt over the period when the assets purchased and built provide a benefit to the communities of Lincolnshire. The total cost of these capital financing charges for 2020/21 amounted to 4.98% of total income.

Prudential indicators

1.13 The Local Government Act 2003 gave authorities freedom to borrow what they need to fund their capital programmes. The Act requires Local Authorities to comply with CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities. The Code provides a framework to ensure that Local Authorities' capital programmes are affordable, prudent and sustainable and that treasury management decisions are taken to support this.

1.14 In complying with the Code, the indicators for 2020/21 were approved by the Council on 21 February 2020 along with the budget and council tax for that year. In accordance with the Code, the Executive Director has monitored the actual performance against the targets set and there have been no issues of concern to be reported to members. Table D provides a detailed comparison of the actual position compared with that estimated for 2020/21.

Table D – Prudential Indicators Actual Compared to Estimated 2020/21

	2020/21		2020/21
Original Estimate	£000	Actuals	£000
Prudence Indicators:			
1) Capital Expenditure & Financing			
Net Capital Expenditure	137,923	Actual Net Capital Expenditure (Excl Sch RCCO & Leasing)	52,235
2) Capital Financing Requirement			
Capital Financing Requirement 31/3/2021	749,599	Actual Capital Financing Requirement 31/3/2021	624,299
Capital Financing Requirement Estimate at 31/3/2023	822,627	Capital Financing Requirement Estimate 31/3/2023	697,327
3) Gross Borrowing and the Capital Financing Requirement			
Gross External Borrowing	628,398	Actual Gross External Borrowing	488,365
Headroom Over CFR at 31/3/2023	194,229	Actual Headroom Over CFR at 31/3/2023	208,962
4) External Debt			
Authorised Limit for External Debt		Actual external debt at 31/3/2021	
Borrowing	715,305	Long Term LCC	487,186
Other Long Term Liabilities	11,488	Long Term Schools	756
Total Authorised Limit	726,793	Salix	423
		Temporary(Home Office)	0
Operational Boundary for External Debt		Borrowing	488,365
Borrowing	700,305	Other Long Term Liabilities (Credit Arrangements)	8,688
Other Long Term Liabilities	9,488	Total Debt	497,053
Total Operational Boundary	709,793		
Affordability Indicators:			
5) Financing Costs & Net Revenue Stream			
Estimated Ratio of Financing Costs To Net Revenue Stream	5.60%	Actual Ratio of Financing Costs To Net Revenue Stream	4.88%
Estimated Ratio of MRP & Interest Costs To Net Revenue Stream	5.78%	Actual Ratio MRP & Interest Costs To Net Revenue Stream	4.98%
Proportionality Indicators			
6) Limit for Maximum Usable Reserves at Risk from Potential Loss of Investments			
Estimated Proportion of Usable Reserves at Risk from Potential Loss of Investments -Limit 10%	1.43%	Actual Proportion of Usable Reserves at Risk from Potential Loss of Investments	0.48%
7) Income from Non Treasury Investments & Net Service Expenditure			
Estimated Proportion of Non-Treasury Investment Income to Net Service Expenditure -Limit 3%	0.46%	Actual Proportion of Non-Treasury Investment Income to Net Service Expenditure	0.50%
Treasury Indicators:			
8) Interest Rate Exposures (Variable)			
Upper limit for variable interest rate exposures		Actual variable interest rate exposure at 31 March 2021	
Borrowing	30%	Borrowing	0%
Investments	100%	Investments	44%
9) Total Principal Sums Invested			
Upper limit for total principal sums invested for over 365 days (per maturity date). Treasury and Non Treasury Investments.	40,000	Actual principal sums invested > 365 Day. Treasury and Non Treasury Investments.	6,419
10) Maturity Structure of borrowing			
Upper Limit for maturity structure of borrowing		Actual maturity structure of borrowing at 31 March 2021	
Under 12 months	25%	Under 12 months	2.30%
12 months and within 24 months	25%	12 months and within 24 months	1.80%
24 months and within 5 years	50%	24 months and within 5 years	5.20%
5 years and within 10 years	75%	5 years and within 10 years	12.20%
10 years and above	100%	10 years and above	78.50%
11) Borrowing in Advance of Need			
Estimated borrowing in advance of need limit equal to 25% of the expected increase in CFR over 3 year budget period	18,257	Actual borrowing taken in advance of need in 2020/21	0

Carry Forward of Over and Underspends

1.15 The Council's policy for the carry forward of over and underspends is set out in Financial Regulations, this is:

1.16 All under and overspends on service revenue budgets of up to 1% will be carried forward without exception. In 2020/21, this was a net underspend totalling £4.899m.

1.17 All under and overspends on the dedicated schools budget will be carried forward. In 2020/21 this net underspend totalled £13.976m, which included an underspend of £0.508m on Schools Sickness Insurance (see paragraph 1.20(e) below).

1.18 In addition to the carry forward of up to 1% of budget under and overspends, there are a number of transfers to reserves for "business as usual" items totalling £0.237m:

- a) Civil Parking Enforcement and Permitting income is ring-fenced for spending on specific works defined by legislation. This budget underspent by £0.088m in the year.
- b) Strategic Commissioning and Procurement which provides services to partner organisations has operated at a surplus of £0.148m in 2020/21 and the net surplus will be transferred to an earmarked reserve pending future decisions about its use.
- c) Interest on Lincoln Cultural Quarter of £0.001m.

1.19 All of the transfers to reserves set out in paragraphs 1.16 to 1.18 and are for noting as being in accordance with Financial Regulations.

1.20 The amount of underspend remaining after taking account of the 1% carry forward of service underspends and the "business as usual" transfers is £23.610m. The Council is required to consider the use of underspends above the level of 1% and outside of the "business as usual" transfers to reserves and there are five further requests for transfers to existing earmarked reserves, totalling £19.314m (£18.806m for items a to d which relate to non-Schools) and £0.508m (for item e which relates to Schools):

- a) The budget for flood and water risk management underspent by £0.045m in the year and it is proposed that this sum be added to the Flood and Water Risk Management reserve.
- b) A surplus of £0.114m was achieved in 2020/21 from the purchase by employees of additional annual leave. It is proposed that this sum is transferred to the Purchase of Employee Leave earmarked reserve. This will help to support staff wellbeing.
- c) Capital Financing Charges underspent by £8.647m in the year and it is proposed that this sum be transferred to the existing Capital Financing Charges earmarked

reserve which will be used in the future to smooth out fluctuations in charges as a result of capital programme volatility.

- d) An increase to the Development Fund of £10.000m for use on Highways initiatives.
- e) Schools Sickness Insurance Scheme had a surplus of £0.508m in the year and it is proposed that this be transferred to the Schools Sickness Insurance earmarked reserve.

1.21 It is proposed that a new earmarked reserve be created from a specific underspend in the revenue budget. The budget for four-yearly County Council elections has now been spread evenly over a four year budget cycle. Each year there is a revenue budget of £0.300m and in years when no elections take place and there is consequently no expenditure against the budget, it is proposed that the resulting underspend will be transferred to a new Elections earmarked reserve. In the years when an election takes place, the balance on the reserve will be drawn down to supplement the annual budget. It is proposed that the underspend of £0.300m is transferred to a new reserve set up for this purpose.

1.22 After the above allocations, which are in line with the Council's Financial Strategy, there is £4.504m still to be allocated.

1.23 The Financial Volatility earmarked reserve has been created from underspends in previous financial years and exists primarily to support the revenue budget in a planned way in any year where there is a budget deficit over the medium term period. During 2020/21 the sum of £12.200m was drawn down from the Financial Volatility reserve in order to create a new Support for Businesses earmarked reserve of £12.000m and to increase the sum in the Flood and Water Risk Management earmarked reserve by £0.200m. These reductions in the Financial Volatility earmarked reserve were to support particular areas of concern at the time, namely the impact of the pandemic on businesses in Lincolnshire and the need to provide further support for flood management. It is proposed that £2.200m of the 2020/21 underspend is transferred to the Financial Volatility earmarked reserve to restore some of this funding.

1.24 Although the situation has improved since the end of the 2020/21 financial year, the coronavirus pandemic is not yet over. The government has announced £15.159m of emergency support to cover Covid-19 costs in 2021/22 and the extension of the sales fees and charges grant to cover loss of income due to Covid-19 for the first quarter of 2021/22. We have also carried forward £2.072m of unspent emergency grant to 2021/22. Beyond this there is no guarantee of any further government support for the impacts of the pandemic, but our costs and losses are still continuing and the easing of Covid-19 restrictions by the government will not lead to an immediate return to normality for all services. It would therefore be prudent to allocate the remaining underspend from the Council's budget to a new revenue earmarked reserve for Coronavirus Recovery and it is proposed that the sum of £2.304m be allocated in this way to a new reserve set up for this purpose.

1.25 As mentioned above, in February 2021 the Council approved the setting up of a £12m Support to Businesses reserve funded by the Financial Volatility Reserve. The Council has used this funding to support a range of businesses. The Business Recovery fund has paid out £2.71million to 358 businesses. A further 33 businesses have been awarded £1.6million in funding through the Invest for Future fund allowing business expansion and increased productivity, creating 112 jobs. Aligned to this were funds to enhance digitisation and supporting our important rural economy. 398 digital applications were approved receiving just over £1.7million and 65 rural projects have benefited of grant awards totalling £1million to date. The Support to Businesses schemes are in the final stages and there is currently £1.8m unallocated. It is proposed to transfer this amount back to the Financial Volatility Reserve.

1.26 The current balance in the Financial Volatility earmarked reserve is £40.483m before any top-up from the 2020/21 underspend. This reserve is not required to balance the budget in 2021/22, but it may be required to support the budget in the years beyond as the medium term financial plan shows budget deficits in each of the next two years. Work on updating the medium term financial plan as part of the next budget setting process is currently underway.

TABLE E – Proposals for Treatment of the Council's Underspend

	£m
Council Underspend for 2020/21 (excluding Schools)	28.746
Service Net Underspends up to 1% Carried Forward:	
- Adult Care and Community Wellbeing	2.167
- Children's Services	1.136
- Place	0.766
- Fire & Rescue and Emergency Planning	0.103
- Commercial	0.408
- Resources	0.288
- Corporate Services	0.031
	4.899
Business As Usual Items, for ringfenced items (para 1.18):	
- Civil Parking Enforcement & Permitting	0.088
- Strategic Commissioning & procurement surplus	0.148
- Interest Lincoln Cultural Quarter	0.001
	0.237
Proposed Transfers to Existing Earmarked Reserves (para 1.20):	
- Flood & Water Risk Management	0.045
- Purchase of Employee Leave	0.114
- Development Fund (Highways)	10.000
- Capital Financing Charges	8.647
	18.806
Proposed Transfers to New Earmarked Reserves (para 1.21):	
- Elections	0.300
	0.300
Balance Remaining for Consideration	4.504
Proposals for Balance Remaining (para 1.23):	
- Replenish Financial Volatility Reserve	2.200
- Create new Coronavirus Recovery Reserve	2.304
	4.504

1.27 TABLE F over the page shows the new balances on reserves following approval of the transfers detailed in paragraphs 1.20 to 1.26 above. The table also shows a variety of other transfers to or from other earmarked reserves reflecting actual expenditure and income in 2020/21.

TABLE F – Transfers To and From Reserves

	Restated Balance at 01 April 2020	Additions in Year	Used in Year	Balance at 31 March 2021	Transfer from Earmarked Reserves - Pre-Council confirmation	Balance following Council Approval
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Balances from dedicated schools budget	14.137	0.670	(2.929)	11.878	0.000	11.878
Balances for schools under a scheme of delegation	10.671	15.227	(11.661)	14.237	0.000	14.237
Total Schools	24.808	15.897	(14.590)	26.115	0.000	26.115
Other Earmarked Reserves:						
Earmarked Reserves - Pre Council Confirmation	15.141	29.254	(15.141)	29.254	(29.254)	0.000
Insurance	5.737	1.038	0.000	6.775	0.000	6.775
Schools Sickness Insurance	0.685	0.000	0.000	0.685	0.508	1.193
Shared Services (Legal and Procurement)	1.823	0.828	(0.013)	2.638	0.148	2.786
Financial Volatility	52.683	0.000	(12.200)	40.483	4.000	44.483
CSSC Transformation Including BW Rebuild and Development	3.384	0.000	(0.636)	2.748	0.000	2.748
Energy from Waste Lifecycles	5.038	1.286	(0.552)	5.772	0.000	5.772
Development Fund	10.182	9.966	(5.696)	14.452	10.000	24.452
Business Rates Volatility Reserve	6.152	0.000	0.000	6.152	0.000	6.152
Support to Businesses	0.000	12.000	(0.689)	11.311	(1.800)	9.511
Civil Parking Enforcement	0.000	0.194	0.000	0.194	0.088	0.282
Lincoln Cultural Quarter	0.175	0.000	0.000	0.175	0.001	0.176
Flood and Water Risk Management	0.160	0.286	(0.151)	0.295	0.045	0.340
Purchase of Employee Leave Scheme Reserve	0.144	0.048	0.000	0.192	0.114	0.306
Capital Financing Charges Reserve	0.000	5.150	0.000	5.150	8.647	13.797
Elections	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.300	0.300
Coronavirus Recovery	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	2.304	2.304
Other Service Earmarked Reserves	4.672	0.826	(1.044)	3.454	4.899	8.353
Earmarked Reserves	105.976	60.876	(36.122)	129.730	0.000	129.730
Revenue Grants and Contributions	88.545	39.723	(27.753)	101.515	0.000	101.515
Total	219.329	116.496	(78.465)	257.360	0.000	257.360
The Schools underspend of £13.467m is included within the £15.227m additions on the 'Balances for Schools under a scheme of Delegation' line.						

General Reserve

1.28 It is our policy on general reserves that these will be maintained within a range of 2.5% to 3.5% of the annual budget requirement. When setting the budget for 2020/21 we planned to increase the balance in our General Reserve by £0.150m. After considering the updated budget requirement for 2021/22 and the proposals on the carry forward of over and underspends, there is no requirement to adjust the General Reserve at this year end. The General Reserve at 31 March 2021 stands at £16.200m or 3.2% of the budget requirement.

TABLE G – General Reserves

General Reserves	Balance at 31 March 2021 £m
Opening Balance 01 April 2020	-16.050
Contribution to Reserves in Year	-0.150
Proposed Contribution to/use of Reserves	0.000
Balance 31 March 2021	-16.200
Balance as a percentage of 2021/22 Net Budget	3.2%

Key Financial Performance Measures: Financial Health and Performance

1.29 The Council has identified a number of key indicators to monitor its financial health and performance. The Council's actual performance against these key indicators for 2020/21 is shown in Table H below.

TABLE H – Key Financial Performance Measures: Financial Health and Performance

REF	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	MEDIUM TERM TARGET	2020/21 Estimate	2020/21 Actual
1	Council tax compared with other counties	In lowest quartile of all English county councils (out of 26 county councils)	Yes	Yes
2	Government grants	Lobby for annual increases in general government grants to be above the county average	Yes	Yes
3	Minimum Revenue Provision and Interest	MRP and Interest repayments not to exceed 10% of net income	5.61%	4.98%
4	Accounting	Unqualified external audit opinion	Yes	Yes
5	General Reserves	Maintained within the range of 2.5% to 3.5% of the annual budget requirement net of Dedicated Schools Grant	Within range 2.5% - 3.5%	3.20%
6	Internal control	None of the processes audited receive a "low assurance" opinion from internal audit	Yes	No *
7	Expenditure - prompt payment	At least 90% of undisputed invoices paid within 30 days	90%	97%
8	Treasury management	Risk adjusted return comparison	Weighted Benchmark 0.074%	0.522%

* One Internal Audit report in the year was issued with a "Low Assurance" opinion

Financial Resilience

1.30 The impact of this financial performance on the Council's resilience has been assessed and it has been concluded that our financial resilience remains strong. The direct impact of the Covid-19 pandemic is ongoing and this will require careful monitoring and managing to ensure any impact is minimised.

1.31 Both General and Earmarked reserves are maintained at a prudent level. There is also the Financial Volatility Reserve that can be called upon to support the Council's budgetary position should it be required.

1.32 The Council has strengthened its' financial resilience by: continued monitoring of the financial position, undertaking work to address issues as they arise; continued reporting of the Covid-19 impacts to Government alongside working with the Society of County Treasurers to ensure that the Government understands the particular issues faced by County Councils; refreshing and updating the Medium Term Financial Plan and Strategy; focusing on transformation work to reduce cost pressures and create budget savings.

2. Conclusion

2.1 The proposed treatment of under and over spending outlined in the report are considered appropriate and prudent for supporting future budgets.

2.2 The prudential indicators comply with the CIPFA Prudential Code of Capital Finance in Local Authorities and the Council's actual performance is within the targets set by the Council in February 2020.

2.3 The Council remains in good financial health and remains resilient to the challenges expected in the medium term.

3. Legal Comments:

Recommendation 1 is compliant with the Council's Financial Regulations.

With regard to recommendation 2, the Council's Financial Regulations provide that the use of all underspending on service budgets in excess of 1% will be considered by the Executive and decided by the full Council. The means of funding all overspendings on service budgets in excess of 1% will be considered by the Executive and decided by the full Council.

Recommendations 3, 4 and 5 enable the Council to monitor performance against the Council's approved budget. Under Section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003 the Authority must determine and keep under review how much money it can afford to borrow. Reporting on the Prudential Indicators assists the Council in discharging this function.

Recommendation 6 is within the remit of the full Council.

The recommendations are lawful in accordance with the Constitution and the Policy Framework and within the remit of the full Council.

4. Resource Comments:

Accepting the recommendations in this report provides the Council with a sound financial base from which to manage the challenges of recovering from the Covid-19 pandemic and preparing for a change in the local government funding regime, which remains an uncertain future outcome for this Council.

5. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

n/a

c) Scrutiny Comments

n/a

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

n/a

6. Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Executive Report - Review of Financial Performance 2020/21 - 6 July 2021	Agenda for Executive on Tuesday, 6th July, 2021, 10.30 am (moderngov.co.uk)

This report was written by Michelle Grady, who can be contacted at michelle.grady@lincolnshire.gov.uk

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Open Report on behalf of David Coleman, Monitoring Officer

Report to:	County Council
Date:	17 September 2021
Subject:	Amendments to the Council's Constitution

Summary:

This report proposes amendments to the Council's Constitution relating to Ruling and Opposition Groups together with proposed arrangements for opposition in the current circumstances where there is more than one group with the second largest number of members.

It also invites the Council to note the arrangement in respect of the position of Leader of the Opposition for the period between 17 September 2021 and the next Annual Meeting of the Council

Recommendation(s):

That the Council

- 1) Approves the amendments to the Council's Constitution set out in Appendix A;
- 2) Recognises the Labour Group and the Independent Group as the Opposition in accordance with Article 3.05 of the Constitution as amended in Appendix A;
- 3) Notes the nomination of Cllr Robert Parker as Leader of the Opposition for the period between 17 September 2021 and the next Annual Meeting of the Council

1. Background

As currently drafted Article 3.05 of the Council's Constitution recognises the second largest political Group on the Council as the Opposition Group and the leader of that Group as the Leader of the Opposition.

On two occasions recently there has been no single second largest group on the Council and that is the current position with both the Labour Group and the Independent Group having four members.

At its last meeting on 21 May 2021 the Council recognised the Labour Group as the Opposition Group under Article 3.05 until the next meeting of the Council pending a review of the constitutional processes relating to the Opposition Group and discussions between the Leader of the Independent Group and Labour Group.

Further discussion has taken place and there was agreement that the Constitution needs to make provision for the situation where there is more than one group with the second largest number of seats and that that provision should allow for a reasonable degree of flexibility for those groups to come to an arrangement as to how they would arrange matters between themselves to enable effective opposition.

As a result the amendments to the Constitution attached at Appendix A are proposed.

Under the amended Constitution the second largest group will continue to be the Opposition where there is such a group and the leader of that group will continue to be the Leader of the Opposition.

The proposed amendments only apply during any period in which there is not one single group with the second largest number of seats.

Where there is an equality of seats the amendments in Appendix A still make it a matter for the Council to recognise the Opposition. However the changes remove the requirement for Council to recognise a single group and allow for recognition of a combination of those groups with the second largest number of seats.

Where this is the case the changes deal with two other issues.

Firstly the changes would allow the Shadow Executive to be appointed from across the membership of the groups that have come together to form the Opposition.

Secondly the changes deal with the position of the Leader of the Opposition.

This is a position which has a relatively limited but specific role within the Council's Constitution. In particular the Leader of the Opposition:-

- Appoints the Shadow Executive
- Is consulted when the use of special urgency provisions is being contemplated under paragraph 17 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution; and
- Is consulted when the Head of Paid Service is considering whether to rule out call-in on the grounds of urgency under paragraph 15(i) of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Constitution

The changes to the Constitution seek to balance flexibility in allowing a combination of groups in Opposition to rotate the leadership position with ensuring a degree of certainty to enable these important constitutional provisions to operate.

The amendments therefore propose that the position of Leader of the Opposition would be nominated by the leaders of the groups forming the Opposition and would have in effect a term of office of a year taking effect from the Annual Meeting. This reflects the current arrangements for the Leader of the Council to inform the Annual Meeting of the Council of appointments to the Executive.

In light of the above changes relating to the Opposition Group, the opportunity has also been taken to review and introduce greater certainty into the provisions within Article 3.05 relating to the Ruling Group.

To ensure clarity in relation to the Leader of the Opposition for the period prior to the next Annual Meeting, Council is asked to note that Cllr Robert Parker is nominated by the leaders of the Labour and Independent Groups to be the Leader of the Opposition during that period.

2. Legal Issues:

Equality Act 2010

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it.

- Encourage persons who share a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

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

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

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

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

There are not considered to be any Equality Act implications arising out of the subject matter of the Report

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

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

The JSNA and JHWS have been considered and there is no direct implication for either arising out of this decision.

Crime and Disorder

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

The section 17 matters have been considered and there is no direct implication for those matters arising out of this decision.

3. Conclusion

The Report seeks approval for a number of changes to the Constitution to clarify and introduce greater flexibility in relation to the formation of an effective opposition where

more than one political group has the second largest number of seats on the Council with provision being made for the appointment of the Shadow Executive and the identification of a Leader of the Opposition.

The Report also proposes arrangements for opposition between the Labour Group and the Independent Group and Council is invited to recognise these arrangements pursuant to the amended Constitution.

4. Legal Comments:

The approval of amendments to the Constitution is reserved to full Council.

There are no legal implications of the changes of which the Council needs to be aware. The constitutional implications of the changes are dealt with in the Report.

5. Resource Comments:

Accepting the recommendation within the report, should have no material impact on the approved budget of the council.

6. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

N/A

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

N/A

c) Scrutiny Comments

N/A

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

See the body of the Report

7. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Extract of Part 2 of the Constitution – Articles of the Constitution

8. Background Papers

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
The Council's Constitution	Agenda for Constitution on Friday, 21st May, 2021 (moderngov.co.uk)

This report was written by David Coleman, Chief Legal Officer and Monitoring Officer, who can be contacted on 07741 606143 or david.coleman@lincolnshire.gov.uk

Part 2

ARTICLES OF THE CONSTITUTION

2/1

ARTICLE 3 – MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

3.01 Composition and eligibility

(a) **Composition**

The Council will comprise 70 Members, otherwise called Councillors. One Councillor will be elected by the voters of each electoral division in accordance with a scheme drawn up by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England and approved by the Secretary of State.

(b) **Eligibility**

Only registered voters of the county or those living or working there will be eligible to hold the office of Councillor. Further information can be found on the Electoral Commission website www.electoralcommission.org.uk.

3.02 Election and terms of Councillors

Election and terms

The regular election of Councillors will usually be held on the first Thursday in May every four years beginning in 2001. The terms of office of Councillors will start on the fourth working day after being elected and will finish on the fourth working day after the date of the next regular election.

3.03 Roles and functions of all Councillors

(a) **Key roles**

All Councillors will:

- (i) effectively represent the interests of their division and individual constituents;
- (ii) actively encourage community participation and bring community views into the Council's decision making process;
- (iii) respond to constituents' enquiries and representations, fairly and with impartiality;
- (iv) participate in the governance and management of the Council;

- (v) be involved in decision making;
- (vi) contribute collectively to strategic and policy issues;
- (vii) be available to represent the Council on other bodies;
- (viii) balance different, often conflicting interests;
- (ix) maintain the highest standards of conduct and ethics.

(b) **Rights and duties**

- (i) Councillors will have such rights of access to such documents, information, land and buildings of the Council as are necessary for the proper discharge of their functions and in accordance with the law.
- (ii) Councillors will not make public information, which is confidential or exempt without the consent of the Council, or divulge information given in confidence to anyone other than a Councillor or Officer entitled to know it.
- (iii) For these purposes, "confidential" and "exempt" information are defined in the Access to Information Rules in Part 4 of this Constitution.

3.04 **Conduct**

Councillors will at all times observe the Members' Code of Conduct and all Protocols in Part 5 of this Constitution as approved by the Council from time to time.

3.05 **Political Groups**

Most if not all Councillors will be members of political groups and membership of the main Committees of the Council will be allocated to the groups in proportion to their representation on the Council as a whole.

The Council will recognise the following categories of political groups

- (i) The Ruling Group

Where there is such a group, This will usually the Ruling Group will be the political group with the greatest number of seats on the Council.

The Leader of the Council and the members of the Executive will normally be drawn from the Ruling Group.

If there is no group with the greatest number of seats on the Council the Ruling Group will be the group of which the Leader of the Council is a member.

(ii) The Opposition ~~Group~~

Where there is one such group This ~~this~~ will ~~usually~~ be the political group with the second greatest number of seats on the Council.

The leader of this political group will be the Leader of the Opposition.

Where there is more than one group with the second greatest number of seats on the Council, the Council will determine the Opposition and may approve as the Opposition a combination of those groups who have the second greatest number of seats.

Where a combination of groups is recognised as the Opposition the Leader of the Opposition shall be such one of the relevant group leaders as the leaders of the relevant groups shall unanimously notify in writing to the Head of Paid Service at or prior to the meeting at which the arrangement is first recognised and thereafter at or prior to each Annual Meeting of the Council during the period for which the arrangement lasts.

Once notified, the Leader of the Opposition shall remain in that position for a fixed period commencing on the date of nomination and ending immediately prior to the next Annual Meeting of the Council.

The Leader of the Opposition may appoint members of his or her drawn from the membership of the political groups that have come together to form the Opposition to shadow the areas of responsibility of Executive Councillors. If so such members ~~of the Opposition Group~~ will be known individually as Shadow Executive Councillors and collectively as the Shadow Executive.

(iii) The Minority Groups

These are the other political groups on the Council.

The position of the leaders of these groups is acknowledged under the Constitution but not any shadow executive they may choose to form.

3.06 Allowances

Councillors will be entitled to receive allowances in accordance with the Members' Allowances Scheme as detailed at Part 6 of this Constitution.

2/4

3.07 Local members

approved version 19.02.21

Councillors will notify and consult with other Councillors before becoming involved in a matter relating to that other Councillor's division.

3.08 **Added members**

Some Committees of the Council have members who are not elected county councillors. Such members are referred to in this Constitution as Added Members. Unless inconsistent with the law or the context, references in this Constitution to Councillors and members (other than references to Executive Councillors) shall include Added Members.

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

Report to:	County Council
Date:	17 September 2021
Subject:	Membership of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE)

Summary:

This report seeks to increase the Council representation on the Lincolnshire Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE) from three to the maximum of four elected members with the appointment of Councillor Ashley Baxter.

Recommendation(s):

That Council approves the appointment of Councillor Ashley Baxter to the Lincolnshire Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education.

1. Background

The function of SACRE is to support the effective provision of religious education and collective worship in schools and to enrich the experience of religious education and collective worship for all pupils.

The membership of SACRE comprises of representatives appointed by the Local Authority from four groups:

- a) Religious denominations in the area (other than the Church of England) – up to ten members
- b) Church of England – up to four members
- c) Teachers representing unions in Lincolnshire – up to four members
- d) Lincolnshire County Council representatives – up to four members

SACRE's membership currently comprises of eight members from section **a** above; three from section **b**; four from section **c**; three from section **d**; and one co-opted member.

The appointment of members to SACRE is a matter for Full Council and at its Annual Meeting on 21 May 2021 Council appointed Councillors Bob Adams, Jackie Brockway and Mark Whittington as its representatives on this statutory organisation. Since that meeting Councillor Ashley Baxter has expressed a wish to represent the Council on the body.

The recommendation in this report would increase the number in section **d** from three to four.

2. Legal Issues:

Equality Act 2010

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The duty cannot be delegated and must be discharged by the decision-maker. To discharge the statutory duty the decision-maker must analyse all the relevant material with the specific statutory obligations in mind. If a risk of adverse impact is identified

consideration must be given to measures to avoid that impact as part of the decision making process.

Following the recommendation in this report would not cause any adverse impact with regard to the Equality Act.

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

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

This proposal takes into account of the JSNA by ensuring that the county council has full representation on the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education (SACRE), thereby contributing to the theme of educational attainment. The proposal does not directly contribute to the furtherance of the JHWS.

Crime and Disorder

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

The proposal in this report does not directly contribute to the furtherance of the Section 17 matters.

3. Conclusion

The council can appoint up to four members to SACRE. There are currently three members of the council on SACRE. Councillor Ashley Baxter has expressed a wish to be a member of the body.

4. Legal Comments:

The Council is entitled to appoint a fourth member to SACRE.
The appointment of members to SACRE is within the remit of the Council.

5. Resource Comments:

Accepting the recommendation within this report, should have no material impact on the budgets of the council.

6. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

n/a

c) Scrutiny Comments

n/a

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

n/a

7. Background Papers

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Purpose of SACRE	https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=162
Outside bodies report to Council 21 May 2021	https://lincolnshire.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s38883/Appendix%20A%20-%20Outside%20Bodies.pdf

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



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

Report to:	County Council
Date:	17 September 2021
Subject:	Appointments to the Lincolnshire County Council Independent Remuneration Panel

Summary:

This report seeks to appoint three additional members to the Lincolnshire County Council Independent Remuneration Panel.

Recommendation(s):

That the Council appoints Heather Lee and Aileen Lucas to the Lincolnshire County Council Independent Remuneration Panel with immediate effect and appoints Tony Lawlor to the Panel with effect from 1 January 2022.

1. Background

The Council must have regard to the recommendations of its IRP when making its Members' Allowances Scheme every year. The preferred size of the IRP is five and it currently has three members. The IRP must in law have at least three members.

Recruitment of three new members, one with effect from when the current Chairman stands down, will bring the numbers on the Panel up to the preferred size.

Councillors are reminded that under the Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003, Councils are required to establish and maintain an Independent Remuneration Panel (IRP), whose members are independent of the Council, to advise on its Members' Allowances Scheme.

The Panel makes recommendations to the Council on the level of Basic Allowance for all members, on the level of Special Responsibility Allowance and to whom they should be paid and on whether dependents' carers' allowance, travel and subsistence allowances and co-optees' allowance should be paid and the levels of those allowances.

The last fundamental review of the Members' Allowance Scheme at Lincolnshire County Council was carried out in 2018 and the IRP made a number of recommendations to Council concerning the scheme.

Those recommendations included the suggestion that allowances in the scheme should be increased annually by the average percentage increase in pay for employees covered by the National Joint Council for Local Government Services for the previous 12 months (usually referred to as Green Book employees). At a meeting of Council on 11 December 2020 it was resolved not to implement the annual increase for the 2021/22 Members' Allowances Scheme, therefore retaining the level of allowances agreed for the scheme in 2020/21.

The 2003 regulations allow indexing for a maximum of four years and also require that Council votes to adopt a scheme of members' allowances each year. That four year period expires in April 2022. The IRP therefore felt it was appropriate to carry out a fundamental review of the scheme at the same time as reviewing the indexing. It is proposed that a review is carried out in the autumn of 2021 with a view to reporting to Council on 10 December 2021.

Membership of the IRP currently stands at three, which is the statutory minimum. In addition, the current chairman of the panel Mr Peter Clay has given notice that he will leave the Lincolnshire Panel, having moved out of the county. He has agreed to lead the panel for the upcoming fundamental review, with the intention of leaving at the end of the current calendar year.

The preferred size of the IRP is five members and so a recruitment exercise has been carried out to fill two of the vacancies with immediate effect, with the further vacancy, caused by the planned departure of Mr Clay, to be filled with effect from 1st January 2022.

Officers are recommending that Aileen Lucas and Heather Lee are appointed with immediate effect and that Tony Lawlor is appointed with effect from 1st January 2022. Aileen Lee is an elected member of the Co-op National Members Council and serves on the Governance Committee, contributing to decisions made regarding remuneration for Co-op Council Members. Heather Lee has served on the finance and employment committee and the remuneration committee as a governor of Accrington and Rossendale Further Education College. Her experience also includes four years as chairman of the remuneration committee of East Midlands Business Ltd. Tony Lawlor is an experienced finance professional who has worked across a range of public sector bodies. He was at the forefront of the setting up of a new trading company, Norfolk Educational Services, a shared services company that specialises in providing support services for education.

2. Legal Issues:

Equality Act 2010

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The process by which the proposed new members have been selected has been open to all, regardless of protected characteristics. The recommendations of the Panel must have regard to the Equality Act duties.

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

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

The JSNA and JHWS have been considered and there is no direct implication for either of this decision.

Crime and Disorder

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

The section 17 matters have been considered and there is no direct implication for those matters of this decision.

3. Conclusion

The Council is required to make a Members' Allowances Scheme every year. In doing so it must have regard to the recommendations of its IRP.

The preferred size of the IRP is five, which requires the Council to appoint two additional members of the panel to join the three existing members and a further additional member from 1st January 2022 following the planned departure of the panel's current chairman.

4. Legal Comments:

The legal issues relating to the Independent Remuneration Panel and its role are set out in the Report.

Appointments to the Independent Remuneration Panel are within the remit of full Council.

5. Resource Comments:

Accepting the recommendation within this report to make appointments to the Independent Remuneration Panel should have no material impact on the budgets of the council.

6. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

n/a

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

n/a

c) Scrutiny Comments

n/a

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

Risks associated with this decision are considered to be minimal.

7. Background Papers

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Local Authorities (Members Allowances) (England) Regulations 2003	Democratic Services

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

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Open Report on behalf of Nigel West, Statutory Scrutiny Officer

Report to:	County Council
Date:	17 September 2021
Subject:	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020-21

Summary:

This report invites the County Council to consider and approve the Annual Report for Overview and Scrutiny for 2020-21.

Recommendation(s):

To approve the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2020-21.

1. Background

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020-21

The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2020-21 is attached at Appendix A to this report.

The Annual Report is an opportunity to highlight the scrutiny work that has taken place throughout the last year. The report focuses on the key successes and achievements of Overview and Scrutiny over the past year, and has been written in the same visual and engaging format and design as the previous Annual Report to engage the reader.

The Annual Report is usually put before the annual meeting of the County Council for approval. In years when elections are held, the Annual Report is considered at the first appropriate meeting after the annual meeting.

2. Conclusion

The Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2020-21 provides an opportunity to consider the work of the Overview and Scrutiny function and the County Council is invited to approve this year's report.

3. Legal Comments:

The Report introduces for approval the Annual Scrutiny Report. Overview and Scrutiny is an important aspect of the Council's functions and the report enables the Council to assess the carrying out of this function in the last year. The matter is within the remit of the full Council.

4. Resource Comments:

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

5. Consultation

a) Has Local Member Been Consulted?

Not Applicable

b) Has Executive Councillor Been Consulted?

Not Applicable

c) Scrutiny Comments

On 26 August 2021, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board endorsed the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2020-21 for submission to the County Council.

d) Risks and Impact Analysis

Not Applicable

6. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020-21

7. Background Papers

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

This report was written by Nigel West, who can be contacted on 01522 552840 or nigel.west@lincolnshire.gov.uk.

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2020-21



FOREWORD

I am delighted to present the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2020-21. The report contains a look at the key activities and successes for Overview and Scrutiny over the past year. The key aims of scrutiny work in the council are to:-

- Provide healthy and constructive challenge
- Give voice to public concerns
- Support improvement in services
- Provide an independent review

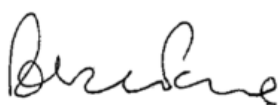
The 2020/21 year was severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, resulting in a number of scrutiny committee meetings being cancelled at the start of the council year. On 4 April 2020, the government published regulations to enable remote council meetings. Following a swift rollout of Microsoft Teams by IMT, and training of councillors on the functionality of Teams and procedures for virtual meetings by Democratic Services, the scrutiny committees were soon able to start holding virtual meetings to ensure the continuation of the democratic process during the pandemic.

Despite the impact of the pandemic, 67 scrutiny committee meetings were held, and 65% of all formal decisions were considered by a scrutiny committee in 2020/21 prior to them being made. Key achievements where overview and scrutiny has made a difference include:-

- supporting the development of the Fifth Local Transport Plan;
- recommending changes to the draft Infrastructure Funding Statement which were accepted;
- advising on the Green Master Plan adopted by the County Council in February 2021;
- providing a steer on the direction of the Corporate Support Services Review; and
- recommending a 'One Council' centralised system be developed to request, record and monitor Developer Contributions across the council.

Looking forward, a new cohort of councillors elected to the council in May 2021 are already getting to grips with Overview and Scrutiny, having completed a busy induction programme, and their work will be the subject of next year's Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report. With the easing of Covid-19 restrictions, we are getting back to holding face to face meetings in County Offices again.

Should you want to know more about our overview and scrutiny work then please feel free to get in touch using the contact details at the end of the report.

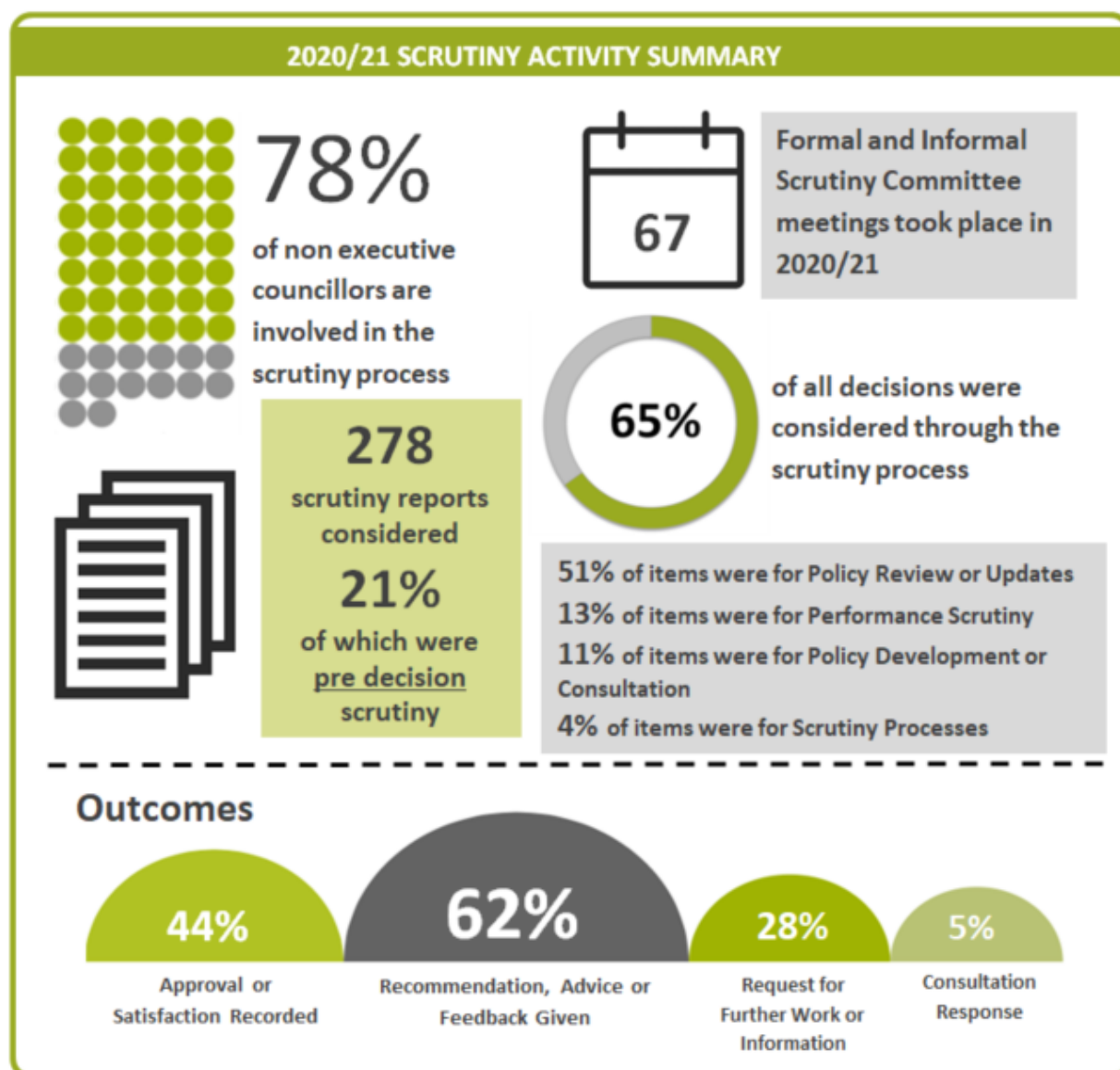


Councillor Robert Parker
Chairman, Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

INTRODUCTION TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

Overview and scrutiny is the process whereby non-executive councillors of the council examine the authority's functions and services, plus those of partner organisations. 2020 marked the 20th anniversary of the legislative changes that led to the establishment of the overview and scrutiny function in English and Welsh councils, a function of local authorities in which all non-Executive councillors are eligible to participate in. Joining them to scrutinise particular issues are parent governors, church representatives, councillors from the district councils and representatives from other local organisations.

Lincolnshire County Council has eight overview and scrutiny committees that consider new policies and strategies, existing policies to see how well they are working and performance information to check that the council is meeting the standards that have been set.



KEY OUTCOMES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

NHS RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire

"That the Committee's gratitude be recorded to all NHS staff, key workers and volunteers in Lincolnshire on their response to Covid-19, and for the Committee's condolences to be extended to the families who have lost loved ones." - June 2020

The **Health Scrutiny Committee for Lincolnshire** has focused on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the local NHS. The first challenge was the NHS's response to the pandemic, which peaked with over 250 Covid-19 in-patients in Lincolnshire's hospitals in early December 2020, representing over 30% of the available beds. The second strand was the restoration of other services such as treating cancer and other urgent procedures.

There were a number of temporary changes to services locally, for example, Grantham Hospital was designated a 'green site' allowing patients to receive cancer and other treatments in a safe environment, free of Covid-19. Other temporary changes included some urgent treatment centres closing overnight. Plans for the restoration of services have included reinstating service at Grantham Hospital, and the re-opening of urgent treatment centres overnight in Louth and Skegness, with new urgent treatment centres established in Gainsborough and Spalding. The Committee will be continuing to review the impact of the pandemic on the NHS in the coming year, focusing on specific services such as cancer treatment.



EAST COAST INUNDATION PLAN

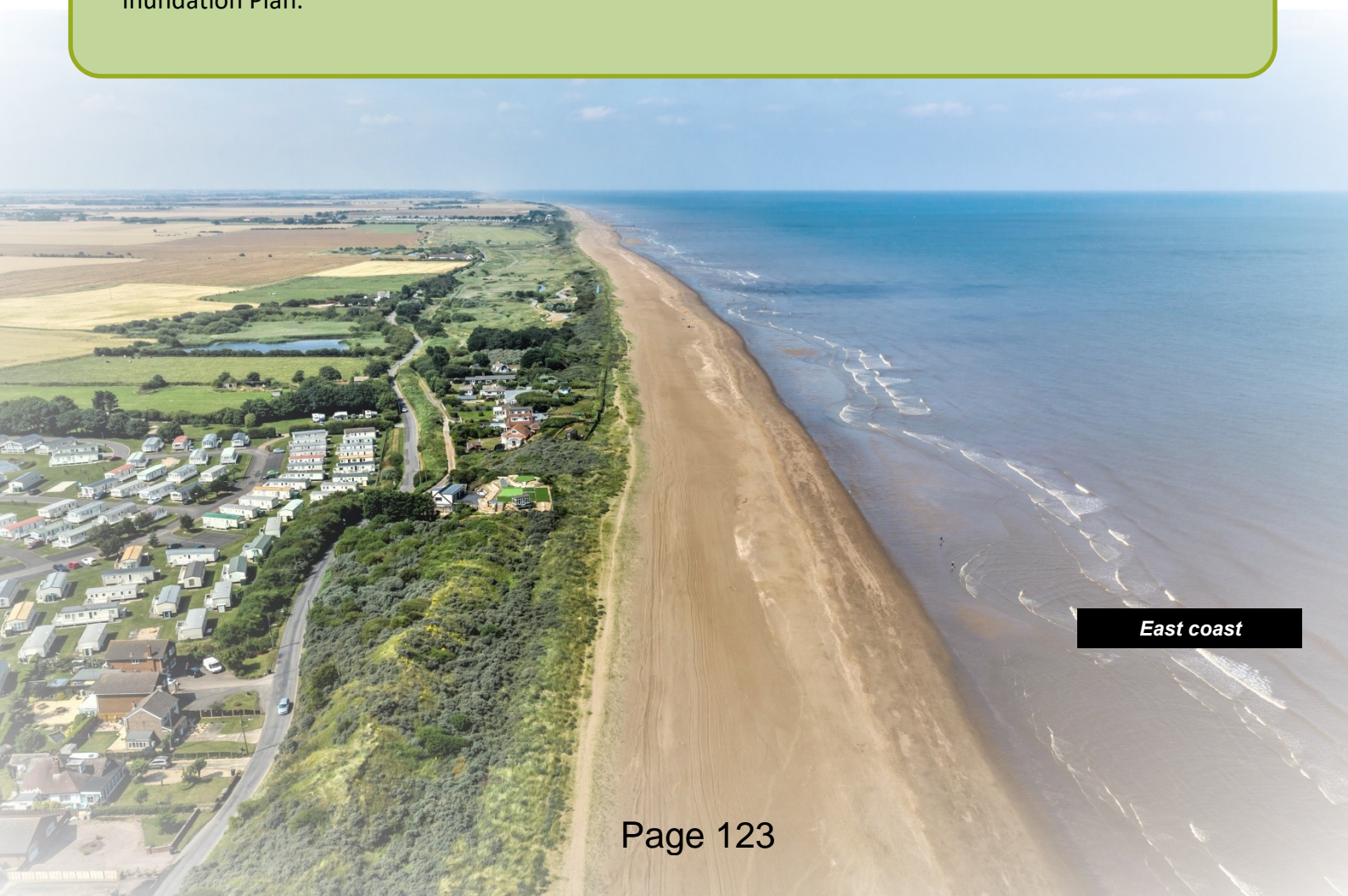
Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee

"The Committee was reassured by the work being undertaken by Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue to respond to any inundation event on the East coast." – January 2021

At its meeting in October 2020, the Executive requested that the **Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee** consider the impact of a coastal inundation on Lincolnshire Fire and Rescue (LFR) Service's resources, particularly in the light of the decision by East Lindsey District Council (ELDC) to extend the caravan season into the winter/flood season.

The East Coast Inundation Plan had been developed and updated over a number of years, but had been written on the planning assumption that East coast caravan sites were closed during winter months. Following ELDC's decision to extend the caravan season into the winter/flood season from next winter season, the Committee acknowledged that further work would be required to gain a full understanding of the impacts that winter occupancy of caravan sites would have on the existing planning assumption, and that additional processes and resource requirements may need to be put in place before assurance could be given that the additional risk was accounted for.

Lincolnshire's Local Resilience Forum and partners participated in a virtual tabletop exercise of the East Coast Inundation Plan which took place on 10 February 2021 and was facilitated by the Emergency Planning Team to test LFR's response to an East coast flooding event alongside the concurrent pandemic incident, and by doing so complete the annual exercise of the East Coast Inundation Plan.



East coast

DRAFT INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING STATEMENT

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

"The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board unanimously agreed to support the recommendation to the Leader, subject to the draft Statement being amended to include more detail and made clearer so that it was appropriate for the public domain." – December 2020

Under Regulation 121A of the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010, the council must publish an annual infrastructure funding statement before 31 December each year detailing: a statement of the infrastructure projects or types of infrastructure which the council intend to fund using the Community Infrastructure Levy; a report setting out specific information about the Community Infrastructure Levy, in relation to the previous financial year; and a report containing specified information about planning obligations, in relation to the previous financial year.

The draft Infrastructure Funding Statement was considered by the **Overview and Scrutiny Management Board** in December 2020, prior to a decision by the Leader of the Council to approve it for publication as Lincolnshire County Council's Infrastructure Funding Statement for 2019/20.

For a public facing document, the Board identified that the draft Infrastructure Funding Statement did not contain enough detail about how the Section 106 obligations totalling £11,854,236 would be spent; and that it should highlight the benefits of developer contributions to the community and public and what the council was trying to achieve with them. The Board suggested that a public statement or an executive summary on the Infrastructure Funding Statement should be provided by the Council's Communications Team to promote the Statement to the press and public given the amount of money involved.

The Board recommended that the draft Infrastructure Funding Statement should be amended to contain more detail and made clearer so that it was an appropriate public facing document.

The draft Infrastructure Funding Statement was reviewed and amended taking into account the comments from the Board, before the decision was taken by the Leader of the Council. In addition, a public statement was included on the council's website to explain what the Infrastructure Funding Statement was to the public.

IMPACT OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S EDUCATION

Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee

"The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee extends its thanks to all teams within the council, who had worked hard through unprecedented times to ensure that children and young people in Lincolnshire were able to return to school." – October 2020

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a huge impact on schools and education in Lincolnshire which the **Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee** has been monitoring over the past year.

In September 2020, the vast majority of Lincolnshire schools reopened with 91.5% of pupils on average in attendance. To facilitate pupils being able to return to school, the council ensured that school transport was in place ahead of the new term, and also put in place additional transport provision to enable as many children and young people as possible to avoid having to use the public transport network. However, there was a new cohort of parents who made the choice to home educate to keep their children safe as a result of the pandemic, with 357 notifications received by the Elective Home Education team by early October. This was approximately 160 more referrals for the period March to October 2020 when compared to the previous year.

Ofsted carried out interim visits to schools between September and December 2020 to support schools in welcoming all pupils back and to form a national view of the response by schools to the pandemic. The Committee was pleased to hear that following the interim visits, Ofsted reported that Lincolnshire schools were generally in a better place than schools nationally regarding the establishment of remote learning. Since March 2020, the vast majority of Lincolnshire schools had offered elements of remote curriculum delivery, either on line or through the provision of paper based resources. Over 4500 laptops and tablets have already been distributed by the government to local authority maintained schools in Lincolnshire, in addition to the thousands of devices which have also been distributed to Lincolnshire academies, to enable vulnerable and disadvantaged children and young people to access remote learning when they could not attend school due to Covid-19.

The Committee was pleased to see schools re-opening again on 8 March 2021, but recognised that it could take a number of years for the educational sector to recover from the pandemic. The first review of the national impact of the pandemic on education was published in June 2021, and the government has announced that it will keep reviewing the impact in the future. The Committee will continue to closely monitor the impact of the pandemic on children and young people's education.

GREEN MASTER PLAN

Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee

"That the recommendation to the Executive to adopt the Green Master Plan be supported and the comments from the Committee be passed onto the Executive for consideration." – January 2021

The county council has committed to net carbon neutrality by 2050, which is reflected in the Corporate Plan. To support this, a Green Master Plan has been developed with a focus on clean energy, transport, nature and innovative technologies. The plan also emphasises offshore wind power, using hydrogen for heating, the promotion of electric vehicles, decarbonised public transport, carbon-capture technologies, protecting and restoring the natural environment, and introducing targets such as 600,000 domestic heat pumps installed by 2028.

The **Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee** recorded its unanimous support for the Green Master Plan and congratulated the Sustainability Team on its development. The Committee highlighted alternative fuels, such as bioethanol, to maintain the delivery range of heavy goods vehicles. As with all alternatives, the challenge would be refuelling, and new technologies were expected for this purpose.

The Committee also referred to 'plastic-free communities', where individuals were working with communities and businesses to encourage them to reduce plastic waste. Following a recommendation from the Executive, the Green Master Plan was adopted by the County Council in February 2021.



The Wolds farmland

DECEMBER SURFACE WATER FLOODING AND IMPROVEMENTS TO LOCAL INCIDENCE RESPONSE

Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee

"That the recommendations to address the lessons learned from the events be supported." - February 2021

The **Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee** has a role to show local leadership to understand the risks of flooding in Lincolnshire and the work being undertaken to mitigate the risks and impacts of flooding across the County.

Over the course of the 23 and 24 December 2020, heavy rainfall led to a number of flooding incidents in the south of Lincolnshire, which mainly affected South Kesteven and South Holland. Whilst the event had not been large enough to trigger a standard multi-agency response, it did trigger a local response. However, the forecast had indicated a much lower likelihood of significant impact than what was actually experienced. This event highlighted a need to review how those events which went beyond the forecast were prepared for.

The Committee challenged the way that the flooding incident had been handled and was pleased to hear that stronger arrangements, to prepare in advance for these kinds of events, had now been put in place. Members of the Committee recognised that there was a need to help and inform residents with what they can do to protect themselves, and that it was important that organisations work together and adopt a precautionary principle as an approach.

FIFTH LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN

Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee

"The Committee supported:

- the balance of proposed themes in the Local Transport Plan and their link to other local plans;*
- improved connectivity between and within communities for public transport, cycling and walking; and*
- the need to improve rail infrastructure, both to encourage the transfer of freight from road to rail, and to address the effects of Covid-19." – December 2020*

Work has begun developing a new Local Transport Plan for Lincolnshire, as the current ten year plan expires in 2023. The new plan will be used as a reference document to support bids to the government for funding to support transport initiatives. In its policy development role, the **Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee** considered possible themes for the plan in December 2020 and March 2021, and has provided the above advice. The Committee has also highlighted the need for more collaboration between Highways England and the county council on developing highway schemes. Other partners and stakeholders were also involved in the plan's development.

As the plan forms part of the council's policy framework, the Committee will be providing further advice on the draft plan, which will continue to be developed during 2021. The final plan will be adopted by the county council.



Lincolnshire
COUNTY COUNCIL
Working for a better future

MENTAL HEALTH UNIVERSAL OFFER AND COMMUNITY BASED MODEL

Adults and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

"That the Mental Health Universal Offer and Community Based Model be endorsed."

- January 2021

Lincolnshire has received national funding to transform mental health services and has tested new models of care for people of all ages with moderate to severe, long term mental health problems, in four accelerator sites: Boston, Gainsborough, Grantham and Lincoln South. The funding has helped to develop new dedicated support for people with a personality disorder; and provided support for those returning to the community from mental health rehabilitation services. It has also integrated dedicated mental health workers in primary care networks and neighbourhood teams, not as a separate service or team, but as a constituent part of the existing teams, which already included GPs, social care, emergency services, substance misuse workers and third sector providers. Based on progress at accelerator sites, it is anticipated that by 2023/24 there will be countywide integrated mental health teams, rehabilitation teams and a personality disorder service.

The **Adults and Community Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee** congratulated all those involved in developing this initiative, as an excellent example of partnership working between the council and the NHS, and looked forward to these innovative service models being extended across Lincolnshire in the coming years. The Committee also welcomed the digital offer for mental health, which had received excellent feedback from users.

CORPORATE SUPPORT SERVICES REVIEW

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

"The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board provided feedback on the emerging draft IMT model to be taken into consideration by officers as the work progressed." – March 2021

The Corporate Support Services Review Project was established as part of the council's Transformation Programme to support informed decision making around the future delivery of services in the current Corporate Support Services Contract, which had been in place since April 2014 and would reach its natural conclusion in March 2024.

Regular updates have been brought to the **Overview and Scrutiny Management Board** to report progress and seek the views of members on the way forward. The Board supported the scope of services included within the Corporate Support Services Review Project being limited to those services currently delivered by Serco and acknowledged that the single Business Process Outsourcing type provider was coming to an end and would likely be replaced by a number of specialist providers for future services.

Regarding the principles and rationale of the draft IMT model under development, the Board recognised the need to shape requirements to what the market offered. Off the shelf solutions would be introduced where appropriate, but where customised solutions would be considered, the Board requested to be informed of the risks and consequences, as customised solutions would be more expensive and likely to be riskier than off the shelf solutions. As IMT is a major part of the Serco contract, the Board recommended that change and exit should be phased to maintain stable service delivery. The Board will continue to monitor and provide feedback on this project as it progresses.

County Offices, Lincoln

OTHER SUCCESSES

COUNCILLOR CALL FOR ACTION – HIGHWAY OBSTRUCTION: WEST STREET, BARKSTON

Councillors have an opportunity to raise a matter of local concern using the 'Councillor Call for Action' procedure. This is rare, as it can only be used as a last resort and when all other possible means of resolution have been tried. After initial advice from the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, the **Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee** considered a 'Councillor Call for Action' on highway obstruction in West Street, Barkston, near Grantham, which had been submitted by the local county councillor. After considering several options such as physical or legal parking restrictions, road widening, or the provision of parking areas, the Committee agreed to request further information and later recommended two proposals, the introduction of a H bar and increased signage, to the Executive Councillor for Highways, Transport and IT to resolve the matter.

PATHWAY PLANS FOR CARE LEAVERS

Corporate Parenting Panel

"That the Pathway Plan, the process and associated documentation be endorsed." – September 2020

A review of the individual experiences of young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) transitioning into Adult Services was undertaken by the Transitions Scrutiny Panel in 2019. One of the recommendations from the Scrutiny Panel was the need to review the Pathway Plans for Care Leavers so that the structure of the document would be more useful in meeting the needs of young people, truly capturing their voice, tracking their progress and planning for their future.

The **Corporate Parenting Panel** was pleased to see that the revised Pathway Plan for Care Leavers had now been separated into two parts, the first of which was about the young person, their voice and their wishes; and the second part was to capture an on-going assessment and analysis of needs. The revised Pathway Plan and assessment documentation were being audited, and the Panel was pleased to hear that the initial findings had been positive. Feedback from staff and young people was that the new document was more flexible and easier to complete. Fewer young people were resistant to engage in the process of Pathway Planning, and staff believed that the document provided a better framework for discussions to help capture peoples wishes, feelings and actions.

The Panel agreed that the work undertaken on the revised Pathway Plan was an example of where the scrutiny function had been important and made a difference.

WORKING GROUPS

Committees can establish working groups to work in a less formal way either working independently or in collaboration with council officers. These working groups have responded to national consultations, reviewed existing policies and looked to develop new policies in conjunction with officers.

SUPPORT TO FARMERS

Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee

In February 2021 the Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee identified the local agricultural sector and support to Lincolnshire farmers as a potential topic for a scrutiny review, especially in the light of the uncertainty surrounding the outcome and content of the proposed Agricultural Bill currently going through Parliament.



The Committee established a working group to identify some key lines of enquiry for a potential scrutiny review. The working group met in March 2021 and agreed that a potential scrutiny review should examine:

- the impact of the introduction of the Agriculture Act 2020 on Lincolnshire farmers;
- ways of developing support to meet the unmet needs of the agricultural sector in Lincolnshire, including mental health and any hardships arising from the Covid-19 pandemic and the EU Transition;
- what skills and training provision is required for agricultural businesses; and
- ways of supporting and encouraging farms 'Going Green' in line with the Lincolnshire Green Master Plan.

These key lines of enquiry were developed into a proposed terms of reference for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

SCRUTINY REVIEW PANELS

The council has two scrutiny panels to undertake reviews that focus on a particular issue and consider it in greater detail than is possible at Committee. These reviews will typically last around six months and will include a mixture of interviews with relevant council officers, research of best practice elsewhere, meetings with service users and community groups, and consultation with wider parts of the community. These reviews culminate in a final report with recommendations which are then presented to a meeting of the council's Executive.

REVIEW OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

A review of overview and scrutiny was completed in May 2020 by **Scrutiny Panel B**, which made eight recommendations. Four of these recommendations were endorsed by the Executive, as they fell under its remit. These included the involvement of external organisations, including large contractors, at committees; and recording satisfaction with the level of support for the overview and scrutiny function from the council's officers.

In June 2020, the County Council approved a revised *executive – scrutiny protocol* which further aligned the protocol to the statutory guidance, and also emphasised the need for early involvement of overview and scrutiny committees, and other good practice. Where there were deviations from the guidance, they were also approved by the County Council.



DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS SCRUTINY REVIEW

Developer Contributions help to ensure that the impacts of development are appropriately mitigated and that the right infrastructure is in place to ensure that the needs of current and future communities are met.

In September 2020, the Executive Councillor for Economy and Place, with the backing of Group Leaders, asked **Scrutiny Panel A** to carry out an urgent short review of Developer Contributions to see how the county council could maximise the benefits for local communities from such contributions.

The Scrutiny Panel recognised that a more joined up approach with the district councils would enable more collaborative working to maximise the benefits to local communities. This would be even more crucial if the proposals for Developer Contributions in the 'Planning for the future' White Paper were introduced, which could see local authorities receiving much lower levels of funding in future.

The Scrutiny Panel identified that there was a need for councillor training on Developer Contributions and more engagement by councillors in the planning process; a 'One Council' centralised system needs to be developed to request, record and monitor Developer Contributions across the council which should then improve the Section 106 income received; and a need for appropriate lines of accountability and strategic oversight of Section 106 agreements.

The review also identified the importance of Lincolnshire County Council setting a clear vision for the future of the county and of communicating that view to the government, local planning authorities, developers, and the public.

The Executive Councillor for Commercial and Environmental Management and the Executive Councillor for Economy and Place accepted the six recommendations contained in the final report from Scrutiny Panel A which aim to address the issues identified.

CONTACT US

If you have any questions regarding the overview and scrutiny process, or any of the work we have undertaken then please get in touch with one of the officers listed below.

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- Environment and Economy Scrutiny Committee
- Flood and Water Management Scrutiny Committee
- Highways and Transport Scrutiny Committee
- Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee
- Corporate Parenting Panel

Or write to us at The Scrutiny Team, Lincolnshire County Council, Room 5, County Offices, Lincoln, LN1 1YL

Email: Scrutiny@lincolnshire.gov.uk

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